



NEPA EA Public Open House

February 1

6:00-7:30 p.m.

Park Place Middle School
1408 W Main Street
Monroe, WA

Interpreter services for non-English speakers and accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please make arrangements in advance by calling 425-388-3789 (TTY: 711).

Snohomish County Contact

Tina Hokanson

Snohomish County Public Works
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201
425-388-3789
tina.hokanson@snoco.org

Forest Service Contacts

- **Skykomish Ranger Station**, 360-677-2414, Mon-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Covers the North Fork Skykomish River area.)
- **Verlot Public Service Center**, 360-691-7791, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, or Eric Ozog at eozog@fs.fed.us
- **Darrington Ranger Station**, 360-436-1155, Mon-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Covers the Mt. Loop and Suiattle River area.)
- **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Web page**, www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs
- **Forest Service Campgrounds information**: www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs or at the Hoodoo Web site at www.hoodoo.com

Index-Galena Road Project: Milepost 6.4 to 6.9

During June 2011, Snohomish County held a public open house to provide information about alternative alignments that had been considered to address the flood-damaged portion of Index-Galena Road between Mileposts 6.4 and 6.9. The preferred alignment was also identified. Five alternatives were considered.

Features of the Design

The alternative that will be carried forward is being designed to move the alignment landward and out of the river migration zone to the degree practicable to reduce the risk of future damage. Moving out of the migration zone will also reduce impacts to the river. Retaining walls will be used along 10 to 30 percent of the road's length to minimize the width of the footprint and need for clearing and excavation. The extent of the walls needed will be determined as part of the next phase of design work.

NEPA Scoping Comment Period is February 1-29, 2012

The February 1, 2012 NEPA Scoping meeting/Open House will be the start of the NEPA scoping comment period. The comment period provides an opportunity for agencies, tribes, and citizens to let the project team know what they feel should be addressed in the environmental review documents. The Open House will also allow those who are interested in the project to learn more about the process and talk with the project team.

There will not be a formal presentation. Exhibits will be on display, and the project team will be available to answer questions and discuss the project. You may provide written comments at the meeting; you may also send comments for the team, by mail or e-mail, to Tina Hokanson (see contact information to the left).

The Environmental Review Process

FHWA is the lead agency for the NEPA environmental review process. There were two potential approaches to satisfy NEPA requirements for this project: a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and a more in-depth NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA). Although a NEPA CE can typically shorten the timeframe for the environmental permitting process, it was determined that a NEPA EA was the more appropriate level of documentation for the project.

After extensive inter-agency discussion following a July 2011 interagency meeting and careful consideration, FHWA sent a letter to WSDOT requiring Snohomish County to prepare a NEPA Environmental Assessment (NEPA EA) for the Index-Galena Road project. A copy of the letter is posted on the project Web page, along with the complete report of the July interagency meeting. (continued)



Milepost 6.4, January 2007

A follow-up interagency meeting was held in October 2011; a report of this meeting is also posted on the project Web site. Visit www.snoco.org, and type "Index-Galena" in the search box. The NEPA EA process, which is coordinated with other federally required reviews, is expected to add two years to the project schedule to provide a more in-depth environmental review. As a result, the current expected date for the start of construction is 2015. We will know more as the project progresses.

What Happens After the Scoping Meeting?

After the meeting the county team will continue its work on the project design. Environmental staff will review public comments to determine how they may affect the scope of the project's environmental review. As the design progresses, the environmental review staff will be identifying impacts and continuing coordination with the federal agencies. The environmental and design staffs will coordinate to avoid impacts where possible;

or reduce impacts, and design mitigation as needed. The results of this coordination will then be documented in several studies and summarized in the NEPA EA document. Issues that the team will address include: drainage; hydrology; hydraulics; where retaining walls will be needed; geologic issues; and impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, and visual quality. These studies will be part of the NEPA EA.

When Will Additional Information be Available?

As each environmental study is reviewed and approved by FHWA, it will be posted on the project Web site. The public will have an opportunity to review the NEPA EA when all of the studies are completed and the EA is issued. This is anticipated to be late 2013 or early 2014.

The county's project team expects to schedule another public open house at the 60 percent design stage during mid-2012. The design will be sufficiently developed by then to more fully identify project impacts and provide a more definitive description of the project. Project updates will be posted on the Web site as milestones are met.

Index-Galena Web page

www.snoco.org, search "Index-Galena"



(Scan QR code with your mobile device for quick access to project Web page.)

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