

Mill Creek

Alternatives Analysis and Design

UPDATE #6

August 2025 to January 2026

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

- *General* –
 - It has been awhile! We've been making progress on designs and writing grants. No major updates at this time.
 - The site faired okay through the flooding with minor repairs required. Thank you to those folks that were able to share pictures with me in the thick of it all.
- *Funding* –
 - Skagit County finalized the contract with RCO for additional funding.
 - The Skagit Conservation District secured \$75,000 for County efforts towards geotechnical work. This goes a long way towards helping our RCO match. THANK YOU SCD.
 - We regretfully did not receive funding from Federal Local Bridge Program Grant but we did receive some great feedback for future applications.
 - Neither NOAA grant awarded funding. It appears they have both been tabled due to changes in the current administration's priorities. We have not been told we were denied funding so have not given up hope.
 - We are currently applying for full bridge and road removal design from the Fish Barrier Removal Board. Pre-applications were due in late January with final applications due in early May.
 - We applied for Seattle City Light funding to assist with geotechnical and design work. Project presentations are early March.

- *Design* –
 - Type, Size, and Location report has been posted on the website.
 - The Geotechnical and Hydraulic reports have been posted on the website.
 - Working through Amendment with KPFF to complete geotechnical and survey work with the new funding.
 - Completed a site visit with private property owners to determine best access routes and locations for geotechnical borings.

UPCOMING

- KPFF and County will finalize Amendment #1.
- Survey work is expected to be completed prior to leaf-out.
- Geotechnical work is expected to be completed once Mill Creek goes dry for the summer (typically end of May).
- County staff will continue to seek design and eventual construction funding.
- Staff will continue discussions with affected and interested parties.