



Department of Transportation  
Road Services Division

## **DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** NE Old Cascade Highway, Miller River East and West Roadway and Drainage Improvement Projects #1129595 and #1129596

**Date of Issue:** October 25, 2018

**Description of Proposal:** The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to fund the King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division (RSD) for infrastructure preservation work on NE Old Cascade Highway and West Cascade Highway, west of the City of Skykomish. This funding is available from FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) grant program. The total project cost is estimated to be \$4.5 million.

The project will provide roadway preservation repairs and drainage improvements to approximately three miles of NE Old Cascade Highway and West Cascade Highway that were impacted by storms in 2011. The storms created flooding and changed the course of the East Fork Miller River within the South Fork Skykomish drainage basin. The flooding washed out approximately 160 linear feet of NE Old Cascade Highway, including the western approach to Miller River Bridge #999W, resulting in closure of the historic landmarked bridge to vehicular traffic. This project does not impact the historic Miller River Bridge #999W.

Since 2011, project stakeholders underwent a lengthy public process to determine the feasibility of a variety of responses to this loss of infrastructure. RSD proposes a number of activities that are necessary to maintain the safe use and preserve the remaining sole access segments of NE Old Cascade Highway and West Old Cascade Highway, as follows:

- Construct a new cul-de-sac on the west side of the Miller River on NE Old Cascade Highway at Miller River Road NE
- Construct a new hammerhead turnaround area on the east side of the Miller River on West Old Cascade Highway
- Remove the short span Cascade Highway Bridge #999X over a tributary stream to the South Fork Skykomish River
- Remove roadway debris from the Type F (fish-bearing) East Fork Miller River, remove 1,156 linear feet asphalt/concrete roadway, and provide native planting on the eastbound lane
- Replace Culvert #1 conveying floodwater
- Replace Culverts #2, #3, and #4 conveying stormwater
- Replace Culvert #5 at a Type N (non-fish bearing) stream
- Removal of a fish-passage barrier by replacement of Culvert #6 at a Type F (fish-bearing) stream
- Stabilize a steep slope/slide area
- Maintain approximately 3,300 linear feet of roadside ditches
- Repair, chip-and-seal approximately three miles of the remaining roadway

During construction, existing native vegetation within the project area will be temporarily disturbed or removed. These areas will be replanted with native species and cover measures to ensure stabilization during the first growing season after construction is complete. The project also proposes to restore previously paved areas by removing paving and fill and providing amended soils and native planting.

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**Location of Proposal:** The project is located on NE Old Cascade Highway and West Old Cascade Highway, west and east of Miller River Bridge #999W that is west of the City of Skykomish, Washington, in unincorporated King County. The site is located in Township 26 North, Range 11 East, and Sections 21, 27 SE, 27 SW, 27 NW, 28E, and 34 WM (Willamette meridian) and can be found on the Thomas Brother's Guide map, pages 514 and 515.

**Schedule:** Project construction is dependent on acquisition of permits, approvals, and property easements that are anticipated to be completed in 2019/2020. Some work will be constructed by a Contractor and some work will be completed by King County RSD crews to minimize the duration of construction. Timing for work within critical areas will be limited to what is allowed per the project's permit and approval conditions. Mitigation planting for unavoidable impacts to site vegetation will generally occur in the fall or winter following construction.

**Proponent and Lead Agency:** King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division

The lead agency for the proposal determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed SEPA environmental checklist (ECL) and other information on file with the lead agency. Copies of the ECL are available on the project website at

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/roads/old-cascade-highway.aspx>


This DNS is issued under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the date of issue, per WAC 197-11-502(3)(b).

**Comments and Appeals:** Although there is no administrative appeal of this threshold DNS (King County Code 20.44.120), the county welcomes your comments. **Any comments regarding this DNS must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2018.** Comments may be submitted by email (recommended), US mail, or telephone. All comments received by this deadline will be reviewed by the lead agency. If you have any questions or concerns, or require additional information, please contact the Public Information Officer listed below.

**Contact Person:**

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**Signature:**



**Date:**

10/12/18

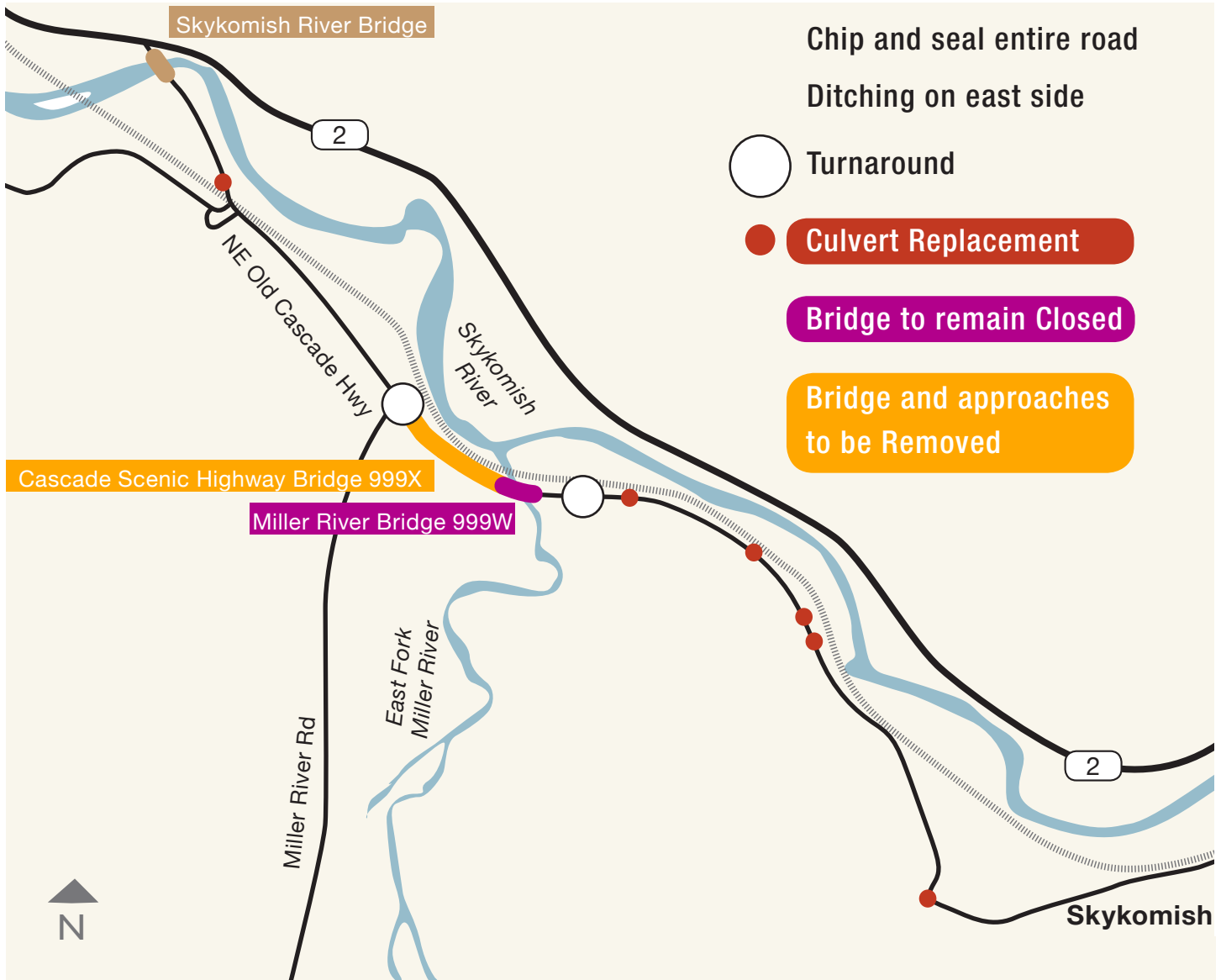
**SEPA Responsible Official:**

Rick Brater

**Position/title:**

Road Services Division Acting Director  
Department of Transportation

# NE Old Cascade Hwy roadway improvements



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