

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)
ADDENDUM

The following addendum has been prepared pursuant to provisions of WAC 197-11-625.

Environmental document added to by this addendum: The document for which additional information is being provided is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the US 395/North Spokane Corridor. The FEIS was prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation to meet National Environmental Policy Act requirements under jurisdiction of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA issued a final Record of Decision (ROD) on November 20, 1997. Local and State jurisdictions adopted the NEPA FEIS for the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) on January 13, 1998.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Transportation

Description of proposal: The North Spokane Corridor (NSC) is a new 10-mile divided highway that will connect Interstate 90 to US 395. A 6.1-mile section of highway, from Columbia Avenue to US 395 is completed. The remaining 3.9-mile section is divided into six individual projects, two of which propose new bridges over the Spokane River. The bridge structures, realignment of Riverton Avenue, and shared-use path are within Shoreline Jurisdictional limits and special flood hazard areas of the Spokane River, and are the subjects of this SEPA addendum.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is proposing to construct new mainline highway bridges and a mixed-use path bridge over the Spokane River. All structures will be located just east of the existing Greene Street Bridge. The highway bridges will have six 12-foot lanes, four 10-foot shoulders, and a traffic barrier between the opposing lanes. The path bridge is designed for both pedestrians and bicycle use. Total width for this structure will be 19 feet, barrier on each side and clear area of 16 feet for the pathway. All structures will span the river, with footings and piers located on the banks just below or above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), depending on location. No piers will be located directly in the center of the channel.

Riverton Avenue is located on the upper south bank of the river. Riverton will be realigned to run beneath the new mainline NSC structures and then reconnect to Ermina Avenue. The new Riverton/Ermina intersection will be located approximately 215' east of the existing one. The Max M. Snyder building on the Spokane Community College's campus will be removed to accommodate the roadway realignment. Other work within the shoreline will include extensions of the path beyond the bridge ends, retaining wall replacement, drainage ponds, and plantings.

The project is in the city of Spokane, in Spokane County, Washington. The specific location of work is approximately 1.7 miles north of Interstate 90 milepost 283.60, adjacent to the existing Greene Street bridge near Spokane Community College. It is in Section 10, Township 25 N., Range 43 E.W.M.

Addendum: This addendum supplies more specific detail for impact areas, mitigation of impacts, and monitoring to ensure success of the mitigation for the NSC roadway bridges, pedestrian bridge, road reconstruction, and other work within the jurisdictional shoreline boundaries of the Spokane River. The following provides information addressing these topics:

Identification of impacts

The footprint, or extent of ground coverage of the proposed bridges (Footing/riprap locations), roadway, pathway, and other work lying within or over the shoreline and flood hazard area will be approximately 0.83 acres, with approximately 0.67 acres of that being within area under Shoreline Management Act jurisdiction. The proposed project includes minor fill outside of the river riparian area to realign Riverton Avenue and construct the pathway. Work within the river riparian area will include bridge footings and riprap for protection. Riprap will be placed just above and below OHWM, depending on footing location. The footprint areas are shown below.

Approximate fill areas to be provided in Shoreline Conditional Use and Floodplain Development Applications

| | Approximate Areas/Quantities |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Footprint | |
| Riparian Area Above OHWM | 0.20 acre |
| Riparian Area Below OHWM | 0.16 acre |
| Shoreline Area | 0.47 acre |
| Fill volume | |
| Riparian Area Above OHWM | 0 cu yd |
| Riparian Area Below OHWM | 1291 cu yd |
| Shoreline Area | 1713 cu yd |
| New Impervious Surface | |
| Riparian Area Above and Below OHWM | 0 acre |
| Shoreline Area (Net additional to Riverton Avenue, and Includes New Pathway) | 0.21 acre |

A biological assessment completed in 2019 concluded the project will have “no effect” on additional listed species and designated critical habitats known to occur in Spokane County. No habitat for any of the listed Priority Habitat or Species will be impacted by this project, and there will be no effect to any federally listed species. No wetlands are present within the project footprint. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided an informal consultation and concurred with the findings of “no effect” in a letter dated May 22, 2019.

Small mammals and birds that use the area for feeding, cover, and movement to other sites may be temporarily affected during project construction by elevated noise and tree removals. These species, having adapted to life near the existing roadways and development, are expected to return once construction is complete. The project will require removal of vegetation, grading and fill within the regulated areas. Due to the impaired and degraded condition of the riparian habitat and shoreline, the analysis found that the proposed project will not result in detrimental effects on the habitat values, or a net loss of shoreline ecological functions.

Mitigation of Impacts

A Habitat Management Plan will be developed to mitigate impacts to the riparian areas and adjacent shoreline boundaries, although much of the shoreline upland from the river banks have been degraded by city streets and development.

Disturbed areas, both temporary and permanent, will be rehabilitated with vegetation, including native trees and shrubs that will provide shade, stability, and habitat in the riparian zone. Trees

will be planted in the upland area of the shoreline boundaries. Once established, the native plantings will provide a long term benefit to the shoreline of Spokane River.

During construction, Best Management Practices (BMPs) will prevent runoff discharges to the river:

- The sensitive areas within the project limits shall be identified with high visibility orange fencing prior to any earthwork activities.
- Silt fence shall be installed within the project area to prevent stormwater runoff from carrying silt and sediments off-site to surface water or other sensitive areas. Any runoff collected will be treated and released, or disposed of properly.
- Blowing dust will be controlled using water on exposed soils until they are stabilized with vegetation or an approved dust palliative.
- Maintenance of equipment, refueling, staging, and storage of materials shall be done at an approved site outside of the shoreline jurisdictional boundaries.
- Steep slopes will be covered with temporary erosion control material until vegetation can be established.
- All disturbed areas within the project will be smoothed to conform to the surrounding terrain at the end of the project. The areas not intended to be planted during the fall planting window will be seeded and mulched with an approved native seed mix suitable for the region.
- Work on this project will be carefully monitored with experienced inspectors to ensure the environment is protected. All BMPs will be installed or implemented according to accepted practices.
- Noxious weed species will be controlled.

Monitoring plan

A plant establishment and monitoring plan is an integral part of the planting plan. All planting included in this project will be performed in compliance with WSDOT's Standard Specifications Manual, Chapters 8-02 and 9-14. The plant establishment performance will be part of the construction contract. During project construction, inspection of planting areas will be reviewed for compliance with:

- Planting Area Weed Control – review all area to be seeded and planted to ensure that the areas are weed free prior to seeding or planting.
- Layout of Planting – review the layout of the plant material prior to planting.
- Plant Inspection – review plant material prior to planting.
- Completion of Initial Planting – following the completion of planting, review all planting areas to ensure that they are planted per plan, mulched, weed free and all unsatisfactory conditions corrected.
- Erosion Control – Temporary erosion control within all planting areas will consist of, but are not limited to, the following: organic temporary erosion control fabric, compost, and bark or wood chip mulch.

Vegetation will be planted between October 1 and November 15 per WSDOT Standard Specifications. A landscape architect in collaboration with a habitat biologist will determine plant, shrub, and tree species as well as quantities, composting, topsoil, seeding, and overall planting requirements. If necessary, an irrigation plan will accompany the planting plan. A vegetation survivability rate will be established as well. The plant establishment period is anticipated to be three years, but will be finalized through the shoreline permitting process.

By SEPA adoption of the NEPA FEIS on January 13, 1998, the information contained herein is added to the final document by the authority provided in WAC 197-11-600(4)(c) and conforms to the procedures for preparing an addendum in WAC 197-11-625. The addendum provides additional information regarding improvements proposed as part of the project that do not substantially change the analysis of impacts in the existing environmental documents for this project (WAC197-11-706). The minor new information addressed above will not result in any new adverse impacts from the construction of the bridge structures, roadway realignments, and other work within the Shoreline Jurisdiction of the Spokane River for the US 395/North Spokane Corridor project.

There is no comment period required or provided for with this addendum.

SEPA Lead Agency: Washington State Department of Transportation

Responsible official: Tammie Williams

Position/title: Region Environmental Manager

Address: 2714 N. Mayfair St., Spokane, WA 99207

Date: September 17, 2019

Signature:  _____