STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

October 9, 2023

WA Department of Transportation
ATTN: Steve Fuchs
P.O. Box 47440
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Decision for SR 167/I-5 to SR 161 New Expressway Stage 2 (Corps No. NWS-2022-256-DOT), in multiple waterbodies, Pierce County, Washington

Dear Steve Fuchs:

On September 15, 2023, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) received a Certification of Consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) for the above project.

This determination is for the third and final stage of the SR 167 Completion project. WSDOT is proposing to construct a new four-lane section of the SR 167 highway, between SR 161 (north Merdian Avenue) and I-5, along with two new interchanges. The purpose of the project is to improve regional highway connections by creating a system of linkages addressing both motorized and non-motorized transportation. The new expressway will reduce travel demands on local streets and existing transportation routes that are at over capacity. The project will also provide enhanced regional freight mobility and access to the Port of Tacoma.

To build the new expressway, the roadway alignment will first be cleared and grubbed, and then imported fill will be brought in to build the new embankment. The new roadway will require nine new or replaced bridges with abutments and associated retaining walls. Other construction elements include shared use paths and sidewalks, local roadway improvements, intelligent transportation system infrastructure, constructing and relocating utilities, installing culverts to maintain stream flows, building a stormwater conveyance drainage system, and building stormwater treatment wetlands and detention ponds. A new diverging diamond interchange (DDI) will be located a North Meridian/SR 167 and a new full interchange will be constructed at Valley Avenue and the new SR 167. Traffic will be maintained during project construction by building temporary detours and structures.

To accommodate the new highway alignment/interchanges and connect it to the existing infrastructure, the following adjustments will be made:

- Construct a new auxiliary lane along southbound I-5
- Widen existing SR 167 between SR 161 and SR 410 (two lanes in each direction)
- Widen 20th Street East along the limits of the project Right-of-Way
- Realign Valley Avenue East and construct a roundabout interchange
- Realign Freeman Road East which includes building a new bridge over Wapato Creek
- Construct a new railroad sign and crossing gates for the at-grade Freeman East Crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad Track

Existing bridges will be removed, and existing culverts will either be removed or abandoned in place. Throughout the project new sidewalk will be installed where needed for local infrastructure and new portions of the Interurban Trail, Tacoma to Puyallup Shared Use Path, and associated pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be constructed with connections to existing trails.

The project will permanently, temporarily, and indirectly impact wetlands and permanently and temporarily impact wetland buffers. The project will also permanently and temporarily impact existing streams and their tributaries.

- Wetland Impacts:

  All temporary impacts to wetlands and wetland buffers will be restored by replanting of native species. Compensatory mitigation for permanent, long-term temporary and indirect impacts to wetlands will be provided by the use of advance mitigation within the Riparian Restoration Program (RRP) and the construction of multiple compensatory wetland mitigation sites within the RRP.

- Stream Impacts:

  Existing streams will be realigned or relocated to minimize impacts and incorporated into mitigation areas as part of the Riparian Restoration Program. Where impacts are unavoidable due to location of the new roadway, culverts will be installed to maintain stream flows. All temporary impacts to streams and their buffers will be restored through replanting with native species.

The project site is a new highway and the new road alignment crosses multiple waterbodies running through unincorporated Pierce County and the cities of Fife, Milton, Edgewood,

Puyallup, and Sumner in Washington State. The northern end of this new road will tie into a diverging diamond interchange with I-5/SR 509 Spur/SR 167 (constructed as part of the SR 167 Stage 1b project). The southern end of the new highway is located at the existing SR 167/410 interchange. The following are the locations using mileposts (MP) where the new road will connect and affect existing transportation infrastructure:

- I-5 MP 137.17 to MP 139.70
- SR 161 MP 29.87 to MP 30.00
- SR 167 (from Stage 1b construction) MP 1.58 to MP 7.07
- SR 512 MP 10.88 to MP 12.03
- SR 509 Spur MP 0.00 to MP 1.58
- SR 410 MP 8.87 to MP 9.34

Pursuant to Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended, Ecology concurs with WA Department of Transportation ‘s determination that the proposed work is consistent with Washington’s CZMP.

If you have any questions regarding Ecology’s decision, please contact Penny Kelley at 360-280-8856.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this decision to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. “Date of receipt” is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this decision:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this decision with the PCHB (see filing information below). “Filing” means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. “Notice of appeal” is defined in WAC 371-08-340.

- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this decision on the Department of Ecology mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Filing an appeal

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: https://eluho.wa.gov/ or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Brenden McFarland, Section Manager
Environmental Review & Transportation Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Sent via e-mail: fuschss@wsdot.wa.gov

E-cc: Sandi Manning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Char Naylor, Puyallup Tribe
Vivian Erickson, WSDOT
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