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WITHDRAWAL OF DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE ISSUANCE OF MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issue: April 30, 2009
Name of Proposal: NE Novelty Hill Road Project (CIP 100992)

Description of Proposal: The King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division, proposes to make roadway improvements along a four-mile corridor including widening portions of NE Novelty Hill Road, NE Union Hill Road and 196th Avenue NE, and constructing new roundabouts at three intersections. In addition, an 800-foot section of new road will extend 195th/196th Avenue NE northward connecting NE Novelty Hill Road and NE Union Hill Road. The project also includes stormwater treatment facilities; pedestrian and non-motorized transportation improvements; and stream, wetland and wildlife habitat mitigation. The project will be built in two phases: Phase 1 may be scheduled for 2009 through 2011; Phase 2 may begin several years after the completion of Phase 1 and would likely take two years to complete.

Location of Proposal: The project corridor is located in northeastern King County and extends from the eastern boundary of the City of Redmond, eastward into the King County urban-growth area. The project is located in Township 25N, Range 06E, Sections 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, and 09; and Township 26N, Range 06E, Sections 26, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35. See the attached *Project Vicinity Map*.

Impacts and Mitigation:

Natural Resource Impacts: The project would result in potential impacts to water resources including streams and their buffers, floodplains, wetlands and their buffers, groundwater and wildlife habitat.

- **Stream and Stream Buffer Impacts:** The project area is located in the Bear Creek and Evans Creek sub-basins in Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8). Fourteen streams are located in the project area, and nine streams and their buffers will be directly impacted by the roadway improvements (approximately 2,400 linear feet of stream channel and 6.7 acres of buffer). Direct impact to Stensland Creek will result from the new extension of 195th/196th Avenue NE over the stream. Eighty percent of the total stream impacts in the project area are to stream channels located in roadside ditches providing little or no function.
- **Floodplains Impacts:** The replacement of the bridge at the crossing of Evans Creek under NE Union Hill Road will require some construction work within the floodplain.
- **Wetland and Wetland Buffer Impacts:** The project area contains 31 wetlands that will be either directly or indirectly impacted by the project. The roadway improvements will permanently impact approximately 0.7 acre of wetland in 13 wetlands and 3.3 acres of wetland buffer surrounding 23 wetlands. Approximately 60% of the wetlands would not be impacted until Phase 2 of construction. One wetland will be permanently affected by the mitigation.
- **Groundwater Impacts:** Added impervious surface will decrease groundwater recharge potential.
- **Wildlife Impacts:** Approximately 5,800 acres of vegetated wildlife habitat exists in the project area, and a designated King County Wildlife Habitat Network (KCWHN) crosses NE Novelty Hill Road on the eastern edge of the project area. The project will permanently impact almost 55 acres of wildlife habitat; however, 27 of these acres are dominated by existing impervious surface with limited vegetation. Approximately 0.27 acre of impact is within the KCWHN.

Natural Resource Mitigation: Four mitigation sites will be constructed to compensate for unavoidable impacts. These mitigation sites will include a combination of approximately 4.5 acres of wetland creation/enhancement, 3,500 linear feet of stream restoration/enhancement, and 8 acres of stream/wetland buffer enhancement. The mitigation focuses on restoring and enhancing streams, wetlands, and wildlife habitat and connectivity. The year-round connection between Stensland Creek and Bear Creek will be restored. Additional mitigation includes relocating streams out of roadside

ditches and adding large woody debris to Evans Creek to improve habitat function. Natural floodplain processes in Evans Creek will also improve as a result of the new wider bridge on NE Union Hill Road. Mitigation goals for this project were developed based on federal, state, and local policy guidance and the watershed planning guidance in the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* (WRIA 8 Steering Committee 2005).

Additionally, three stormwater facilities will be constructed to treat runoff for water quality, and low impact development techniques (e.g., porous pavement and bioretention areas) will be used to encourage onsite infiltration of runoff. These stormwater management measures are designed to protect surface water and groundwater quality and quantity in the project area.

Cultural Resource Impacts: Identified cultural resources within the project area include five historic properties identified as being eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP), one property (the Red Brick Road) that is currently listed on the NHRP, and one prehistoric archaeological site. Construction of the proposed project would have temporary noise and glare impacts to all historic properties. Potential permanent impacts include disturbance of a small portion of the Red Brick Road, minor physical encroachment onto one historic property and destruction of the prehistoric archaeological site.

Cultural Resource Mitigation: Mitigation for permanent impacts will include reducing traffic noise and glare through use of landscaping and restrictions on vehicular traffic. Measures to minimize impacts on the Red Brick Road would include improved signage, an interpretive kiosk, post-construction traffic level monitoring, and weight restrictions. Archaeological data recovery would occur prior to project construction to mitigate adverse effects on the prehistoric archaeological site.

Proponent and Lead Agency: King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division (KCRSD)

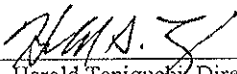
Withdrawal and Issuance: This is the withdrawal of the determination of significance (DS) issued April 24, 1995 for the NE Novelty Hill Road Project and an issuance of a mitigated determination of non-significance (MDNS) under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-360. This withdrawal and issuance is necessary because since issuance of the DS in 1995 there has been a change in the project alignment and a substantial refinement of the project design. Twelve separate discipline reports were completed to analyze the revised project's potential impacts on various elements of the environment. Each of these reports concluded that the project as changed would not result in significant unavoidable adverse impacts to the environment. Using the analysis and conclusions contained in the discipline reports, KCRSD has determined that the project will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment and is therefore withdrawing the DS issued in 1995 and issuing this MDNS.

An environmental impact statement is not required under Revised Code Washington 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. **The information is available to the public on request** (for a nominal photocopying fee) or can be reviewed in the office free of charge. This information is also available at the following website: <http://your.kingcounty.gov/kcdot/roads/cip/ProjectDetail.aspx?CIPID=100992>

This MDNS is issued under the WAC 107-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the date of issuance for the MDNS per WAC 197-11-502. **Any comments regarding this project must be submitted by telephone or in writing by 4:30 PM on Thursday, May 14, 2009.** If you have any questions, concerns, or require additional information, please call the Project Manager or the Senior Environmental Engineer for the project listed below.

Responsible Official: Harold Taniguchi
Position/title: Director, Department of Transportation
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Contact Persons: Michael O'Neil, Project Manager, 206-263-3538
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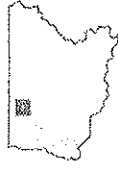
Date: 4/27/09 **Signature:** 
Harold Taniguchi, Director
Department of Transportation

Attachment: Project Vicinity Map

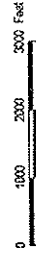
NE Novelty Hill Road Project

Project Vicinity

- ② Two Lanes
- ③ Three Lanes
- ④ Four Lanes
- ⑤ Five Lanes
- Roundabout
- ◐ Intersection
- ◑ Taper
- ⊙ Stormwater Facilities
- ⊙ Mitigation Sites
- ★ Shopping Areas
- ★ Schools
- ★ Park and Ride
- ★ Parks
- ★ UPDs
- ★ Wetlands
- ★ Water Areas
- ★ Cities



April 2009



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Figure 1

File: C:\Documents\PowerLibrary\Power\proj\4_01_2009_pave\map4

