Road Cracks on Ben Howard Rd & Mann Rd

Snohomish County Public Works has been monitoring cracks for decades at various locations on both Ben Howard Rd and Mann Rd, including what is known as “Ben Howard Pass.” Public Works Geotechnical Engineers monitor the road on a regular basis. Recently, Road Maintenance did some crack sealing to protect the road from water seeping into the subgrade, and to improve staff’s ability to visualize changes in the cracks. At all locations, no substantial movement has been observed.

Ben Howard Rd Flooding, West of 260th Ave SE

In winter 2020, intermittent flooding of Ben Howard Rd, west of 260th Ave SE, occurred more frequently and for longer durations. In early January 2021, after receiving landowner permission to access an adjacent property, Public Works crews discovered a plugged culvert on private property that appeared to be caused by beavers. After unsuccessfully attempting to clear the culvert manually, crews returned on January 11 and were able to clear some of the blockage with a vactor truck. The end of the culvert has been temporarily caged to keep beavers from blocking it again. This summer, Road Maintenance will also be clearing out drainage ditches and culverts in this area to increase the drainage capacity along this stretch of Ben Howard Rd.
**Ben Howard Rd & Mann Rd Elevation & Culvert Projects**

Due to the long history of flooding on Mann Rd and Ben Howard Rd, south of Sultan, Snohomish County Public Works has been working on a project to replace or add culverts at three locations. This will also involve raising the road elevation at the two locations on Ben Howard Rd and one on Mann Rd.

Snohomish County Public Works hosted a virtual public meeting in October 2020 to update residents on the status of the project, which is planned for construction in 2023. More information including a recording of the public meeting, visuals, frequently asked questions and a project timeline are available online: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3759.

**Mann Rd Haystack Creek Culvert Project**

Haystack Creek flows from the hills south of Mann Rd and crosses the road in three locations. There are two corrugated metal culverts at the easternmost crossing. The culverts are deteriorating and undersized, causing road flooding. The project will replace the twin culverts with one 20-foot span by 6-foot rise, concrete box culvert. To accommodate the new culvert and improve sight distance, the road elevation will be raised for approximately 1,400 lineal feet. Ditches and driveway culverts will be installed on the south side of the roadway. A guardrail will be installed adjacent to the stream culvert. Construction for this project is scheduled for summer 2021. Project webpage: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3855.

**Bridge 96 – Wood Bridge on 311th Ave SE**

There have been four recent car accidents near this bridge (two going north, two going south). The Sheriff’s Department determined speed was a contributing factor in the accidents. Snohomish County Public Works reviewed collision history at this location over the past five years and all collisions were coded by the Sheriff’s Department as exceeding safe speed. Traffic investigators also assessed the bridge and determined that both north and south approaches meet road standards.

Traffic Operations reviewed the signing. They replaced a “slippery when wet” sign in the southbound direction and supplemented the northbound signs with the same plaque. Reflective devices were also placed along the centerline of the bridge to better identify the lanes on the bridge. In addition, Public Works is assessing if a surface treatment can be placed on the wood decking to provide more traction to cars.

This bridge is not currently eligible for federal funds for replacement as it is in relatively good shape with a Sufficiency Rating of 60 out of 100. Bridges are not eligible until their score drops below 40. This bridge is also classified as Functionally Obsolete, which means it was built to standards at the time and does not meet current design standards.

**Questions?**

Email Road@snoco.org or call 425-388-ROAD.