

TO: City Council  
FROM: Ryan Blaser, Engineer III  
DATE: September 2, 2025  
SUBJECT: Local Agency Agreement and Project Prospectus with Washington State Department of Transportation for the Somerset Hill Fish Passage Barrier Removal

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1) Recommended Action:

Authorize the Mayor to sign the Somerset Hill Passage Barrier Removal Project Prospectus; and the Transportation and Engineering Director to sign the Local Agency Agreement and Project Prospectus.

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2) Background:

This project approval request was included on the consent calendar for approval at the June 3rd City Council meeting. Although these are the same items, the version of the item that will be presented at the September 2, 2025 Council is a revised version. WSDOT requested we make several changes to the funding amounts on the Project Prospectus and Local Agency Agreement.

The culvert conveying Percival Creek under Somerset Hill Drive has been identified as a partial barrier to fish passage. The City previously contracted with a consultant to prepare a preliminary alternatives analysis report for improving this crossing. This project will replace the existing culvert with a bridge structure that allows for easier fish passage, creates improved habitat, and helps to realign the creek toward its natural channel. The final project will also protect the existing bank from further erosion, which currently threatens to undermine several trees and potentially damage adjacent existing city utility infrastructure.

The purpose of these funding documents is to request that WSDOT move the project into the Preliminary Engineering phase. This will allow the city to begin utilizing the Federal funding source (PROTECT) as we prepare to secure a consultant for engineering design.

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3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priorities and Goals 2025 – 2026:

Be a Leader in Environmental Health and Sustainability – Improve overall habitat and water quality by assessing fish passages, removing obstructions, converting urban-density septic systems, and collaborating with area Tribes.

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4) Alternatives:

☐ Do not recommend for approval and authorization

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5) Fiscal Notes:

This project will be funded in part by a federal grant (Promoting Resilient Operations for

Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program [PROTECT]) totaling \$4,000,000; the Preliminary Engineering phase is allotted \$600,000 and the Construction Phase will be allotted \$3,400,000; any additional costs will be covered by City funds. Based on preliminary estimates, the total estimated project cost is \$4,297,500.

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6) Attachments:

- A. Local Agency Federal Aid Project Prospectus
- B. Local Agency Agreement