



Snohomish County Public Works

PUBLIC NOTICE DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE, ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT, AND LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITY PERMIT

PROJECT: Index-Galena Road Milepost 6.4-6.9 (RC 1532)(UPI 06-0150)
Federal Aid #: ER – 0701 (063)

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT PROPOSAL:

The project is to construct a relocated roadway that will extend from an area in proximity to the lower washout at Index-Galena Road Milepost 6.4 to an area in proximity to the upper washout at Milepost 6.9. The roadway will be relocated landward from the North Fork Skykomish River outside of the floodplain and channel migration zone. The roadway is located in unincorporated Snohomish County, Washington, upstream from the town of Index. The relocated roadway will re-establish road connectivity on Index-Galena Road for residences, emergency service providers, recreationists, and land managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

The improvements will include shifting the existing roadway alignment to the south away from the river to establish a relocated roadway upslope from the damaged road. At the beginning point of the relocation, the roadway will ascend the sideslopes at a 9 percent grade to raise the roadway out of the 100-year floodplain and channel migration zone. To accommodate the re-alignment, the project will require extensive soil excavation and would place fill in other areas.

A new Index-Galena Road/Trout Creek Road intersection would be constructed to allow for future continued use of Trout Creek Road by the USFS to carry out its long-term land management plans in the Trout Creek sub-basin. The relocated roadway will cross sideslopes and parallel the existing roadway. Non-fish bearing streams will be crossed by the alignment. A new 180-foot bridge with a deep drilled-shaft foundation will be constructed at a stream crossing near Station 54+00, at the east end of the project.

The proposed roadway design is based on design standards contained in the *2001 AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Roadways (ADT < 400)*. The use of these design standards responds to comments made by the public during the NEPA scoping period to consider use of design standards that would help to reduce the footprint of the proposed roadway relocation repair.

The proposed design will include a pavement width of 22 feet with 10-foot travel lanes and 1-foot shoulders. Additional land area will be required to install guardrail where warranted. The roadway posted speed limit will be 35 MPH.

The proposed project's new alignment on USFS lands in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will require a new right-of-way easement from the USFS to Snohomish County through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The existing right-of-way easement would be combined with the new easement area and includes the damaged roadway that will be decommissioned and restored where feasible to natural riparian conditions. The restored areas and adjacent areas downslope from the roadway will be used for roadway stormwater runoff dispersion and will be permanently protected from future development.

Once the decommissioned roadway surface is removed, soil decompaction and placement of organic materials, including forest duff salvaged during clearing and grading, will prepare the site for restoration planting. This riparian mitigation will restore a forested riparian corridor adjacent to the North Fork Skykomish River. Where planting is not feasible, natural riparian conditions will be restored with the asphalt removal. Large woody debris will be placed to enhance in-stream habitat and will be placed within restoration areas to enhance wildlife habitat.

PROPONENT: Snohomish County Public Works

LOCATION OF CURRENT 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, Willamette Meridian.

TITLE OF DOCUMENTS BEING ADOPTED: *NEPA Environmental Assessment - Index-Galena Road Milepost 6.4-6.9 Snohomish County, Washington (NEPA EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)*

DATE ADOPTED DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED: NEPA EA September 6, 2016; FONSI April 14, 2017.

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS (OR PORTION) BEING ADOPTED:

The NEPA EA is a 156-page environmental assessment (plus appendices and NEPA discipline reports) that was prepared to assess the environmental effects of relocating the damaged Index-Galena Road that extends from Milepost 6.4 to Milepost 6.9. The document identifies impacts associated with the project and proposes mitigation measures to avoid and minimize effects, and compensatory mitigation measures to mitigate for unavoidable impacts. The FONSI includes the determination by FHWA that the project would not have a significant impact. The FONSI includes public comments and responses to the comments received during the 45-day NEPA EA comment period. In addition, the FONSI includes environmental commitments that the project would carry forth into the final permitting and design of the project.

IF THE DOCUMENTS BEING ADOPTED HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED (WAC 197-11-630), PLEASE DESCRIBE:

The documents have not been appealed at the date of SEPA adoption.

THE DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

Snohomish County Public Works Customer Service Counter, 2nd floor, Robert J. Drewel Bldg., 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA

Project website at www.snoco.org and search: <http://snohomishcountywa.gov/624/>

APPLICANT AND LEAD AGENCY: Snohomish County Public Works

SHORELINE PERMIT: This project will require a shoreline substantial development permit pursuant to Chapter 30.44 SCC. The permit application will be submitted to the Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS). A notice of application will be issued by PDS with information and instructions containing a public and agency comment period of 30 days for the shoreline permit application.

LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITY (LDA) PERMIT: This project will require an LDA permit. Approximately 18 acres would be disturbed, and 30,000 cubic yards of material excavated and removed from the site to prepare for improvements. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of gravel borrow (*and other earth materials*) would be imported to construct the improvements. The excavated material not re-used on site will be hauled away and disposed of offsite at a facility permitted to receive the material.

THRESHOLD DETERMINATION: The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of the prepared documents identified above and other information on file with the lead agency. We have identified and adopted these documents as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. The documents meet our environmental review needs for the current proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker. This information is available to the public on request.

The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the county's development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws and rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158. Our agency would not require any additional mitigation measures under chapter 30.61 SCC.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: This DNS and LDA are subject to a 21-day comment period. Written comments may be submitted by mail or email to the lead agency's contact person. See name and address below. Comments must be received by 5 p.m., July 17, 2017.

APPEALS: There is no opportunity for appeal at this time. Pursuant to SCC 30.61.300(10), SEPA appeals related to a shoreline substantial development permit shall be submitted to the state shorelines hearings board together with appeal of the underlying shoreline permit.

CONTACT PERSON: Crilly R. Ritz, Senior Planner
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RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Steven E. Thomsen, P.E., Director
Snohomish County Public Works

ADDRESS: 3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 6/7/17

DISCLAIMER:

The determination that an environmental impact statement does not have to be filed does not mean there would be no adverse environmental impacts. Snohomish County codes governing noise control, land use performance standards, construction and improvement of county roads, drainage control, building practices would provide substantial mitigation of the aforementioned impacts.

The issuance of this Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) should not be interpreted as acceptance or approval of this proposal as presented. Snohomish County reserves the right to deny or approve said proposal subject to conditions if it is determined to be in the best interest of the County and/or necessary to the general health, safety, and welfare of the public to do so.

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Federal

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
 NW Regional NEPA Coordinator
Federal Highway Administration
 Washington Division - Area Engineer; Environmental Program Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Environmental Review-Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
 Region X, EIS Review Coordinator; Environmental Review
U.S. Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest – Supervisor’s Office;
 Skykomish Ranger District

Tribes

Tulalip Tribes
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Snoqualmie Tribe
Stillaguamish Tribe

State

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
 State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Ecology - SEPA Unit
Department of Fish and Wildlife – Habitat Program
Department of Natural Resources – SEPA Center

Department of Transportation
Northwest Region Local Programs; Headquarters-Local Programs
Office of the Attorney General – Transportation Division
Washington Parks and Recreation Commission- Northwest Region Office

Snohomish County
Executive's Office
County Council
Planning and Development Services
Sheriff

Regional
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Puget Sound Partnership
Puget Sound Regional Council
Snohomish County Economic Development Council

Public Service Organizations
Snohomish County PUD #1
Index Fire District # 28

Schools
Index School District

Local
City of Index - Mayor

Media - Notices
Herald

Community Groups
Pilchuck Audubon
Sierra Club
Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce
American Whitewater
Washington Trails Association
The Mountaineers
The Wilderness Society
Washington Wild

Libraries
Skykomish Library – King County Library System
Monroe Library, Sultan Library - Sno-Isle Library System

