



Elizabeth Kosa
Interim Director

Memorandum

To: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive and
The Honorable Members of the Whatcom County Council

Through: Elizabeth Kosa, Interim Director *Eak*

From: James P. Karcher, P.E., County Engineer *gpk*

Date: March 15, 2023

Re: **Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Closure of Kelly Road and Van Wyck Road**

Requested Action

Public Works respectfully requests that the County Council adopt the proposed ordinance to temporarily close Kelly Road, east of Hannegan Road, and Van Wyck Road, east of Hannegan Road and west of Noon Road.

Background and Purpose

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has requested the use of Hannegan Road as part of a detour route for SR-542 traffic during the construction of their SR-542 Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay – Fish Passage Project. The County Engineer has agreed to this use and signed a formal Haul/Detour Agreement with WSDOT for this project. As part of recommended safety measures due to the increases in traffic, and the potential for a large increase in cut-through traffic on local access roads, that this detour will cause, a temporary closure of Kelly Road at Hannegan Road and Van Wyck Road at both Hannegan Road and Noon Road are proposed during the construction of the project. The project will require a **full roadway closure** of SR-542 Mt. Baker Highway for up to 129 calendar days (90 working days). The working days will start no later than May 1st, 2023. Per WSDOT, the 2020 Average Daily Traffic of SR-542 in this area was measured at 11,100 vehicles, with 7.8% being trucks. Following the completion of construction, the closure will expire, the signs will be removed and the roadways reopened.

Information

This ordinance will allow for the installation of road closed signs and is necessary to comply with RCW 36.32.120 to close certain County roads.

Please contact Douglas Ranney II, P.E., Engineering Services Manager at extension 6255 with any questions regarding this ordinance.