



Snohomish County

Public Works

October 13, 2017

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www.snoco.org

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dave Somers
County Executive

Dear Secretary Chao:

Snohomish County Department of Public Works is respectfully submitting a 2017 TIGER application for Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement project.


The proposed bridge will replace the current bridge which provides direct access to the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway in East Snohomish County, WA. In addition to recreation and tourism, this is a key through-route for transport of construction resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate critical to the Puget Sound Region via a T-2 freight route.

The current bridge was constructed in 1934 and has been rated structurally deficient and fracture critical. The existing bridge is not wide enough for construction trucks and large vehicles to fit concurrently and must wait on either end of the bridge to allow for another large vehicle to pass in the opposite direction. This is particularly problematic because the bridge is heavily used by trucks in the mining and timber industries.

If the bridge were to fail, the detour route is 94 miles on a route that is closed during the winter months and is only built to minimal forest service standards. This detour would have impacts at both the local and the Regional level. If not replaced, the poor condition of the Granite Falls Bridge #102 will threaten future transportation network efficiency, mobility of goods, accessibility and mobility of people, and economic growth.

If awarded, Snohomish County will be the sole recipient of this grant. Nonetheless, we have the support of multiple agencies including the Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Regional Council, to name a few. We respectfully submit this application for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dep. Director / County Engineer

FOR

Steven E. Thomsen, P.E.
Public Works Director