WAC 197-11-960: SEPA Environmental Checklist

Purpose of checklist:
Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

164th Place Southeast and SE Covington-Sawyer Road Sightline Improvements Project #1138330

2. Name of applicant/lead agency:

King County Department of Local Services (DLS), Road Services Division (Roads)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Contact Person:
Broch Bender, Communications Manager
206-263-1189, bbender@kingcounty.gov
King Street Center (Mail Stop: KSC-LS-0315)
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

4. Date checklist prepared: This checklist was prepared April 2022.

5. Agency requesting checklist: King County DLS, Roads

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The project's construction schedule is dependent on acquisition of permits, approvals, and property needs. It is anticipated construction of the project would begin and end in 2023. Plantings for site restoration will generally occur in the fall or winter following construction.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

There are no plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The following environmental information has been prepared to support this project:

- *Critical Areas Reconnaissance Memorandum, SE Covington-Sawyer Road Sightline Improvement Project (CIP 1138330)*. March 2022. Prepared by King County.

- *Geotechnical Investigation – Project No. 1134083, Covington Way SE at 164th Place SE Intersection Improvements, King County, Washington.* July 2021. Prepared by King County. [This document was prepared for a separate project; however, the footprint of the investigation overlaps with the current project.]

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Roads is unaware of any applications pending government approval of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by this proposal.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

The following permits, approvals, reviews, and file documentation are anticipated for the project:

State:

- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA):
  - Determination of Nonsignificance
  - Notice of Action Taken

King County:

- DLS, Permitting Division:
  - Clearing and Grading Permit

- Executive:
  - Equity and Social Justice Documentation
  - Green Building Ordinance Documentation

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

As part of the Countywide High Collision Safety Program, King County Roads is proposing to implement a project to improve sightlines for drivers on SE Covington-Sawyer Road. The project occurs on a sharp curve with an approximate seven percent road slope. Tall trees and shrubs on the inside of the curve limit visibility, creating a minimum stopping sight distance of 134 feet, less than the required safe distance of 227 feet. This portion of roadway has been identified as a high-collision area, and the project goal is to increase the stopping sight distance to reduce the number of collisions that occur, thereby improving roadway user safety.

The project will clear vegetation, partially excavate the hillside on the inside of the curve, and construct a structural earth retaining wall. Following construction, the area above the wall will be planted with native trees and shrubs to compensate for the removal of vegetation necessary to accommodate construction of the wall. The area below the wall will be seeded with low-growing herbaceous vegetation to maintain sightlines. The project will not increase the capacity of the roadway or otherwise change the use of the site. The project will occur within the King County road right-of-way, as well as on two private parcels: 3622059009 and 3622059181. The project area is approximately 15,870 square feet (0.36 acre) in size.

The project is locally funded by King County. The project construction cost is estimated at $875,000. Construction will be performed by a contractor. Project plans developed at the 60 precent design stage are attached to this checklist.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project is located on SE Covington-Sawyer Road, approximately 200 feet southeast of 164th Place SE, in unincorporated King County. The project occurs in Section 36 of Township 22N and Range 05E, Willamette Meridian. This location can be found in the Thomas Brothers Guide on page 747, grid cell 7D. A map of the project location is shown on Sheet 1 of the attached project plans.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope on the site has a slope of approximately 60 percent.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

The geologic unit found at the project site is Proglacial Stratified Drift (Qpv), which is mostly well-sorted pebble- to cobble-sized gravel with localized sands. Soils at the site are mapped as Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes. Due to their slopes, these soils are generally not suitable for agriculture. Agricultural soils will not be affected by the proposed construction.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There are no surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity of the project. The project area occurs within an erosion hazard area and potential steep slope hazard area, both of which are critical areas. The project will be designed to avoid exacerbating potential erosion and steep slope hazards, and all disturbed areas will be stabilized following construction.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

- The total project area, including stockpiling and staging areas, is anticipated to be approximately 15,870 square feet (0.36 acre). This total project area will be graded.

- The approximate volume of fill proposed for the total project is 1,665 cubic yards. King County's Materials Lab will confirm fill is from approved sources.
- The approximate total volume of material that will be excavated from the site is 2,956 cubic yards. Excavated material that is not suitable for reuse on-site will be hauled off-site to an appropriate lawful disposal site.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion could occur due to vegetation removal and ground-disturbing activities during construction. Seasonal weather conditions could impact the severity of erosion. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control (TESC) Best Management Practices (BMPs), as well as permanent site restoration measures will be implemented to minimize potential erosion. Please see Section B.1.h of this checklist for specific proposed measures to reduce and control construction-related erosion.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

- The total project area is 15,870 square feet (0.36 acre)
- The project site includes no existing impervious surfaces.
- No existing impervious surfaces will be replaced.
- New impervious surface is estimated to be 230 square feet (0.005 acre).
- The amount of the site that will be covered with impervious surfaces after construction is 0.01%.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

During construction, the area of ground disturbance will be minimized to the extent practicable to reduce the potential for erosion. TESC BMPs include, but are not limited to, the use of straw wattles, compost socks, mulch, and dust control. Surficial groundwater, if encountered, and stormwater will be bypassed and isolated around the construction zone. Sediment-laden water from groundwater and/or stormwater will be isolated and pumped to vegetated upland areas for dispersion/infiltration and/or pumped into a portable settling tank prior to being released to a stable upland dispersion area or being hauled off-site. Disturbed areas that are not converted to impervious surfaces will be covered with compost or topsoil and seeded/planted.

2. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Construction, operations, and maintenance of the roadway will result in the release of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to global warming and related climate-change concerns. Life cycle GHG emissions for the project include embodied, operational, and construction emissions that are defined as follows:

- Embodied emissions are the emissions released during the extraction, processing, and transportation of the materials used in construction.

- Construction emissions are released during project construction and primarily come from fuel burned by the equipment used to build the project elements, such as bulldozers, pavers, and rollers.
- Operational and maintenance emissions are released by vehicles and equipment used to maintain the site and during vehicular roadway travel, following completion of the repairs.

The project's greenhouse gas emissions are primarily limited to embodied emissions associated with the procurement and transportation of construction materials (e.g., concrete, gravel, soil) and emissions from construction equipment. The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions for the project are the embodied emissions associated with the precast concrete panels or blocks that will be used on the front face of the structural earth wall. With the exception of periodic mowing of the newly created clear zone below the wall, the project will not have operational or maintenance needs and will not result in increased roadway travel. Therefore, the project will have minimal operational and maintenance greenhouse gas emissions.

Fugitive Dust Emissions: Excavation of the hillside and placement of imported aggregates may result in sources of fugitive dust that can reduce roadway visibility, cause respiratory health problems in humans/animals, and negatively impact aquatic life, vegetation, and water quality.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No off-site sources of emissions or odors have been identified that may affect this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutant emissions, the project will implement the following mitigation measures:

- Sourcing heavy materials from local suppliers to minimize transportation emissions.
- Reusing on-site materials where possible to minimize procurement and transportation emissions.
- Use of efficient staging and construction sequencing to minimize emissions from construction equipment and traffic delays.
- Using biodiesel or ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuels for vehicles and equipment to reduce diesel exhaust emissions.
- Enforcing King County's no-idling policy for county vehicles to minimize vehicle emissions.

To reduce dust-related emissions, the contractor will implement a Fugitive Dust Control Plan. Associated mitigation measures include:

- Spraying water, when necessary, during construction operations to reduce emissions of fugitive dust.
- Covering dirt, gravel, and debris piles as needed to reduce fugitive dust and wind-blown debris.
- Covering open-bodied trucks in accordance with RCW 46.61.655, wetting materials in trucks, or providing adequate space from the top of the material to the top of the truck to reduce fugitive dust emissions.
- Wetting and sweeping public roadways, when necessary, to remove mud and dirt deposits.

3. **Water**

a. Surface Water:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

There are no surface waters or wetlands on the project site. Two Category III wetlands were noted in the vicinity of the project site, but their associated buffers do not extend into the project site. These wetlands drain to Jenkins Creek, which is located approximately 1,500 feet northeast of the project site.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The project will not require work over, in, or within 200 feet of the surface waters and wetlands described in 3.a.1.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The project will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The project is not within a mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain or floodway.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No waste materials will be discharged to surface waters.

b. Groundwater:

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Groundwater will not be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes for the project. Water will not be discharged to groundwater for this project. If groundwater is encountered during ground-disturbing work, these areas will be isolated. Well points with a pump may be installed to redirect surficial groundwater from the construction site. Sediment-laden water from groundwater and/or stormwater will be isolated and pumped to vegetated upland areas for dispersion/infiltration

and/or pumped into a portable settling tank prior to being released to a stable upland dispersion area or being hauled off-site.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals…; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

The source of runoff within the project limits is precipitation. Under existing drainage patterns, stormwater runoff flows from the hillside into a shallow ditch along the north side of the road where it is collected by a catch basin on the downslope (northwest) side of the curve. From there, the water is piped along the side of the road to the base of the slope where it crosses under Covington Way SE and is discharged into a ditch along the southeast side of 164th Place SE. The ditch flows along the southeast side of 164th Place SE approximately 200 feet before crossing under the road and discharging into a vegetated area on the northwest side of 164th Place SE. The project will not modify existing drainage patterns at the project site.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

The project will not generate waste materials such as domestic sewage or industrial or agricultural wastes. Therefore, there is no potential for such waste materials to enter ground or surface waters.

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The project will not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the project.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

Depending on the weather, some work areas may be dewatered during construction to minimize impacts to groundwater and stormwater. Sediment-laden water that does not meet water-quality standards will be isolated and pumped to vegetated upland areas for dispersion/infiltration and/or pumped into a portable settling tank prior to being released to a stable upland dispersion area or being hauled off-site. There will be no change to existing drainage patterns.

4. **Plants**

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☒ deciduous tree: big-leaf maple, black cottonwood
- ☒ evergreen tree: Douglas fir, western hemlock
- ☒ shrubs: vine maple, oso-berry, beaked hazelnut
- ☒ grass: reed canarygrass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops
- ☐ wet soil plants:
- ☐ water plants:
- ☒ other types of vegetation: sword fern, Himalayan blackberry

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The project will impact 15,870 square feet (0.36 acre) of area vegetated by upland trees, shrubs, ferns, and groundcover. Approximately 25 trees greater than four inches in diameter at breast height will be removed. Following construction, the areas above the wall will be replanted with native trees and shrubs, and the area below the wall will be seeded with a standard erosion control mix.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

According to a review of online data from the Consortium of Pacific Northwest Herbaria and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted in March 2022, there are no special-status plant species known or anticipated to occur on or near the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Clearing limits will be marked on-site prior to construction to ensure only required vegetation removal occurs. After construction, temporarily impacted areas above the wall will be planted with appropriate native trees and shrubs. Temporarily impacted areas below the wall will be seeded with a low-growing erosion control mix to maintain sightlines.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

The following noxious weeds and invasive species have been observed on or near the site:

Common Name	Scientific Name	King County Noxious Weed Class
Himalayan blackberry	*Rubus bifrons*	Non-regulated, Class C Noxious Weed
Reed canarygrass	*Phalaris arundinacea*	Non-regulated, Class C Noxious Weed

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: crows
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: coyote, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: amphibians

The birds and other animals underlined above are known or anticipated to be on or near the project site.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

According to a review of online data from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service conducted in March 2022, there are no special-status animal species known or anticipated to occur on or near the site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project site is located within the Pacific Flyway, which is a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Every year, migratory birds travel some or all this distance both in spring and in fall following food sources, heading to breeding grounds, or traveling to overwintering sites.

Except for the Pacific Flyway, the project area is otherwise not a known or mapped wildlife species corridor.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife include, but are not limited to:

- Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
    - The project was designed to have the minimal footprint possible. Clearing limits will be marked on-site to preserve existing vegetation outside of the project limits.
    - The project will be constructed in compliance with regulations and permit provisions within authorized work windows.

- Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation by using appropriate technology or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts. The project minimizes impacts by implementing the following:
    - Appropriate TESC BMPs required by the Regional Road Maintenance Program Guidelines, King County Surface Water Design Manual, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and Ecology.
    - Groundwater BMPs: If groundwater is encountered within work areas during construction, it will be isolated and discharged to a stable vegetated upland area to infiltrate or will be pumped into a portable settling tank prior to being discharged to a stable area onsite or being hauled off-site.
    - Implementation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan.
    - Implementation of a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan.

- Rectifying
    - Restoring areas of disturbed vegetation and providing cover measures to minimize erosion.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

No invasive animal species are known to be on or near the site.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The completed project will not have energy needs.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

The project will not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The completed project will not have energy needs. Measures to reduce energy use during construction will be encouraged (e.g., efficient scheduling, material transport, and staging; implementing the no-idling policy).

7. **Environmental Health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

The accidental leakage of petroleum products and other toxic chemicals (e.g., gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, anti-freeze, grease, etc.) from construction equipment could occur, but is not likely. These substances can be toxic to nearby aquatic systems and to humans upon prolonged exposure and can pose a fire hazard. Regional Road Maintenance Program Guidelines, King County, and Ecology spill prevention BMPs will be followed to avoid spills. King County and the contractor are required to implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan for the project prior to beginning construction. Equipment will be inspected daily for leaks and necessary repairs will be completed prior to commencing work. Secondary containment basins will be provided for pumps. Spill kits will be available on-site to respond to unanticipated small spills.

During construction, community health could be affected by dust and vehicle exhaust. Construction activities will intermittently generate particulate matter and odors, and construction equipment will generate diesel engine exhaust. Any air-quality impacts associated with construction activities are greatest near sensitive land uses, such as schools or parks; however, there are no sensitive land uses near the construction site, so these impacts will be minimal. In addition, air-quality impacts will be short-term, occurring only while construction is in progress.

BMPs will be employed to reduce fugitive dust, odors, and exhaust emissions; see Section 2.c of this checklist for more information.

1) **Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

Based on a review of Ecology's online resources, the project area falls outside of the predicted arsenic contamination zone, which is based on the modeled Asarco Tacoma plume. There are three historical cleanup locations and ten Ecology-permitted facilities/sites (past and present) within a half-mile radius of the project location. No anticipated contamination concerns were identified at the project location.

2) **Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

There are no known existing hazardous chemicals/conditions at the project site that might affect project development and design.

3) **Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

During construction, petroleum products will be used on-site to power construction equipment. At completion of the project, toxic or hazardous chemicals will not be stored, used, or produced at the project site.

4) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

The need for special emergency services is not anticipated.

5) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

Worker health and safety will be addressed as required by state and federal regulations. Waste material generated from construction will be properly managed and disposed of at permitted facilities. During construction, the project will implement a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan that provides BMPs to be used during construction to minimize the potential for hazardous spills from fuels and materials. Spill control and cleanup kits will be available on-site to be used in the rare event of a spill. The contractor will be required to submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan to King County for approval. The plan will provide BMPs that will be used to minimize the amount of particulate matter (i.e., dust) generated during construction.

b. Noise

1) **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

Existing noise in the area emanates from roadway traffic and surrounding residential parcels along the roadway. The existing noise levels in the area will not affect the proposed project.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Construction will create noise on a short-term basis. This noise will be generated from the various types of construction equipment and activities; for example, truck traffic hauling materials to and from the site, excavation and material-moving equipment such as backhoes and bulldozers, mechanical soil compaction, and hand-held equipment such as chain saws.

Construction will occur in accordance with King County Code 12.86, which allows typical construction equipment operation between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekends. If work outside these hours is needed, a variance will be requested from the King County Department of Local Services Permitting Division.

Following construction, noise is expected to return to pre-existing conditions. The project will not generate new ongoing noise.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Standard mufflers will be used on all construction equipment. The construction crew will work during hours in accordance with the requirements of King County Code and permit conditions. If work outside normal construction hours is needed, a variance will be requested from the King County Department of Local Services Permitting Division.

8. **Land and Shoreline Use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The current use of the site is as King County roadway infrastructure and utility corridor. Private properties within the vicinity of the project area are primarily zoned for rural residential use. The proposal will not alter existing land uses.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to non-farm or non-forest use?

The project will not result in the conversion of agricultural or working forest lands to other uses. The project site is primarily composed of the King County right-of-way and rural residential parcels which are not working farmland or working forest lands. The proposed project will not affect existing or potential future use of the adjacent properties.

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?

No farm or forestry operations will be permanently affected by the proposal.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no structures within the site.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

King County's public road rights-of-way are not subject to zoning. The project area is located outside of the urban growth boundary. Private properties within the vicinity of the project area zoned as RA-5, rural area allowing one dwelling unit per five acres.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

According to the *King County Comprehensive Plan* (2020), the project is outside of the urban growth area, with a designation of Rural Area 2.5 to 10 acres per dwelling unit.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The site is not within a Shoreline Management Act boundary.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

The King County iMap interactive mapping tool indicates the project site is within an erosion hazard area, a potential steep slope hazard area, and a critical aquifer recharge area. In addition, Roads staff identified two wetlands and associated buffers potentially regulated as critical areas located adjacent to, but outside of, the project site.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No people will reside or work in the completed project.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

No people will be permanently displaced by the project.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

No measures will be implemented to avoid or reduce displaced people because no one will be displaced.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

This project complies with the *King County Comprehensive Plan* (2020). The proposed project is consistent with existing and projected land uses in the areas potentially affected by the project. The project requires land use permits from the King County Department of Local Services Permitting Division to further ensure the project is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

No long-term adverse impacts to agricultural or forest land uses in the vicinity are anticipated.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units are being provided by the project.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units are being eliminated by the project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

The project will not result in adverse impacts to housing units; therefore, no measures are proposed to reduce or control impacts.

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest height of the proposed retaining wall is 12 feet above the finished grade. The principal exposed material will be concrete.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

No views in the immediate vicinity of the project will be obstructed. The proposed project will improve sightlines for the traveling public.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

The wall will be faced with pre-cast concrete panels or blocks designed for aesthetics. The area above the wall will be planted with native trees and shrubs.

11. **Light and Glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Existing luminaires at the project site will not be affected by the project. The completed project will not modify existing lighting or produce glare.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No new lighting or glare will be produced by the project. Existing roadway lighting is intended to increase safety for the traveling public.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No off-site sources of light or glare have been identified that will affect the proposed project.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

The project will not introduce new lighting or cause glare; therefore, no measures to reduce or control light or glare are proposed.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There are no formal recreational areas on the existing roadway or the adjacent privately-owned parcels. Within the immediate vicinity of the project, informal recreational activities include walking and biking within the existing roadway.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No existing recreational uses will be displaced by the proposed project beyond those necessary during project construction.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

The project will not affect recreational activities, and no measures are proposed to reduce or control recreational activities.

13. **Historic and Cultural Preservation**

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

The Roads Archaeologist conducted a cultural resources screening of the project location. The screening utilized the following resources/databases:

- King County Cultural Resource Protection Project
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data

These resources/databases utilize geographic information systems, historic maps, ethno-historic accounts, and professional site records.

The house at 28220 Covington Way SE, approximately 250 feet northwest of the project site, was constructed in 1910 and served as the Signal Maintainers House for the Pacific Northern RR. The proposed project will not create any alterations to this house or any other existing structures. There are no other recorded, reported, or suspected cultural resources at the project location.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

As noted in Section B.13.a of this checklist, with the exception of the house at 28220 Covington Way SE, no other recorded, reported, or suspected cultural resources were identified at the project location during the cultural resources screening. The general setting of the project in the glaciated lowlands near the salmon-bearing Jenkins Creek suggests a moderate to high likelihood for unknown buried intact prehistoric archaeological deposits. However, the presence of road prism and shoulder, steep slopes, and utilities reduces this likelihood a great deal. As the vast majority of the proposed ground disturbance is in the area of steep slopes, no further cultural resources work was recommended by the Roads Archaeologist.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archaeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

See Section B.13.a of this checklist.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

If resources are identified during construction, work in the vicinity of the identified resources will immediately cease and the Roads Archaeologist, the King County Historic Preservation Program, DAHP, consulting Tribes, and other appropriate agencies will be notified. Work will not resume in the vicinity of the identified resources until appropriate archaeological investigations are complete.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The project occurs where Covington Way SE becomes SE Covington-Sawyer Road. Project site plans are attached to this checklist for more information.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is not served by public transit. The nearest King County Metro service line is on SE 272nd Avenue/State Route 516, approximately 0.9 mile northwest of the project area.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

The completed project will neither create nor eliminate parking spaces.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

The proposed project will not modify the existing paved roadway, but will improve sightlines by creating additional shoulder/clear zone below the proposed retaining wall. No pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities will be affected.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The project will not use water, rail, or air transportation. The BNSF railway occurs approximately 400 feet northwest of the project site, but will not be affected by the project.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

There will be no increase in typical vehicular trips per day because of the completed project.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

The completed project will not negatively interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads in the area.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

The proposed project will not affect the existing roadway capacity. The roadway will remain open for travel in both directions during construction; however, traveling public may be temporarily affected by traffic control during project construction.

15. **Public Services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No increased needs for public services are anticipated because of the proposed project.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

The project will not result in impacts to public services; therefore, no measures are proposed to reduce or control any such impacts.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: cable

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

An underground gas line is present on the north side of the roadway, adjacent to the project site. Utility poles on the south side of the roadway carry electricity, telephone, and cable lines. No new utilities are proposed for the project. Existing utilities that conflict with the construction project will be temporarily relocated outside of the construction zone and then restored upon site restoration.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: DocuSigned by: Archuleta, Wally D783FDF0407B4D6... **Date:** 5/10/2022

Name of Signee: Wally Archuleta

Position/title: Road Design & Traffic Manager
Road Services Division, Engineering Services Section

Attached:

- Project Plan Sheets