



## Snohomish County Council

**Committee:** COW  
**ECAF:** 2021-0021  
**Motion:** 21-215

**Analyst:** Nicole Gorle  
**Date:** June 3, 2021

### **Consideration:**

Motion 21-215 would authorize the Executive to execute the Underpass Agreement and Easement Agreement with BNSF for the Meadowdale Park and Estuary Project.

### **Background**

Snohomish County purchased the property known as Meadowdale Beach County Park in 1968 with the intent to create a public park that has beach access. In furtherance of this goal, Snohomish County entered into an agreement with BNSF in 1987 to allow the County to install a culvert under the railroad embankment and within the railroad's right-of-way in order to allow fish passage and creek flow from Lund's Gulch Creek. The County additionally installed pedestrian access to the beach in 1988 within the culvert tunnel.

Over time, stormwater runoff had resulted in an accumulation of gravel at the culvert entrance which has hampered fish passage and pedestrian access. As a result, the County determined that it was necessary to replace 130 feet of railroad embankment with a railroad bridge, creating an estuary for salmon habitat, and installing picnic areas and a footbridge allowed for safe fish passage while still providing pedestrian access. Total project cost is estimated to be \$15 million, with just shy of \$7 million coming from grants and \$8 million from County REET funds and bonds.

A portion of the bridge work will be completed by BNSF crews (with support from the County's contractor) while work on the underpass and estuary will be completed by the County's contractor Strider Construction (Bid No: PW 002-21SB).

### **Current Proposal**

#### *Scope:*

**Underpass Agreement:** Outlines County and BNSF construction and long-term ownership responsibilities, terms, and estimated costs for work performed by BNSF.

**Easement Agreement:** Gives the County public beach access and access for maintenance of the underpass trail and estuary.

*Duration:* Construction will begin this year but may not be complete until 2022. BNSF has an October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to have the bridge constructed due to a restriction prohibiting work on tracks during the fourth quarter of the year. The department and BNSF are working through the construction schedule now.

*Fiscal Implications:* For the railroad bridge portion of this project, the cost estimate is \$7,522,629. BNSF has elected to use their crew for a portion of the bridge construction, so \$2,512,185 of the total bridge cost will be paid to BNSF.

BNSF Construction Costs		
Description	Amount	Citation
Permanent Easement	\$430,294	Pg 2 Underpass Agreement
Temporary Easement	\$124,614	Pg 2 Underpass Agreement
Admin Fee	\$2,500	Pg 2 Underpass Agreement
Flagging	\$125,461	Exhibit D
Main 2 Track raise	\$133,066	Exhibit D
Inspection	\$111,100	Exhibit D
Bridge Construction	\$1,585,150	Exhibit D
<b>Total</b>		\$2,512,185

Motion 21-108 approved by Council on April 14<sup>th</sup> authorized the acceptance of an FRA grant in the amount of \$3,500,000, with a County match of \$4,022,629.<sup>1</sup> These funds are to be spent on the bridge construction portion of this project.

Of the total BNSF construction costs, \$909,485.41 will be paid for from the FRA grant and \$1,602,699.59 will come from the County's match (REET/bonds).

**2021 Budget:** YES. Included in the 2021-2026 CIP.

**Future Budget Impacts:** YES. This is a multi-year project with REET 2 and Grant funds committed in all outyears of the CIP.

**Handling:** URGENT – Agreements need to be executed for

1. BNSF to procure bridge materials that have long lead times
2. Construction to begin

**Approved-as-to-form:** No

**Risk Management:** Yes

**Executive Recommendation:** Approve

**Attachments:** None

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<sup>1</sup> Total railroad bridge cost estimate is \$7,522,629. FRA grant will contribute up to 46.5263% of that, with the County match being 53.4737%