

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Redmond Sound Transit Grand Opening

May 10, 2025

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

[[AUDIO](#)]

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you, Mayor.

What a great day for Redmond, Washington. I want to thank Dave Somers, the Chair of the Transit Board, Dow Constantine, the new CEO, Shannon Braddock, the Executive of King County, and certainly our mayor, Mayor Birney, for her leadership. Thank you so much.

We're grateful to be here with our Congresswoman, Susan DelBene, who just told me she represents most of this line, all the way up and down. So you can tell she's been a great advocate. Congresswoman Kim Schrier, who never stops working. And most importantly, Eddie Jezek, Seattle/King County Building Trades, and the 5,700 construction workers who helped get this project done.

Redmond has always been a technology leader, and just for you who've been in software, you know that the code around the country, when what people want to talk about what's happening, they would say, you know, in Redmond. That meant they were worried about Microsoft, and all our growth, and all our challenges, but we kept building.

And now today, we also celebrate that Redmond builds half of the world's satellites right here in Redmond, Washington – we are celebrating these innovations, because when it comes to building great businesses, you also have to build great transportation systems. And those transportation systems get people to where they work, where they want to play, restaurants, sporting events, and concerts.

So today, we really are talking about getting from here to work in 10 minutes at the Redmond campus. We're talking about, in the future, having world-class systems getting us from Redmond to downtown [Seattle] in just 30 minutes, and we are talking about all the wonderful things that the region can do, just going back and forth between here and Bellevue.

So the construction of this project and the development is also accentuated, as the mayor said, by building more affordable housing. And does our region need more affordable housing? Absolutely, absolutely.

But this, too, is a celebration for our country to understand, if we want to innovate, you have to make infrastructure investment. This is part of the 2015 surface transportation bill, where we got [\$1.4] billion for TIFIA, the transit program, and the 2021 bill, which we also got \$1.2 billion for transit. And trust me, not all my colleagues on the other side like transit, so we used our muscles, Senator Murray, myself and other people to make sure we made a very, very large transit investment so projects like this can get done.

Our state received \$10 billion from the infrastructure bill, and guess what? \$1.2 billion went to 183 transit projects in our state. That is what we're doing to make Washington work.

So everybody, get ready to use your ORCA card. Get ready to celebrate this great infrastructure investment. And Dow, we just want to go to Chinatown International District for the FIFA 2026 World Cup. Let's go!