

# Fact Sheet

---

## Project Name:

I-90 Snoqualmie Pass East Project

## Project Description:

I-90 spans 300 miles in Washington State from the Port of Seattle to the Idaho State line, and then continues east across the United States to Boston, Massachusetts. I-90 is the major east-west transportation corridor across Washington and is vital to the state's economy.

WSDOT proposes to improve a 15-mile portion of I-90, beginning on the eastern side of Snoqualmie Pass at MP 55.1, just east of the Hyak Interchange, and ending at MP 70.3 at the West Easton Interchange near the unincorporated community of Easton.

WSDOT has identified a Preferred Alternative, which combines design decisions at specific locations along the 15-mile route. The first five miles (MP 55.1 to 59.9) of the project is funded through construction. WSDOT considered a range of design alternatives to meet the project needs:

- ***Avalanches.*** The highway is frequently closed due to avalanches and associated control work. WSDOT considered construction of tunnels, bridges or a new, larger snowshed.
- ***Slope instability.*** Rock fall from unstable slopes presents an ongoing safety hazard. WSDOT considered tunnels, highway realignment and slope stabilization measures.
- ***Structural deficiencies.*** The pavement on I-90 is beyond its design life and is deteriorating rapidly. WSDOT considered repair and replacement.
- ***Traffic volumes.*** Traffic volumes exceed the design capacity of the highway during peak periods, and are continuing to grow.

- **Ecological connectivity.** The highway is the largest barrier to the movement of wildlife between protected federal lands to the north and south.

**Project Proponent:**

Washington State Department of Transportation

**SEPA Lead Agency:**

Washington State Department of Transportation  
1710 South 24th Avenue, Suite 100  
Yakima, Washington 98902

**Responsible SEPA Official:**

Megan White, Director, Environmental Services  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
310 Maple Park Avenue SE  
Olympia, Washington 98504  
(360) 705-7480

**NEPA Lead Agency:**

Federal Highway Administration  
711 South Capitol Way, Suite 501  
Olympia, Washington 98501

**Date Document Issued:**

August 29, 2008 (Notice of Availability in the Federal Register)

**Document Cost and Availability:**

A limited number of hard copies or DVDs of the Final EIS may be obtained free of charge by contacting:

Jason Smith, Project Environmental Manager  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
1710 South 24th Avenue, Suite 100  
Yakima, Washington 98902  
(509) 577-1921  
[smithjw@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:smithjw@wsdot.wa.gov)

Paper copies of the Final EIS and Appendix A, Comments and Responses to the Draft EIS, are located at selected King County Libraries (Bellevue Regional, Issaquah, Lake Hills, Newport Way, North Bend), Ellensburg Library, Cle Elum Library, Central Washington University Library, Seattle Public Library (Downtown Branch only), and the Washington State Library.

## Permits and Approvals:

Highway improvements are subject to federal, state, and local permit processes. The permits, approvals and agreements listed below may be required prior to project implementation on any particular phase of construction.

### *Permits, Approvals, and Agreements*

Agency	Regulation	Permit or Approval
<b>Federal</b>		
US Fish and Wildlife Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries	Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation and concurrence (impact to listed species) Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Migratory Bird Act	Consultation and Biological Opinion
US Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act (including demonstration that WSDOT has identified the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative) Section 404(b)(1) Alternatives Analysis	Section 404 Individual permit Jurisdictional Determination for Waters of the US
US Forest Service	Memoranda of Understanding between USFS, FHWA and WSDOT	Consistency determination with the USFS Forest Plan(s)
US Forest Service	Organic Act of 1897, National Forest Management Act of 1976	Access Permit(s) and Special Use Permit(s)
US Bureau of Reclamation	Work in Keechelus Lake	Crossing Permit(s) and/or Use Authorization
<b>State</b>		
Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 (impact on historic or cultural properties)	Consultation, Memorandum of Agreement for adverse effects between DAHP, FHWA, and WSDOT.
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Land and Water Conservation Act Section 6(f) (impact on outdoor recreation properties)	Agreement for use of Crystal Springs Sno-Park
Washington State Department of Ecology	Clean Water Act Section 401	Water Quality Certification

*Permits, Approvals, and Agreements*

Agency	Regulation	Permit or Approval
Washington State Department of Ecology	Clean Water Act Section 402 (RCW 90.48)	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits for Construction, Sand and Gravel, and possible aquatic spraying
Washington State Department of Ecology	Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58)	Consider administrative appeals
Washington State Department of Ecology	Oil Pollution Prevention Program (40 CFR 112)	Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Construction Projects in State Waters (RCW 77.55)	Hydraulic Project Approval
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Forest Practices Act (RCW 76.09)	Forest Practices Permit (if project would remove trees on state or private land)
<b>Local</b>		
Kittitas County	County Code Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58)	Substantial Development Permit(s) and/or exemption(s)
Kittitas County	County Code	Detour and Haul Road Agreements on county roads
Kittitas County	County Code Title 18.08	Floodplain permit
Kittitas County	County Code Title 18.20 Growth Management Act: RCW 36.70A, Critical Areas: WAC 365-190-080(5)	Growth Management Act Critical Areas Ordinance permit
Kittitas County	County Code Title 17.44.150	Noise regulations
Kittitas County	County Code Title 17	Limited Zoning review

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations  
 DAHP – Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
 FHWA – Federal Highway Administration  
 RCW – Revised Code of Washington  
 USFS – US Forest Service  
 WAC – Washington Administrative Code  
 WSDOT – Washington State Department of Transportation