



INFO SHEET

Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Closure of Kelly Road and Van Wyck Road

Action

Whatcom County Public Works (WCPW) is asking the County Council to approve an ordinance that would **temporarily** close Kelly Road, east of Hannegan Road, and Van Wyck Road, east of Hannegan Road and west of Noon Road.

Purpose

This action is a recommended public safety measure in response to a summer road project by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Their project, the [SR-542 Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay – Fish Passage Project](#), will close a stretch of the Mount Baker Highway (SR-542) for up to 129 calendar days.

WSDOT has requested to use Hannegan Road and E. Smith Road as part of a detour route for Mount Baker Highway traffic during the construction. The County Engineer has agreed and signed a formal Haul/Detour Agreement with WSDOT for this project. (See Detour Map on page 3)

The closure and subsequent detour will cause increased traffic on Hannegan Road and E. Smith Road creating the potential for significant cut-through traffic on local access roads. Per WSDOT, the 2020 Average Daily Traffic on Mount Baker Highway in the construction area was measured at 11,100 vehicles, with 7.8% being trucks.

Impact

If approved, this ordinance would allow WCPW to close the following roads for up to 129 calendar days:

- Kelly Road at Hannegan Road
- Van Wyck Road at both Hannegan Road and Noon Road

These recommended safety measures are in response to increased local traffic during WSDOT's road project. Without this ordinance, the project's detour route could lead to a significant number of vehicles attempting to cut through local access roads to reduce their detour time. This would prevent vehicles from using Kelly Road and Van Wyck Roads to do so.

The working days will start on or after May 1, 2023. After construction is completed, the closure will expire, the detour signs will be removed, and the roads will reopen.

Voice Your Opinion

The **Ordinance Establishing a Temporary Closure of Kelly Road and Van Wyck Road** is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing at the Whatcom County Council meeting on April 25, 2023. **This is a chance for community members to voice their opinion on the proposal.**

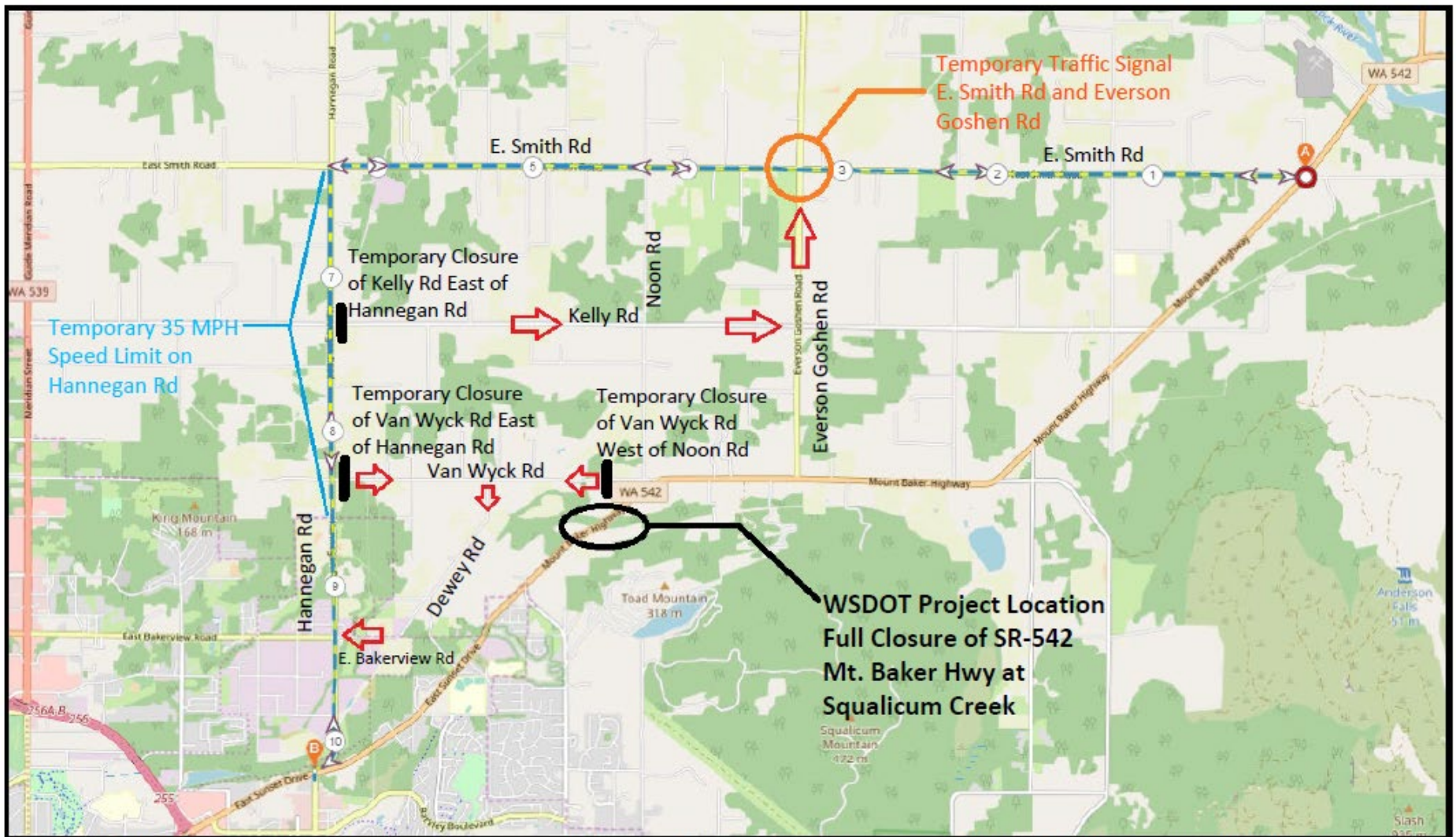
- [Click here for information on how to participate in a Whatcom County Council meeting public hearing.](#)
- The agenda is usually on the website by the end of the day on the Wednesday before the County Council meeting (in this case, Wednesday, April 19). [Check the meeting agenda to confirm.](#)
- There is a virtual option for most Whatcom County Council meetings. [Click here for information on how to participate virtually.](#)
- Before or during the hearing, you may also submit written testimony to the County Council. You may email the Councilmembers individually or submit your written testimony to: council@co.whatcom.wa.us

Stay Informed

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has several ways to stay up to date on their SR 542 Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay Fish Passage Project.

- Visit the SR 542 Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay Fish Passage project webpage: [SR 542 Squalicum Creek to Bellingham Bay Fish Passage | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#).
- Follow WSDOT North on Twitter: [@wsdot_north Twitter page](#)
- Sign up for their weekly e-newsletter: [Washington State Department of Transportation \(govdelivery.com\)](#) and select 'Whatcom County News.'

WSDOT Detour Route for SR-542 Mt. Baker Hwy Full Closure



Eastbound SR-542 Mt. Baker Hwy traffic utilizes detour route of Hannegan Rd to E. Smith Rd, returning to SR-542 at the Mt. Baker Hwy/E. Smith Rd roundabout
Westbound SR-542 Mt. Baker Hwy traffic utilizes detour route of E. Smith Rd to Hannegan Rd, returning to SR-542 at E. Sunset Dr within the City of Bellingham

Dewey Valley traffic utilizes the detour route of Dewey Rd to E. Bakerview Rd to Hannegan Rd and can then utilize the main detour either southbound or northbound on Hannegan Rd

Westbound Kelly Rd traffic utilizes the detour route of Kelly Rd to Everson Goshen Rd to E. Smith Rd and can then utilize the main detour either eastbound or westbound on E. Smith Rd