

Project Summary

Eagle Creek Road Improvement Project

From Intersection with Chumstick Highway, East for 3.3 miles

Project Development History

Eagle Creek Road began as a dirt and gravel wagon trail that served few residents and provided access to the mountains for hunting and logging. The actual location of the road has changed very little over the years with the improvements in width and surface type limited by both available funds and right of way. The usage has and continues to grow as the property served by the road is subdivided and number of residences increase.

Traffic counts taken in 2000 on Eagle Creek near the intersection with the Chumstick Highway indicated approximately 515 vehicles per day use the road. The traffic volume does decrease to the east and the 2000 traffic counts indicate approximately 105 vehicles per day continue beyond the end of the proposed project near milepost 3.3. For information, Traffic Engineers generally use 10 trips per day per household to project estimated traffic volumes. This trip generation number may be high for the Eagle Creek Road but the traffic volume in 2008 would be significantly higher; with an approximate 100 homes, we estimate a current ADT of 1000.

Fortunately there have not been a significant number of reported accidents but the 3.3 mile section has not been accident free. Since 1995, a total of nine (9) traffic accidents have been reported with three (3) being reported as injury accidents and the remaining six (6) being reported as property damage accidents only. Not all non-injury accidents are reported for various reasons.

In 1996 Chelan County did apply for and received \$800,000 in Rural Arterial Program (RAP) funding from the County Road Administration Board (CRAB). However, in 2001 the County chose to turn back the funding due to an updated estimated cost of the project. The amount of RAP funding is based upon a preliminary cost estimate made at the time the application is submitted and can not be increased. The County's initial cost estimate submitted with the application was basically a windshield estimate, was based upon little or no engineering, did not reflect inflationary cost increases and, as a result, was significantly below a refined estimate in 2000. Turning back the funds in 2001 carried some risk of a complete loss of funding but was a successful strategic move by the County to increase the amount of RAP funding from \$800,000 to the current \$2,457,000. A Public Meeting was held in November 2000 and the responses of the Public to the project at that time may have influenced the decision to turn back the RAP funding or otherwise delay the project but there is no record of a formal decision by the County.

Proposed Project Funding

The current improvement of Eagle Creek Road will be funded by a combination of state and local funds. The State funds consist of the \$2,457,000 in RAP funds mentioned above. The local funds consist of a minimum local match of 10% but will likely increase depending upon the final project cost. The local funds for county road purposes are a combination of state shared gas tax and local property taxes. Due to the rural major collector classification of the roadway, improvement projects on Eagle Creek Road are also eligible for federal funding but at this time no federal funds have been allocated for this project.

The State Rural Arterial Program is a competitive program established to provide a source of funding for Counties to utilize to improve designated rural County arterials and collectors only. All Counties in the State have an opportunity to submit projects biennially for partial funding consideration. The project

selection criteria are regionalized to reflect the differences between both west and east of the Cascades, and north to the south. The amount of funding available is also regionalized based primarily upon the total miles of arterial in each region as compared to the statewide total. In the Northeast RAP Region, which includes Chelan County, the selection criteria compares the conditions of the existing roadway to recognized guidelines for structural condition, geometrics, and safety using the current traffic volume or average daily traffic (ADT) to determine the comparison guideline.

In the fall of 2002 the County completed and submitted a new application to CRAB to improve the section of Eagle Creek Road to 3R standards from the Chumstick Highway easterly 3.3 miles. Based upon a priority rating mathematically generated by comparing the existing conditions to the recommended guidelines, the project was selected for improvement funding in the amount of \$2,457,000 by CRAB in April 2003. The existing conditions resulting in the selection were poor structural and roadway surface conditions, existing deficiencies in both horizontal and vertical curves, and a roadway width 6' less than the recommended minimum. It should be noted that this project did compete against not only other Chelan County projects but rural arterial improvement projects submitted by other Counties in the Northeast RAP Region (Adams, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Spokane, and Whitman). However, it also must be noted that the sub-standard conditions that resulted in the selection of the project for RAP funding must be corrected.

Project Design Criteria

Based upon current funding available for the project, Eagle Creek Road is being evaluated to meet current 3R design standards. These standards would establish a minimum horizontal curvature of 340 feet combined with a maximum super-elevation of 6%; a minimum of 250 feet of stopping sight distance; and a 26 foot roadway section. A 28 foot wide section is the preferred width but the 26 foot wide section will meet the 3R standards.

Guardrail would be installed in areas where the slopes are steeper than 3:1 and roadside obstacles within 10 feet of the edge of the traveled lane would be removed. Stormwater runoff would be collected in roadside ditches and/or allowed to infiltrate into the slopes.

The design presented at the Public Open House on January 24th, 2008 detailed a 28 foot roadway section. This width will likely be reduced to 26 feet based upon the comments received. This is the minimum standard for current ADT. Future ADT could warrant a width of 28 feet, but in an effort to reduce right of way takes and impacts to the adjacent property owners, the County is evaluating this design change.

Future PUD Fiber in the area

The Chelan County Public Works Department has contacted the Chelan County Public Utility Department (PUD) who informed us that they did not think it is appropriate for the county to communicate the PUD's fiber plans for installing future fiber lines along Eagle Creek Road. If you would like further information about the fiber, you can contact the PUD at the following:

Website: <http://www.chelanpud.org/> (look for the fiber optics link)

Phone: 509-661-4151

Email: fiber@chelanpud.org