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**County sets second meeting on Granite Falls Br. #102**  
***Public invited to April 19 event at Mountain Way Elementary***

**WHAT: Public meeting on Granite Falls Bridge #102**  
**WHEN: April 19, 2001, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**WHERE: Mountain Way Elementary School Gymnasium,  
702 N. Granite Avenue, Granite Falls**

Snohomish County Public Works met with residents of the Granite Falls area March 29 to discuss safety concerns on the Granite Falls Bridge. The bridge, which spans the Stillaguamish River northeast of Granite Falls along Mountain Loop Highway, is 340 feet long and 20 feet wide. Its 10-foot lanes barely accommodate large passing vehicles.

Public Works' original proposal was to restripe the bridge deck to create 3-foot shoulders on each side, leaving a 14-foot center lane. The changes would have meant vehicles would be able to cross the bridge from only one direction at a time. The project was to include loop sensors and traffic signals at each end of the bridge to control the alternating traffic flow, along with signage warning approaching traffic of the signals.

During the meeting, however, a number of citizens expressed their concern over the negative impacts of the County's alternating-traffic proposal. Consequently, Public Works staff will consider the citizens' comments and develop additional alternative solutions to their bridge

traffic concerns.

Public Works will present its range of alternatives at a second public meeting on April 19. That meeting is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Mountain Way Elementary School Gymnasium, 702 N. Granite Street. The public will have a chance to look at graphics, ask questions and make comments on the proposed alternatives. Councilmember Mike Ashley and representatives from the City of Granite Falls, Granite Falls School District and CSR also will be in attendance.

In the meantime, Councilmember Ashley has met with representatives from those and other concerned groups to hear their specific technical, safety and access concerns.

The County is seeking interim improvements to the bridge while working on plans and funding for a future widening of the structure. That \$3.1-million project will include deck replacement, widening, cleaning and painting of structural steel.

For more information, contact Project Engineer Darrell Ash at 425-388-6688.

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