

**KITTITAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

1:30 PM

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright, Vice Chairman Brett Wachsmith, and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Joshua Fredrickson, Lisa Godden, Public Works; Stephanie Hartung, James McCoven, Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Cory Wright opened the Public Works Study Session.

NO CITIZEN COMMENTS

REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR AS INTERIM ACTING COUNTY ENGINEER FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS

Joshua Fredrickson requested the Board of County Commissioners approve a Resolution extending his appointment as Interim Acting County Engineer for an additional six months. Joshua Fredrickson stated the Board previously designated him under Resolution 2025-148 as Interim Acting County Engineer for a six-month period ending February 28, 2026. Joshua Fredrickson stated that the County Engineer vacancy occurred when the prior engineer left for another position. Recruitment remains underway; applications have been received and reviewed, but no hire has been made to date. Joshua Fredrickson reported on communication with the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) regarding compliance and recruitment status. Joshua Fredrickson requested Board approval to extend his appointment as Interim Acting County Engineer for an additional six months and if approved the resolution would be forwarded along with an advisory letter to CRAB.

Vice Chairman Brett Wachsmith moved to approve Resolution 2026-036 and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2025 ANNUAL BRIDGE REPORT

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the Annual Bridge Report to review and consider. No action was requested. The report supports development of the County and helps identify bridge priorities for grant pursuit and programming. Joshua Fredrickson stated the report will be used to document inspection activity and will be reported to CRAB.

APPROVED
3/17/26

Joshua Fredrickson explained that there are 2 types of bridges that are inspected. (1) NBI Bridges (over 20 feet; National Bridge Inventory) which we currently have 113 structures; inspected on a two-year cycle and reported to the state; generally eligible for federal/state bridge funding. (2) Non-NBI / Short-Span Structures (under 20 feet) which we currently have 151 structures; inspected by the County due to critical infrastructure needs; fewer/no dedicated funding sources noted for short-span bridges.

Joshua Fredrickson stated that Public Works conducts bridge inspections for the City of Cle Elum, City of Ellensburg, and City of Kittitas under a reimbursement arrangement.

Joshua Fredrickson indicated that 163 County-owned bridges were inspected in calendar year 2025 including two specialized inspections that required outside consultants (steel tension member bridges) and the remaining inspections were performed in-house. As of December 2025, of the NBI Bridges: 51 rated as Good; 55 as Fair and 7 as Poor. Of the Non-NBI Structures: 55 rated as Good; 88 as Fair and 8 as Poor.

Joshua Fredrickson stated that the bridge over Town Ditch and the bridge over the Cascade Canal are priority for funding to replace these bridges.

Joshua Fredrickson stated that Public Works also performed in-house bridge maintenance work (bridge joint replacement) to extend asset life and reduce costs.

Vice Chairman Brett Wachsmith asked how it is determined that bridges are categorized as "poor," condition and how priorities are set for those bridges. He also asked about high v. low traffic conditions.

Joshua Fredrickson explained that traffic conditions, distance from the Interstate and other elements are factors that go into how bridges are rated. Joshua Fredrickson expressed that he does not want to forget about the bridges that are in good or fair conditions, because without maintenance they can fall into the poor condition category.

Vice Chairman Brett Wachsmith asked about load restricted bridges.

Joshua Fredrickson explained that load ratings have changed over the last several years. Emergency vehicles load ratings are different than standard trucks due to the axle spacing. Joshua Fredrickson offered to provide additional details on the specific bridge/load rating questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 1

At 1:47PM the Board of County Commissioners announced they would recess into Executive Session for 5 minutes with Josh Fredrickson, Stephanie Hartung and James McCoven per RCW 42.30.110(c) - To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease. No Action anticipated.

At 1:52PM the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session.

No action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 2

At 1:52PM the Board of County Commissioners announced they would recess into Executive Session for 10 minutes with Josh Fredrickson Stephanie Hartung and James McCoven per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)- To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency litigation or potential litigation. Possible Action.

At 2:02PM the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session requesting an additional 10 minutes for further discussion.

At 2:03PM the Board of County Commissioners announced an additional recess to continue Executive Session for 10 minutes.

At 2:13PM the Board of County Commissioners reconvened out of Executive Session.

No Action Taken.

NO OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting concluded at 2:13 PM

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Lisa Godden, Administrative
Assistant



Cory Wright, Chairman