

Snohomish County Public Works

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Project number: RC 1636

UPI# 11-01301

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

SUMMARY

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project:

Springhetti Road and Broadway Avenue Intersection Improvements

2. Name of applicant:

**Snohomish County Public Works
Engineering Services Division**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Snohomish County Public Works
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201**

**Contact: Mary Auld, Senior Environmental Planner
Transportation and Environmental Services Division
425-388-3488 ext. 4510
mary.auld@snoco.org**

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 1, 2011

5. Agency requesting checklist

**Snohomish County Public Works
Transportation and Environmental Services Division**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The project is scheduled for construction beginning April 2013.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- **Environmental Review Memo, Snohomish County Public Works, 2011**
- **Geotechnical Report, Snohomish County Public Works, October, 2011**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The following permits and approvals may be required:

Permit:	Required from:
Critical Area Regulation Compliance	Snohomish County Public Works
Land Disturbing Activity Compliance (formerly Grading Permit)	Snohomish County Public Works
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit	Washington State Department of Ecology

11. Location of proposal:

The proposed improvements will be at the intersection of Springhetti Road and Broadway Avenue in Snohomish County. This rural intersection is located south of the City of Snohomish, east of State Route 9, in Section 36, Township 28 N, Range 5 E. WM.

12. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.

The proposed project will realign the intersection of Springhetti Road and Broadway Avenue to meet current standards and improve sight distance along Springhetti Road. In addition to the realignment, the road shoulders will be widened and a guardrail will be added along the west side of Springhetti Road.

Retaining walls will be needed on both sides of Springhetti Road to allow for the widening and realignment. Rock walls, approximately 10-12 feet tall, will be constructed on the east side of Springhetti Road. On the west side of Springhetti Road a geogrid-reinforced earth wall, approximately 10-foot tall, will be constructed below the road.

The improvements will extend from the intersection approximately 1,200 feet north along Springhetti Road and approximately 250 feet north and 250 feet south of the intersection along Broadway Avenue.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site: flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

The intersection of Springhetti Road and Broadway Avenue is just above the Snohomish River valley floor near the base of a foothill. The terrain in the area of the intersection is rolling. The topography rises steeply to the south.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The existing roadway grade along Springhetti Road slopes down to the intersection at approximately 3.5 percent grade. The roadway grade on Broadway Avenue slopes from south to north at a 5-6 percent grade. The steepest slopes in the project area are the 2:1 (50 percent) roadway side slopes.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The soils in this area are mapped by the Soil Conservation Service as Cathcart Loam, which consists of sandy clay loam derived from siltstone and/or sandstone. This is a very deep well drained soil on the foothills and mountain foot slopes. It formed in glacial drift derived from sandstones and siltstone and in volcanic ash. The native vegetation is mainly conifers and hardwoods.

As part of the geologic investigation six soil pits were excavated and six test borings were drilled to confirm soil types along the alignment. In addition, five test pits were excavated within the proposed storm water treatment ditch sites. Based on these tests, the entire project alignment is underlain by Tertiary aged Siltstone or Sandstone Bedrock. A shallow topsoil horizon and weathered Bedrock zone consisting of sandy silt to clayey silt was encountered on top of the basal bedrock to depths ranging from four to nine feet below the current ground surface. Basal Bedrock consisted of an approximate two to five foot thick fractured Bedrock unit overlying massive, hard, undisturbed Bedrock.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Steep slopes (1:1) exist along either side of Springhetti Road; however, bedrock and vegetative cover contribute to the stability of these existing slopes. No historic or existing erosion problems were noted during the site reconnaissance. No mine hazard areas, tsunami hazard areas, volcanic hazard areas or landslide hazard areas were found within 200 feet of the project alignment during the geologic investigation.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The fill material will be gravel barrow and compacted in place. All structural fill will be from an approved gravel pit source as supplied by the contractor. Fill will be placed in accordance with Washington State Department of Transportation

(WSDOT) standard specifications. Fill will be used within the roadway prism and fill walls as structural fill. Preliminary quantities for cut and fill volumes are 5,400 cubic yards of cut and 900 cubic yards of fill will be required for this project.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Yes, erosion could occur during clearing and grading activities for the intersection improvement. There may be temporary stockpiling of excavated soils during construction. However, these activities would not result in significant adverse erosion related impacts. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used for temporary erosion and pollution control. Stormwater runoff generated on the construction site will be directed to existing systems or temporary sediment basins where required.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction? For example asphalt or buildings.
Approximately 43 percent of the project area will be covered with impervious surface following construction.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
No significant adverse impacts are anticipated. All necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be used throughout the project during construction to prevent erosion. These BMPs would be in place around stockpiles of excavated fill and would prevent sediments from entering surface water and storm drainage systems. In addition there would be seeding and planting of bare soil areas after establishment of final grades.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, and industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.
Some dust and equipment exhaust will be emitted during construction. No long term emissions will result from this project.
- b. Are there any off site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
No.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.
Construction of this project will not exceed applicable state and federal air quality standards.

3. Water

a. Surface Water

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Streams: There are three unnamed streams identified in the project area. Stream 1 is a Type F stream (fish bearing) and crosses under Broadway Avenue about 700 feet northwest of the intersection. Stream 2 is a Type Ns (non-fish bearing, seasonal) stream and crosses under Broadway Avenue about 470 feet south of the intersection. Stream 3 (Type Ns) crosses under Springhetti Road approximately 590 feet north of the proposed intersection improvements.

Stream 1 has a 150-foot buffer and Streams 2 and 3 have 50-foot buffers. All three streams flow generally north into a network of low slope irrigation ditches in the Marshland Drainage District and eventually to the Snohomish River.

Wetlands: Five wetlands (Wetlands A through E) were identified along Broadway Avenue and two wetlands (Wetlands G and H) were identified along Springhetti Road. Wetlands A through D, G and H are Category III with a 60-foot buffer. Wetland E is a Category II with a 75-foot buffer.

Stream and wetland buffers in the study area are currently impacted by roads, driveways, yards, pastures and single family homes. Vegetation in undeveloped areas is dominated by salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and red alder (*Alnus rubra*).

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. A small amount of grading is anticipated within the buffer of Wetland G and Stream 3 (Type Ns) on the northeast side of Springhetti Road. Impacts to this wetland buffer will be mitigated as required by the County's Critical Area Regulations (SCC 30.62A.320(3)).

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No wetland fill is anticipated for this project.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No surface water withdrawals or diversions are planned.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No. This intersection is above the 100-year floodplain.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

None.

b. Groundwater

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water)

1) Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The source of runoff will be from rainfall flowing off impervious surfaces within the project area. This stormwater will be collected via catch basins, pipes and open ditches and conveyed to existing drainage ditches. Drainage ditches from the project site flow either into Stream 1 or Stream 3.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

There would be no waste materials on the site to enter ground or surface waters. Best management practices (BMPs) will be used to prevent erosion during construction.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

In order to reduce stormwater impacts, the slopes of open channel and enclosed drainage facilities will be minimized. Quarry spalls will be placed at inlet and outlet pipes and within open channel drainage facilities. Straw wattles will be placed to decrease flows until vegetation is established.

Limits of clearing and grading will be posted prior to any site disturbance. During construction, surface water runoff would be controlled by erosion-control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Temporary measures including, but not limited to, silt fences and other measures will be employed to control and minimize runoff and impacts to water quality. All cleared areas will be seeded, covered with mulch or otherwise stabilized in accordance with BMP's.

4. Plants

a. Check types of vegetation found on the site:



Deciduous trees: **Big leaf maple, Red alder, Poplar,**

- Evergreen trees: **Western redcedar, Douglas Fir**
- Shrubs: **Vine maple, salmon berry, Indian plum, sword fern,**
- Grasses: **grasses, lawns**
- Pasture:
- Wet soil plants:
- Water plants: **water lily, eelgrass, milfoil,**
- Other types of vegetation: **Himalayan blackberry, non-native invasive weeds, ornamental trees and shrubs. There is a row of large, English Holly trees along the north side of Springhetti Road in front of a private stable.**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Some plants and grasses in the vicinity of the intersection will be removed for construction. Vegetation within the County right-of-way will be removed.

c. List threatened or endangered plant species known to be on or near the site.

None are known.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation the site, if any:

Vegetation will be preserved where possible. All bare areas will be hydroseeded following construction.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Birds: *hawks, eagle, songbirds, song sparrow, black cap chickadee, Bewick's wren*

Mammals: *deer, opossum, raccoon, coyote, small rodents,*

Fish: *resident cutthroat trout, brook lamprey (Stream 1);*

Amphibians: *Pacific chorus frog, long tailed salamander, northwest salamander*

b. List any threatened or endangered wildlife species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The site is within the Pacific Flyway used by migratory waterfowl. Migratory waterfowl can be observed in the greater Snohomish County area, particularly near large bodies of open water.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Project construction would occur primarily during the summer months when rainfall is minimal. This will minimize erosion and prevent sedimentation of surface

waters that could adversely affect downstream fish. Bare soil areas would be revegetated and planted after site grades have been established.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Minor amounts of fuel would be used by construction equipment during site clearing and grading activities.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

N/A

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No potentially hazardous materials have been identified at or in proximity to the road widening. Fuel spills and other construction-equipment fluids could potentially occur during construction.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

An Environmental Site Assessment will be prepared prior to construction to address any potential soil contamination or other hazardous materials in the project area. If any hazardous materials are discovered during project construction, they would be handled and disposed of according to adopted Washington State and local codes governing their disposal. Vehicle fueling and handling of other potential contaminants would occur away from the wetlands.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, aircraft, other)?

None.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

c. Construction noise

Construction noises may be generated and increased on a short-term basis by heavy equipment. These noise levels are likely to exceed existing background noise levels associated with the surrounding residential properties.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Noise levels will not exceed applicable state and national standards. Construction will normally be limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Construction equipment will meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and other applicable noise standards.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The project site is existing road right-of-way. Adjacent uses include rural residential, undeveloped property and a private horse stable.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are homes and a private horse stable adjacent to the road.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The current zoning designation at this intersection includes Rural-5 (R-5) acres and Agriculture-10 acres (A-10).

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The current comprehensive plan designation in this area is Rural Residential (1 Dwelling Unit/5 Acres Basic) and Riverway Commercial Farmland.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

This intersection is above the floodplain and therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Master Program.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Three streams and seven wetlands have been identified in the project area.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Acquisition of right-of-way will be required for this project. A complete and detailed set of right-of-way plans have been developed in accordance with applicable federal, state, and county regulations. Chapter 8.25 and 8.26 of the Revised Code of Washington would govern right-of-way acquisition proceedings. These laws ensure fair and equitable treatment of those displaced.

In addition, right-of-way purchases would be in accordance with Civil Rights Act Title VI legislation and the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 as amended (42 U.S.C.). These laws would provide payment for reasonable and necessary costs to relocate persons displaced by the project and ensure prompt and fair relocation payments and requires agency review of aggrieved parties.

Acquisition proceedings include appraisal, determination of just compensation, presentation of an offer and compensating the individual. Acquisition proceedings within the project vicinity would not be initiated until the environmental review process has been completed.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The project is consistent with the Transportation Element of the adopted Snohomish County Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

N/A

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

N/A

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

N/A

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structures are proposed.

b. What view in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Trees and vegetation will be retained where possible.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None proposed.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

A private riding stable is adjacent to Springhetti Road. This stable offers classes, boarding and event space. A public golf course is approximately 0.2 miles east of the intersection.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

This project will not displace any existing recreational uses. However, the entrance to the stable and parking area will be modified due to the road realignment. The golf course will not be affected by the realignment of the intersection.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

A wall will be constructed adjacent to the riding stable to minimize the amount of right-of-way needed for the road improvements.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to this site? If so, generally describe.

This site was screened by Public Works for proximity to known archeological and cultural sites. There are no known recorded sites located where potential ground disturbance activities are anticipated.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None known.

c. Proposed measure to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Although no known archaeological sites are in close proximity to the project, there is still a possibility that cultural resources could be present. If, during construction, cultural resources are found, a systematic collection of artifacts will be made before proceeding with the work and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation will be contacted. If artifacts are uncovered within the project area, work in that area will be stopped and a professional archaeologist will be brought in to examine them.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The improvements are planned at the intersection of Springhetti Road and Broadway Avenue.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

This area is not served by public transit. The closest transit is in the City of Snohomish, approximately 4 miles north of the project area.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private)

The proposal is to realign the intersection to improve the traffic flow and safety at the intersection of Springhetti Road and Broadway Avenue. This will be achieved by reducing the skew angle of the intersection to improve the sight distance to current standards. Guardrail will be installed north of the intersection along the west side of Springhetti Road.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

The project would not generate additional vehicular trips.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None proposed.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None proposed.

16. Utilities

a. Utilities currently available at the site:

Known utilities on site are water (Cross Valley Water District), power (Snohomish County PUD #1), telecommunications (Frontier Communication), gas (Puget Sound Energy) and cable TV (Comcast Cable).

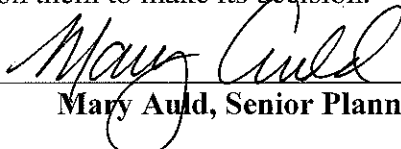
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Utility relocations will be part of the work within the project limits. All construction will be designed to minimize disruptions and relocation of the utilities. Detailed information will be requested from each utility provider during the design phase.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____



Mary Auld, Senior Planner

Date Submitted: _____

12-1-11