Project Location:
The Kittitas Highway project will run from the city limits of Ellensburg (mile post 1.03) to Kittitas (mile post 5.64), a length of 4.61 miles.

Project Description:
This project will consist of various safety improvements as follows: intersection improvements for improved turning movements; shoulder turnouts will be constructed for law enforcement; shoulders will be widened for bicycle and pedestrian traffic; bridges will be replaced to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic; and the roadway will be widened requiring that existing culverts be replaced or retrofitted. These safety enhancements will make the road safer to travel and help meet growing traffic demands in this area. For the duration of construction on Kittitas Highway, the public is urged to be aware of the safety of the construction workers within the work zone. Please obey the reduced construction speed limits, and take a detour route if at all possible. Remember, traffic fines double in construction zones.
Funding:
A variety of funding sources are being used to pay for the Kittitas Highway project: Federal Highway Administration funds (Surface Transportation Program), federal appropriations, County Arterial Preservation Program, (gas tax), and Kittitas County road funds.

Estimated cost for this project is $6 million.

Schedule:
4 bids were received and opened on September 18, 2014. The lowest responsive bid was received from Belsaas & Smith of Ellensburg, and the Board of County Commissioners awarded the bid to them on October 7, 2014. The contractor mobilized on Monday, November 10th with actual construction beginning on Monday, November 17th. Detours will be in place throughout construction. Check the website that Belsaas & Smith Construction, Inc. has put up for this construction project - there is a link to it on the County Public Works web page. The address is: http://www.ellensburgconstruction.com/kittitas-highway-updates.html.

Currently Belsaas & Smith is working on extending and replacing the forty-some stream and irrigation water crossings on the road. Some of the culverts will be repaired by using “cured in place pipe” or CIPP. A resin-saturated felt tube made of polyester, fiberglass cloth or a number of other materials suitable for resin impregnation, is inverted or pulled into a damaged pipe. Little to no digging is involved in this trenchless process, making for a potentially more cost-effective and less disruptive method than traditional “dig and replace” pipe repair methods. The liner can be inverted using water or air pressure. The pressure required for inversion can be generated using pressure vessels, scaffolds or a “Chip unit”. Hot water, UV light, ambient cured or steam is used to cure the resin and form a tight-fitting, joint-less and corrosion-resistant replacement pipe.

Photos of CIPP

Updated 3/16/2015
New footings for Town Ditch crossing
Town Ditch with new culvert sections in place and being grouted

Grout testing cubes

Updated 3/16/2015
Welding on new Town Ditch culvert

Filling grout testing cubes at Town Ditch crossing

Updated 3/16/2015
Checking joints on culvert sections at Lyle Creek crossing

Placing culvert sections at an irrigation crossing between the John Wayne Trail & Town Ditch

Updated 3/16/2015
The new culvert that will carry Lyle Creek underneath Kittitas Highway
Forming up for slope collar on culvert
Completed slope collar
Culvert crossing work at Ferguson Road

Finished culvert at Ferguson Rd intersection

Updated 3/16/2015
Looking east at Town Ditch crossing prior to construction
Looking east at Town Ditch crossing during construction, with approach slabs formed up and rebar in place
Work begins on John Wayne Trail crossing of Kittitas Highway