

Mill Creek

Alternatives Analysis and Design

UPDATE #5

May, June, and July 2025

OVERVIEW

South Skagit Highway, a Skagit County owned road, travels along the South side of the Skagit River and crosses over Mill Creek near milepost 18. This section of roadway is within the floodplain of the Skagit River and the alluvial fans of Mill and Savage Creeks resulting in routine flooding and damage to the road. The clearance under the Mill Creek bridge is too small for sediment transport and the Savage Creek culvert is a partial barrier to fish passage. The County began working on this project in 2004 with a sediment and flood management report. In partnership with the Skagit River System Cooperative an alternatives analysis was completed in 2015. The County is currently assessing various alternatives to improve the road and fish passage/habitat in this area. This phase of work is expected to be completed December 2025.

A detailed history of the project and all previous updates can be found on the Mill Creek website which is located at:

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PublicWorksSurfaceWaterManagement/MillCreekFeasibilityStudy.htm>

UPDATES

- *Funding* –
 - Skagit County successfully applied to the WA Salmon Recovery Funding Board. We have been awarded \$597,000 to continue with design. We will be working with our Consultant over the next few months as we wait for the funding to come on board.
 - We are waiting to hear about funding from Federal Local Bridge Program Grant and both NOAA grants.
- *Design* –
 - KPFF and their subs have completed the Type, Size, and Location report required for the grant submittals. This details what bridges and alignments have been considered. This will be available on the website above by mid-August.
 - The Geotechnical and Hydraulic reports have been finalized and will be available on the website in mid-August.

UPCOMING

- Staff will continue discussions with affected and interested parties.
- KPFF and subs will work towards an updated schedule to include geotechnical evaluations of the new bridge locations and full survey of the creeks and floodplain.
- KPFF will continue working on the Basis of Design Report.
- County staff will continue to seek design and eventual construction funding.