



Cowlitz County

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News Release

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Ostrander Road Culvert Replacement Project

On May 3, 2023, there was an article published regarding the Ostrander Road Triple Box Culvert bid award issued on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Due to several incoming questions and concerns, the Department of Public Works would like the opportunity to supplement this article with additional information.

- The purpose of the Ostrander Road Culvert Replacement Project is to replace aging infrastructure and open the creek to fish passage.
- The construction schedule has not been established with the contractor; we anticipate construction to start late June 2023. As soon as the schedule is determined we will be releasing the information to the public.
- The department is working with the contractor to secure and place a temporary one-lane bridge for traffic to utilize instead of the bypass road.
 - Even if we are able to secure and place the bridge, there will still be times during construction that the bypass will have to be utilized. We will work with the community in issuing this information as soon as possible as to when the bypass road will need to be used.
- Due to weather constraints and working days, we cannot always guarantee the construction schedule will remain as published. We will work diligently in communicating changes to the public.
- We have received questions regarding why the Department has chosen to do construction during the summer months. The Department is under time constraints due to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations on working within a waterway. Our in-water work window is July 16 to September 30, any time before or after this window, construction crews are not able to work within the creek.
- Due to inflation and rising costs, the Department was unsure if this project would be undertaken and was awaiting bid results prior to announcing that the project would move forward if there was not budget capacity to complete it.
- Road operations crews have already started making improvements to the bypass road including but not limited to; widening the road, mowing, brushing, dust control, established pull-outs, delineators, and improving the entirety of the driving surface of 1.2 miles.

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