

Index-Galena Road Repair, mile post 6.4-6.9
Public Involvement Plan
~~December~~ **August** 2011

Snohomish County Project Number: RC1532

Project Manager: David Lee, P.E., Engineering Services
Project Engineer Eric Nordstrom
Project Environmental Coordinator: Crilly Ritz, Senior Environmental Planner;
Public Involvement Plan Coordinator: Tina Hokanson, Communications Specialist

Other Team Members:

- Project Supervisor Sam Filetti
- Survey Supervisor Ron Torrence
- Right-of-way Supervisor Deanna Clark-Willingham
- Geotechnical Supervisor Dale Topham
- Traffic Manager Jim Bloodgood
- Geologist Jeff Jones
- Real Property Specialist Susan Fenner
- Senior Environmental Planner Irene Sato, ~~Mark Stamey Paul Marczin~~
- GIS Analyst Steve Cole
- **Drainage Design** **Lisa Tario**
- Project Technician John Shively
- Graphics Specialist Deb Harvey, Rebecca Lindahl

Project Proponents:

Snohomish County proposes to design and construct the project. The project's design report and recommended alignment alternative has received approval from:

WA State Dept of Transportation
US Forest Service
Federal Highway Administration

Proposed Project:

Replace washed out section of Index-Galen Road between milepost 6.4 and 6.9 to maintain essential travel for residents, recreation users, emergency service providers, and the U.S. Forest Service

The new section of road would be constructed at a higher elevation above 100 year flood plain reducing the risk for future damage to the roadway

Remove damaged asphalt from the river (old alignment)

Project Benefits:

Restore road connectivity

Restore access for recreationists and property owners

Natural re-vegetation of the riverbank will occur where feasible after removal of asphalt from the existing damaged alignment

Estimated Project Cost: \$15,700,000

R/W

Engineering

Construction

Funding Sources:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Snohomish County Road Fund

Environmental Requirements:

SEPA review process (The State Environmental Policy Act) *

NEPA review process (The National Environmental Policy Act) **

A NEPA Environmental Assessment (NEPA EA) will be prepared

FHWA is the NEPA lead agency

USFS is the cooperating agency

Required Environmental Studies and Reports:

The following reports/studies will be prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the project. The results of the studies will be included in the NEPA EA. The reports will be prepared to meet the NEPA requirements of both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

- Geology and Soils
- Groundwater
- Wetlands
- Floodplain
- Surface Water
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Specialist Report
- Fish Specialist Report a determination of consistency with the Forest Plan, Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) requirements and evaluations related to Riparian Reserves.
- Botany Specialist Report
- Historic, Cultural & Archaeological Resources
- Social and Economic (including Environmental Justice)
- Land Use (& Recreation)
- Public Services and Utilities
- Visual Quality

Required Regulatory Permits/Approvals:

- **Federal**
Section 404 Department of the Army Permit
- **State**
Hydraulic Project Approval-Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Section 401-Water Quality Certification-Washington Department of Ecology
- **Snohomish County**
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
Shoreline Substantial Development Permit
Flood Hazard Permit
Land Disturbance Activity Approval
Drainage Approval

Construction:

Projected start of construction	201513***
Projected completion	201745***

* the start date for construction is dependent on the permitting process and the design process. Once permits have been approved, project completion will be dependent on a variety of factors that includes site conditions and snow season

Scheduled Activities:

NEPA Scoping Meeting

Purpose: To accept public comment on content for the NEPA EA-Early 2012

Public Open House for 60 % Design: ~~early to~~ Mid 2012.

Purpose: To update the public of progress and status of the project, discuss preliminary design and provide opportunities to comment

Ongoing:

- Maintain and update the e-mail contact lists
- Maintain and update project mailing list
- Prepare project newsletters at key milestones (for residents, property owners, citizen groups, agencies and other interested parties).
- Distribute newsletters via direct mail, news releases, posting on the project web page and handouts. Notice will also be distributed via e-mail.
- Prepare newspaper ads to announce meetings and comment periods during the environmental permitting process
- Prepare graphic displays, handouts, signage and questionnaire for open house meeting

Ongoing Public Involvement Strategy throughout Project:

Our goal for this project is to make sure all the essential information gets disseminated to all stakeholders, including the general public, community groups, businesses, property owners, schools, fire district, agencies and local government. The County will also strive to make sure all stakeholders have ample opportunity to voice their concerns throughout the planning, environmental review, design and construction phases of the project.

We will accomplish this by using the following methods of public involvement:

1. Project web page: www.snoco.org, search *Index-Galena*.
The project web page is updated as new information - such as meeting notices, meeting exhibits, and environmental documents - is available. The web page is promoted in our project-related communications. Electronic copies of project-related printed materials will be posted there, i.e.: newsletters, news releases, reports, exhibits, meeting notices and other project information. The web will be the primary method for public review of the NEPA related studies that will be prepared for the project. These studies will be posted once reviewed and approved by FHWA.
2. Electronic mailing list: citizens are provided the opportunity to register on the project web page to receive e-mail updates when new information about the project is available.
3. Public meetings: We will hold public meetings or open houses at each critical juncture in the design/environmental review process, as well as to present and discuss important design features. At each of these meetings, we will not only present information, but we will give stakeholders every opportunity to voice their concerns. It is anticipated that the 60% design stage will be the key milestone because the project design would be more fully developed and the extent of environmental impacts will be better understood.

4. Presentations: In addition to dedicated public meetings, we will make an effort to fulfill requests for presentations to interested stakeholder groups such as community groups and the Town of Index.
5. Newsletters: We will publish project newsletters on an as-needed basis, particularly following public meetings and prior to construction activity. These newsletters will inform all stakeholders of the status of all pertinent aspects of the project, as well as announce public meetings, deadlines for public comment and other time-sensitive material.
6. News releases: We will send news releases to *The Herald*, *The Seattle Times* and the *Town of Index* whenever we have any pertinent information to pass along to the public. In addition to letting readers know about public meetings and deadlines, we will work with the media to make sure they have all possible information to aid them in writing in-depth features and opinion pieces about the project.
7. Signage: We will post signs at all appropriate locations prior to construction.
8. Phone, mail and e-mail contact information is provided on the project web page and in project notices. The public can submit questions and comments at any time.

* **SEPA**: A state policy that requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the proposal.

** **NEPA**: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

*** The schedule is based on many factors aligning during several years, and is subject to change. Weather conditions and the length of construction season at the site will play a significant role.