

TO: Public Works Committee  
FROM: Dan Smith, Water Resources & Sustainability Director  
DATE: July 20, 2023  
SUBJECT: Somerset Hill Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project Update

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1) Recommended Action:

None. Item is for discussion only.

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2) Background:

The culvert conveying Percival Creek under Somerset Hill Drive has been identified as a partial barrier to fish passage due to velocity, and flows have the potential to undermine a sanitary sewer main adjacent to the creek. The City plans to replace the culvert to allow for easier fish passage, improved habitat, and realignment of the creek toward its natural channel and further protect the sewer main. Water Resources & Sustainability has been working with Skillings Inc., to review alternatives for crossing structures that will work the best for the site.

The project is seeking a design and permitting grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and multiple alternatives were reviewed with the WRIA 13 Lead Entity for funding recommendations. Per the funding review group, the recommended alternative includes crossing the creek with a bridge span, resulting in a third place ranking, suggesting the project is anticipated to receive some grant funding to support design and permitting efforts. The other alternatives did not rank high enough to support funding.

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3) Policy Support:

Strategic Priority B – Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability

- Remove obstructions to fish passage

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4) Alternatives:

☐ None

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5) Fiscal Notes:

Costs for design and permitting range from \$205,000 to \$330,000 for the selected alternative. Tumwater anticipates receiving up to \$255,000 in grant funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, with the remaining funds provided for by the Storm Drain Utility fund.

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6) Attachments:

None