

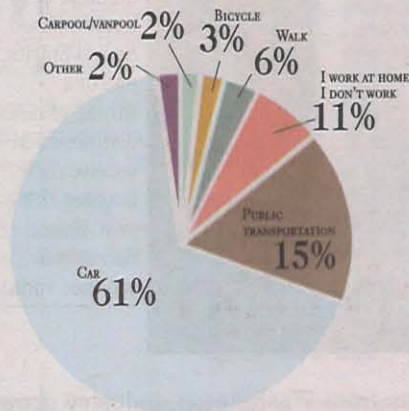
THE INSIDER

Breaking news, insights and developing stories from across the local business scene

Business pulse

Results of last week's online poll

WE ASKED: How do you get to work most of the time?



YOU SAID:

- Quit wasting transportation money on anything other than nice big fat wide roads!
- We need to invest more in our roads, but we also need alternatives.
- The age of the auto is one of self-indulgence without regard for the common good.
- If there were a bike lane on (Highway) 520 I'd try to ride my bike, at least during the summer months.

VOTE | Pugetsoundbusinessjournal.com

Source: Puget Sound Business Journal research

Snohomish and S. Carolina execs talk Boeing over breakfast

Nearly 20 economic development leaders from Charleston, S.C., and Snohomish County met for breakfast April 27 at the Everett Golf and Country Club and talked about a central theme: how to support the vitality of The Boeing Co. so both regions benefit.

Deborah Knutson, director of the Economic Development Council of Snohomish County, concedes she fought vigorously to win Boeing's second 787 production line for Washington. But she then changed tactics to collaborate with South Carolina after Boeing decided to open its second production line in Charleston, S.C.

Now, her focus is to maximize Boeing's positive impact on Snohomish County, especially after Boeing increases production of the 787 after Federal Aviation Administration certification.

Knutson first connected with Charleston Regional Development Alliance CEO David Ginn a year ago, at an economic development conference in Georgia before Boeing's decision on its second 787 production line.

"This one could turn into a really interesting partnership," Knutson said of working with her counterparts in Charleston, S.C. "David and I are saying, 'We don't know where this will go, but it's kind of a novelty.'"



BUSINESS JOURNAL
PHOTO | Dan Schlatter

CONNECTED:

Deborah Knutson, director of the Snohomish County EDC, is working with her counterparts in South Carolina.

Knutson said the Snohomish EDC's collaboration with its Charleston counterpart is the best way to help Snohomish County companies get the most business from 787 production.

Knutson said she's following the adage "keep your friends close but your enemies closer" by cultivating connections with the South Carolinians — but she added that she doesn't consider them enemies.

Knutson visited the Charleston area in January, and the reciprocal visit to Snohomish County was the first by a large delegation of economic development leaders from South Carolina.

Ginn declined to comment on the visit.

— STEVE WILHELM

Microfinance nonprofit reaching out to prospective investors

A Seattle-based microfinance institution is further expanding its outreach to socially responsible investors.

On June 8, Global Partnerships will host its first Social Investor Forum, an event that is expected to draw 200 current and potential investors to Bellevue.

The forum expands on informational sessions that Global Partnerships has offered for years as a way to educate and recruit investors and donors.

Global Partnerships manages a series of funds that invest money in microfinance institutions in Central America, which distribute loans to individuals. Global Partnerships has allocated \$39 million and served 812,000 people. The nonprofit says 100 percent of its loans have been repaid on time.

"There is a lot of interest among the people we interact with to learn more about our strategies, investment funds, how we choose our partners and how we make social impact happen in Latin America," said spokeswoman Elisa Murray.

— CLAY HOLTZMAN