

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
regarding the South Fork Bridge Deck Overlay Project
Bulletin May 2004

This informational flyer is to citizens that use the South Fork Bridge on Fir Island Road over the Skagit River .

Of all the services provided by **Skagit County**, the two most fundamental and vital are public safety and public roads.

The **Skagit County Commissioners** have regularly responded by providing or obtaining funding for county road improvements and adopting a plan to reconstruct the county's major paved road and bridge system.

Fir Island Road is a major cross-county route and one of the County's major roads. It carries an average of 4,500 vehicles per day, and up to 8,000 vehicles during peak periods. Many trips involve farm equipment, trucks with trailers and wide loads heading for Highway 20 detouring around traffic restrictions on I-5.

The **South Fork Bridge**, which connects Conway with Fir Island, is a vital link in this southern cross-county route. The bridge deck has many failing patches and old repairs that are difficult to maintain.



Exposed rebar and cracked, spalling concrete threaten the integrity of the deck and, left unrepaired, the lifespan of the bridge. Skagit County applied for and received Federal bridge maintenance funding to repair and overlay the South Fork Bridge.

Good government should be proactive when faced with tough decisions involved in maintenance of Skagit County infrastructure. The South Fork Bridge has provided many good years of service, but repair is necessary for continued safe travel.

The affected residents often express the concern that a project of this type will impede traffic. We will, of course, use every available method to limit this. However, for the proper construction of the deck overlay, temporary closures and detours will be necessary.

This project will have three distinct construction procedures:

- ◆ Mill off the loose, patched and deteriorated portions of the existing concrete bridge deck.
- ◆ Place new concrete to bring the deck back to the original level.
- ◆ Pour a new concrete overlay.

We anticipate extended closures over a two week period in October, 2004, barring unforeseen circumstances such as poor weather conditions.

In order to accommodate citizen concerns about access to and from Fir Island, we are looking at



alternatives for phasing the repairs. One alternative is 4 shorter closures interspersed with limited access. Another alternative is longer closure with fewer total days requiring traffic detours. We would like to hear your comments and about other necessary planned travel that could be impacted by the timing of the closures.

For maintenance of our public infrastructure and protection of the traveling public, the responsible action is to undertake this type of project to maintain safe roads and bridges.

We take our responsibility seriously. We look forward to your support throughout this vital maintenance project.

For more information, call Faye Cain, Engineering Technician or Janice Marlega, P.E., Project Manager, Skagit County Public Works at 360-336-9400.