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Snohomish County Successfully Completes Three Road Projects Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

Health safety measures have allowed the county to get back to work constructing a diverse set of transportation improvements

EVERETT, Wash., July 24, 2020 – Snohomish County Public Works successfully completed a diverse set of three road construction projects during the past three months after implementing COVID-19 safety measures. These measures include accepting COVID Safety plans developed by the contractors and preparing safety plans for County staff. The projects include a bridge replacement near Monroe, pedestrian and capacity improvements near Lynnwood and intersection upgrades south of Lake Stevens.

“We are here to serve the public and will do what we must to get the job done,” Snohomish County Public Works Deputy Director and County Engineer Doug McCormick said. “Our staff and contractors took extra steps and precautions and did an amazing job during the middle of a health crisis that none of us have ever experienced. Fortunately, we have been able to get COVID-19 safety work plans implemented in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Labor and Industry (L&I) and state standards for these three projects.”

A temporary two month shutdown, put in place by Governor Jay Inslee’s initial “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order, enabled contractors to develop COVID-19 safety work plans and acquire personal protective equipment for workers in compliance with new state requirements.

The work plans provide for COVID-19 staff training, which includes social distancing when possible and following hazard mitigation plans for work tasks that do not allow for social distancing. These health safety measures will be put into place for all Snohomish County Public Works construction projects through the duration of the health crisis.

“Our staff and contractors are proud to be able to provide these three project improvements to the community,” Snohomish County Engineering Services Director Janice Fahning said. “They also show the diversity of our work in the community, from rural to urban, bridge work to intersections, pedestrian improvements to main thoroughfares.”

The projects completed include:

- [Alderwood Mall Parkway](#) pedestrian improvements – began in March and was completed in June
 - Two sidewalk gaps were finished on Alderwood Mall Parkway for a combined length of 220 feet. New bicycle lanes, curb, gutter, sidewalks, planter strips, drainage facilities, upgrades to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) facilities, and retaining walls were also constructed as part of the project. The addition of these two gaps allowed for re-stripping the roadway to add 1,200 feet of an additional northbound travel lane and bicycle lane.

- [Riley Slough Bridge 155](#) replacement – began in 2019 and was completed in July
 - Southwest of Monroe, this bridge provides access to rural residences, active farmland and recreational areas in the lower Skykomish River valley. Built in 1930, the bridge had load limits posted since 2011 due to structural deficiencies. The replacement bridge is 14 feet wider than the original to accommodate two 11-foot vehicle lanes and two 5-foot shoulders. The wider design provides safer access for people driving, biking and walking. The new structure features a three-span concrete bridge positioned on driven piles with larger openings to ease water flow during high river conditions.

- [S Machias/Machias Cutoff](#) intersection improvements – began in 2019 and completed in May
 - A traffic signal was installed with widened and realigned roads, turn lanes, and shoulders within the project limits. The Centennial Trail pedestrian and bicycle crossing was relocated to the traffic signal and operates as a dedicated pedestrian phase. The project provides new features for the Centennial Trail crossing including bicycle rests, detectable warning surfaces, bollards, traffic signal push buttons with push buttons set at a height for horse riders, and additional signing and striping. The project also includes a new stormwater detention pond, stream realignment and replacement of a culvert on Williams Creek with a fish-passable structure, landscaping, guardrail, and street lighting.

URLs for these project webpages:

- Alderwood Mall Parkway – <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/2551/Alderwood-Mall-Parkway---Lynnwood-2020>
- Riley Slough Bridge 155 – <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3819/Tualco-Rd-Riley-Slough-Br-155---Monroe-2>
- S Machias/Machias Cutoff – <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3690/S-Machias-Road-Machias-Cut-Off---Lk-Stev>

About Snohomish County Public Works

The Snohomish County Public Works Department constructs and maintains county roads; controls and manages surface water quantity, quality, and fish habitats; and oversees the recycling and disposal of solid waste. The department’s main office is located at 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA 98201. For more information about Snohomish County Public Works, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/PublicWorks.

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