

# North Road project to

## fix underpass

Leavenworth, WA  
(Chelan Co.)  
Echo  
(Cir. W. 2,200)

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Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

### Culvert repair included in project

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EDITOR

Many a large truck has smacked into the railroad underpass on North Road since it was built in 1928, including five this year. A project underway now aims at avoiding some of those collisions.

Chelan County has embarked upon a project to raise the clearance on the railroad underpass, located roughly a quarter-mile

from the North Road-Chumstick Road intersection. In addition, a bridge is being constructed over the Chumstick Creek, which now passes under North Road by way of a culvert. Also part of the project is a resurfacing of about a half-mile of North Road, from Chumstick Road to Fox Road.

The \$4 million project is entirely grant-funded, through grants from the State Rural Arterial Program, stimulus funds, Federal Surface Transportation funds, and the State Salmon Recovery Board.

"We actually had more money than we needed, so we gave back some," said Jolene Gosselin-Campbell, Chelan County Public Works director. "When the bids came in, we were able to give back \$300,000 of federal stimulus

funds."

Gosselin-Campbell said they were able to qualify for the stimulus funds because they were so close to getting the project going. She noted they had to "deliver" in such a time frame to get the funds.

While the roadway will be widened from 24 feet to 26 feet along the half-mile stretch of North Road, the big project is improving the clearance on the railroad trestle from 13 feet to 14 feet 5 inches.

"Increasing that height will make a major difference to fruit haulers," she said. "Fourteen feet is the standard and it really makes a big difference. Trucks are a lot bigger now than they were in 1928."

Some of collisions recently, she

noted, have come as a result of faulty GPS directions, guiding unknowing truckers to the trestle.

The increased clearance will be accomplished, not by raising the tracks, but by digging down. Even still, there will still be a railroad representative on hand to signal the trains whenever there is construction underway. Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) has been doing track work on the North Road site in preparation for the Ice Station train stop, due to open this fall. Gosselin-Campbell said they have been coordinating their efforts with BNSF and the City of Leavenworth to ensure there is not a disruption to the construction of the train station.

"We both attended pre-constru-

SEE NORTH ROAD ON PAGE 3



Photo by Chelsea Gorrow

Excavation crews dig a large hole in North Road as part of the \$4 million construction project currently underway. Construction crews are building a bridge over Chumstick Creek, increased clearance at the railroad underpass, and resurfacing a quarter-mile of roadway.

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page 2 of 2

2/2

## NORTH ROAD: *The only access is through Peshastin*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

citon conferences, just making sure we are working together," she said. "They are trying to get all the materials to the site beforehand."

Just west of the trestle, Chumstick Creek passes under North Road by way of a culvert. The plan is to replace the culvert with a 150-foot bridge to make it more fish friendly.

"We are reestablishing the

creek bed, and putting in native plants to provide better fish passage," she said.

Only a half-mile of the nearly four mile long North Road is to be resurfaced, but Gosselin-Campbell calls it the "worst" section.

"We are totally redoing the roadway, making it an all weather surface," she said. "We plan to do the rest of the road in pieces but there are no funds available for

that right now."

In order to complete the project in a timely manner, the west end of North Road will be completely closed to traffic for 13 weeks, making the only access through Peshastin. Traffic through the sleepy hamlet should increase many fold as the daily North Road volume of 950 vehicles per day will be routed that way.

The entire project is expected to last 100 days, with the contrac-

tor, Hurst Construction, working 10-hour days Monday through Saturday. Walkers and bicyclists are advised not to try and bypass the construction area.

Motteler Road will not be closed to residents, as there will be some allowances for traffic to get there.

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