

# Making Progress on a New Newcastle Library

The King County Library System (KCLS) continues to make progress on planning for the new Newcastle Library. KCLS partnered with private developer, Lorig Associates, to create a vibrant, active downtown center that includes a new Library, structured parking and multi-family housing. Since the development's inception in July 2007, the market conditions for multi-family housing have changed dramatically. KCLS and Lorig recently decided that phasing the project makes more economic sense.

Phase one includes building the new 11,100 square foot Library and 50 parking stalls. Phase two will include 90 apartments and additional parking. The \$5.8 million to construct the new Library was secured with the passage of the \$172 million capital bond in 2004. KCLS officials feel it is important to complete the new Library as soon as possible for the community.

Phase one construction will begin soon, to take advantage of the favorable public bid climate. Phase two, which includes the multi-family housing component, will commence when financing conditions improve. KCLS and Lorig will continue to work together to ensure the revised design plans coincide with the phasing of the project.

Once the revised design documents are finished, the building permit will be submitted. Review of the building permit documents by the city is anticipated to be concluded by early summer. After the public bidding process, construction may start as soon as July 2010, although this date is tentative.