

From: [Micah Eberharter](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Jordan Bridge public comment
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:29:39 AM

Snohomish County SDP CUP VAR 23-104011 SHOR
Troy Fields, Snohomish County Public Works ENVS – Applicant
Department of Ecology Project ID: 2023-NWRO-7014

Unjust Decision for Permit Design Reason for Appeal

We support having the Jordan Creek Bridge #214 widened with the only land taken from us being the legally required 10-foot right-of-way on each side of the new bridge.

We do not support the placement of the bioretention pond on our land and strongly object to the taking of the additional land labeled as the ‘Acquisition Area’ (See Jordan Creek Bridge Project #214 Erosion Control and Grading Plan – Reference Sheet EC02) that extends far beyond the existing and legally required right-of-way.

The Acquisition Area takes prime property away from us that we do not want to sell and depreciates our remaining property. Our new neighbor at 16611 Jordan Road objects to this plan to take the land in directly in front of his house as well.

Facts and Reasoning Relied Upon:

We do not want to sell our land and by moving the retention pond across Jordan Creek to an area that is essentially cleared already, the mature trees in the Acquisition Area on our land may remain intact. With fewer mature trees needing removal, this will keep Jordan Creek better shaded and cooler which is beneficial to fish and maintains a better tree canopy for insects and the bats. This is the least disruptive option.

We can also negotiate access to our pasture with access from either Jordan Road or 143rd Ave NE to provide a nearby staging area for heavy equipment. This will also minimize impacts to the planned acquisition area so that unnecessary grading and replanting can be avoided. This is vitally important because the more land that is cut into and graded, the more tree roots that are damaged and weakened, the more risk we face on the property of having our land shift which may impact our home's foundation, collapse our wells, or have the mature trees be weakened and then blown onto our house in a future wind storm.

Minimizing the area of land that will need grading may help to eliminate the need to take out the large pine trees that were planted in our front yard and have the ashes of our relatives at their roots. Our connection to the land is deep and permanent and we want a solution that respects our needs and is best for public safety and ultimately the county.

The current study plan recommendation will impact our creek and river front access. Many spots we maintain and privately enjoy (see photos 4, 5, and 6 of the Critical Area Study, February 2023) along the creek below and beyond the existing bridge footings will be fenced off. During and after the project there will be additional foot traffic around and under the bridge resulting in drug use, vandalism, trash, and other property crimes. With these issues being such a problem at the Jim Creek bridge, we do not want the same issues directly on our property or the property the county intends to take from us and fence off.

Relief or Remedy Sought:

The only land that should be taken from us is the minimum legally required right of way. The retention pond currently fits in this right of way without the need for the additional acquisition area.

We are against the unnecessary taking of the additional acquisition area. Period. There are alternates to the existing study that can and should be considered so that this can be a win for us as land owners, for the County to get the best design, the environment, and perhaps even public safety.

From the public safety perspective, cars park for hundreds of yards down Jordan Road and along 143rd Ave NE on summer days for people to access the Jordan Bridge and river below. There continue to be numerous accidents along this stretch of road which can be extremely unsafe with all the parking, foot traffic, and speeding vehicle traffic including logging trucks. The County needs to do something to make this stretch of Jordan Road safer. Especially with the dangerous combination of the blind corner and hill on Jordan Road that makes it difficult to see oncoming traffic or pedestrians crossing the Jordan Road.

Placing the center line of the new bridge in the exact same spot as the current bridge does not change or improve the sight line. It will not change the danger between the Jordan Bridge parking lot and this new bridge for all the people walking on the road.

The county should use this opportunity to purchase the land between the Jordan Road and the Stilliguamish River so that pedestrian and bike access between the parking lot and bridge can be improved. Better for the County to buy that land, create a widened road or trail on the west side, improve safety, and access to this heavily congested summer hot spot than to pay millions in lawsuits when fatal accidents will predictably occur that could have been prevented.

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From: [Jim Clark](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Jordan Bridge Project
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 10:32:21 AM

Hi,

For the public comment, I am worried that this bridge project won't protect public safety and there are better options to mitigate the sight line and traffic between the swinging bridge parking lot and the new Jordan Creek bridge.

I will testify tomorrow since I believe the country should redesign the project and purchase adjacent land to better protect the public's interests and safety.

Regards,
Jim Clark
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Lake Stevens, WA 98258