

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

FILE NAME: Index-Galena Road – Milepost 6.4-6.9 Project (RC 1532)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Snohomish County propose to design and construct the Index-Galena Road Milepost 6.4 to Milepost 6.9 project. Index-Galena Road was damaged by river high flows in 2006. The proposed project would construct repairs by relocating the damaged roadway further landward from the North Fork Skykomish River. The repaired roadway would restore essential travel and prevent future damage to the roadway. The repaired roadway would re-establish connectivity for property owners, emergency service providers, recreation users, and U.S Forest Service personnel accessing private and National Forest lands in the upper North Fork Skykomish River valley. FHWA, with the consent of the U.S. Forest Service, would grant an easement for approximately one mile of new roadway easement across National Forest land.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: Index-Galena Road is located in southeastern Snohomish County, Washington, approximately 35 miles southeast of Everett, in the North Fork Skykomish River valley. The proposal is located in Sections 35 and 36, Township 28 North, Range 10 East, W.M.

The roadway is classified as a Major Collector (Rural), and formally designated as County Road CRP 54600 in the Snohomish County roadway inventory. Index-Galena Road is also designated as U.S. Forest Service Forest Road 63 in the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest road system. Portions of the road, such as the proposed project area, are located on National Forest land in a roadway right-of-way easement.

LOCAL AGENCY PROPONENT: Snohomish County Public Works

SPONSORING AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (NEPA Lead Agency)
The U.S. Forest Service is a Cooperating NEPA Agency for the NEPA EA review and easement process.

PUBLIC HEARING

An Environmental Hearing will be held on October 12, 2016. The Environmental Hearing will provide the public with an opportunity to talk with staff and view plans, maps, and exhibits, and submit comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA). The Environmental Hearing will occur on:

Wednesday, October 12, 2016
5:30–8 p.m.
Frank Wagner Elementary School
115 Dickinson Road
Monroe, Washington

The meeting site is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation may request written materials in alternative formats, sign language interpreters,

physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodation by calling Catherine Higgins at (425) 388-3503. (TTY Users call 425 388-3700).

The Federal Highway Administration assures that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin and sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact the FHWA Title VI Coordinator at (360) 534-9325.

CONTACT AGENCY:

Snohomish County Department of Public Works
5th Floor Administration Building West
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

EA ISSUED: The Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and was issued September 19, 2016, initiating a 42-day comment period. Extra time has been added to the required 30-day comment period to provide for more review time. The EA describes potential environmental impacts that could result from the proposed project and suggests mitigation measures that could prevent or minimize these impacts. The EA is available at the following locations for public review: Skykomish Library; Sultan Library; Monroe Library; Index City Hall; U.S. Forest Service-Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest -Skykomish Ranger District in Skykomish and Forest Supervisor's Office, 3rd Floor, 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Everett; and Snohomish County Public Works at the Customer Service Counter, 2nd Floor Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA. It may also be accessed for public review and comment at the project's website at: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/624. If you would like to receive a copy, at a cost of \$20 dollars, please call Crilly Ritz, Senior Planner, at 425-388-3488, ext. 4586, or via email at: crilly.ritz@snoco.org.

COMMENTING: Comments on the Environmental Assessment are solicited and will be accepted until **October 31, 2016**. All comments must be in writing and should be mailed to:

Crilly Ritz, Senior Planner
Snohomish County Department of Public Works
5th Floor Administration Building West - MS 607
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201 or via e-mail to: crilly.ritz@snoco.org

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS:

Steven E. Thomsen, P.E., Director, Snohomish County Department of Public Works
Kathleen B. Davis, Director, Local Programs, Washington State
Department of Transportation
Jeff Horton, P.E., Area Engineer, U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway
Administration