



# Chelan County 2019 STBG Application: Totem Pole Road

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Manson had been a rural, unincorporated town for many years; however, in the last 20 years the Manson area has seen a significant population increase. Recently the 2010 census results altered the Manson rural classification (previously designated as a Limited Area of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD)) to an urbanized area. Unfortunately, the roads and services endure rural characteristics, such as narrow, winding roads with steep grades and little-to-no shoulders.

Totem Pole Road is one of these roads. Totem Pole Road begins at the thriving downtown of Manson, cuts through a dense residential area leading to the Manson area schools, and then continues to recreational and agricultural lands. Given the recreational opportunities in and around Manson, the lack of non-motorized connectivity creates an unhealthy and stoic community that instead should be a hive of activity.

Every year, from spring through fall, Manson is inundated with tourists and recreationalists. And from fall to summer, students travel by bus or car to the schools. People are discouraged to walk or bike along Totem Pole Road, and students are bussed instead, even as short a distance as a quarter mile from the schools. Orchard truck and tractor operations find other ways around the area because Totem Pole Road is difficult to navigate and steep with limited sight distance.

The existing Totem Pole Road varies in width from 18 feet to 28 feet and has grades of up to 10%. Shoulder widenings are sporadic and pedestrians or bicyclists, should they attempt to walk/ride along the road, face many obstacles, including vegetation, ditches, retaining walls, mailboxes, power poles and non-traversable slopes, forcing them onto the roadway.

The project includes a 0.18-mile section of South Harris Road, which leads from Totem Pole Road to public access areas along Lake Chelan. Integral to the project and much needed in the area will be a stormwater drainage system and water quality facility that will carry stormwater runoff from the project site through this section of South Harris Road to the lake.

The proposed cross section for Totem Pole Road consists of 11-foot travel lanes, 4-foot shoulders with curb and gutter on each side, and sidewalk on one side. Alternatively, reduced shoulders and a shared path also will be evaluated to meet project objectives. The South Harris Avenue roadway section will be trenched and repaired to receive the storm drainage system. There is limited right-of-way along these corridors and right-of-way for both temporary and permanent easements as well as acquisition is anticipated.

When completed, the project will provide the community – school children, residents and tourists – with a safe walking and biking option. It will include new marked crossings with new cement concrete curb ramps at the 10 intersections along Totem Pole Road. It also will include a new mid-block school crossing with warning signs and plastic pavement markings enhanced by a pedestrian-activated crossing system. The safety improvements will encourage more people to bike and walk on Totem Pole Road, relieving congestion in the downtown area and promoting a healthy lifestyle for school children.



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The new stormwater system also will mean less flooding and contamination to nearby Lake Chelan. In Manson, a 10-year flooding event can result from 2 inches of rain falling in 24 hours. However, the community also is in an area that tends to experience thunderstorms, which often overwhelm the open ditch system and its culverts.

With the road improvements – and the stormwater improvements – the poor drainage system will be vastly improved, reducing current flooding, erosion and the untreated stormwater runoff to Lake Chelan, the backbone of the area’s tourism industry.

## PROJECT BUDGET AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE

The project is estimated to cost \$4,470,000. Chelan County is applying for \$1,250,000 in STBG and TA funding. Chelan County also will apply for \$2,000,000 in funding from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB). Applications for the 2019 TIB program are due in August 2019 and funding will be decided in November 2019. Should STBG funding be awarded to the project, Chelan County is committed to attaining full project funding.

Project added to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	02/20
Project agreement signed with WSDOT Local Programs	03/20
Begin PE (PE phase authorized by FHWA through WSDOT Local Programs)	03/20
Community/stakeholder engagement complete	10/22
Environmental documents (required for every project) approved by WSDOT Local Programs	12/22
Begin right-of-way (RW phase authorized by FHWA through WSDOT Local Programs)	01/21
Right-of-way completed (certification by FHWA through WSDOT Local Programs)	12/22
Contract advertised	03/23
Contract awarded	04/23
Construction complete	06/24

It is anticipated the project’s right-of-way needs will involve temporary construction easements for construction of adjacent driveway access points and for construction of retaining walls to support both the roadway and adjacent cut slopes. Permanent slope easements or fee title may be necessary for construction of shallow roadway fill and cut slopes.

It is also anticipated that the following permits and consultations will be required to construct the project: HPA, USACOE Nationwide Permit, Shorelines, 404 Ecology Permit, NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit, Section 106, Section 7 Biological Assessment (No Effect), NEPA Environmental Classification Summary (Categorical Exclusion), SEPA (Determination of Non-Significance)



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## TA ELIGIBILITY

Listed under eligible projects for TA funds are:

- *Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.*
- *Construction, planning, and design of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.*

A top priority of the Totem Pole Road Improvement Project is to install bike- and pedestrian-friendly improvements that will provide a safe route for children attending the Manson School District. The road serves as a gateway to both the elementary and secondary education schools. However, at this time, nearly the entire student population is transported to school via school bus or private vehicles. Manson School District Superintendent Matt Charlton has said the lack of sidewalks near the school means students do not have a safe means of walking or biking to school. The school district highly supports the road improvement project, which is also eligible for the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). Infrastructure-related projects (sidewalk improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, and on-street bicycle facilities) eligible for SRTS funding also are eligible for TA funding.

Also listed under eligible funding for TA is:

- *Environmental mitigation, including pollution abatement and stormwater management.*

This project has a large stormwater component. Poor surface and underground drainage plagues the Manson area, which has limited storm drainage systems. With the proposed improvements, including curb and gutter, a closed stormwater drainage system will need to be constructed. With the widening of the road and the addition of sidewalks, the impervious area will increase, mandating stormwater quality and flow controls. The closed stormwater system for Totem Pole Road will cross under Wapato Way and continue down South Harris Avenue for treatment and discharge.

The project is listed in the Chelan County 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (2019-2024). It is also consistent with the Chelan-Douglas Transportation Council's mission statement, which serves as the primary policy foundation for Transportation 2040 and is further articulated by its six transportation goals. Those goals, in relation to the Totem Pole Road Improvement Project, are:

Goal 1 Public Involvement: The 6-Year TIP and the Annual Construction Program undergo public notice and hearings. The resolution to create CRPs also goes through a public process. All of Chelan County's road projects are announced and progress is updated through the County's website, social media and, at times, in the local newspaper. Surrounding property owners and other interested parties will receive flyers and emails along with at least one opportunity to attend an open house. The Manson School District and the Manson Park and Recreation District are well aware of and highly supportive of this project.



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Goal 2 Intergovernmental Coordination: Elements of the project align with the Manson School District's objectives to provide a safe environment for alternative modes of transportation.

Goal 3 Transportation Safety: The project will improve safety for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and schoolchildren.

Goal 4 Access and Mobility: The project will integrate bicycle and pedestrian improvements with roadway improvements.

Goal 5 Financial Stewardship: The project will maximize the use of bicycling and walking, in turn preserving the roadway system and relieving congestion in other parts of the city with the addition of a safe, multimodal route. It also will improve roadway geometrics.

Goal 6 Environmental Stewardship: The project will mitigate the lack of storm drainage systems and stormwater runoff treatment in the Totem Pole Road and South Harris Avenue area.

## **ANTICIPATED ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

While the project's top priority is increasing bicyclist and pedestrian safety, the project also impacts the business district of Manson. Totem Pole Road begins at the start of the downtown area on Wapato Way, which caters to the already established and growing tourism economy of Manson. Sidewalks on Totem Pole Road grow the connectivity and walkability of downtown while easing congestion. More specifically, Totem Pole Road begins near several wineries and tasting rooms located on Wapato Way as well as the Manson Grange Hall, site of the Manson Farmer's Market and several other community events.

In addition, the project supports the current development going on in Manson. In the last five years, five small developments have occurred within the vicinity of Totem Pole Road. As more orchards continue to be converted into residential lands, this road improvement project can help support these developments and the additional traffic they will generate.