

WSDOT Virtual Tour of Bellingham / Whatcom County

Washington State Transportation Commission

Jay Drye, Assistant Regional Administrator
Northwest Region - Mount Baker Area
June 16, 2020

WSDOT in Whatcom County



**Transportation
Matters**

Asset Management

**WSDOT
Organization**

WSDOT Projects



Transportation Matters



Economy

- Washington is one of the most trade-centric states in the nation

Quality of life

- Affordable housing
- Public health
- Access to nature, recreation

Social equity

- Percentage of family income spent on transportation highest for the least well off
- Approximately 20% of Washingtonians don't hold a driver's license
- Transit and active transportation investments provide access to opportunity

Washington's Multimodal System

THE STATE'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK IS A CONNECTED SYSTEM THAT MUST SERVE MANY MODES AND USERS



18,700
Highway lane miles
308
HOV lane miles



16
WSDOT-operated airports



3,344
state-owned bridges



125*
miles dedicated bike lanes
405*
miles of sidewalk within/adjacent
to WSDOT right-of-way



22
Ferries
24.3 million
passengers per year



333
miles Amtrak Cascades



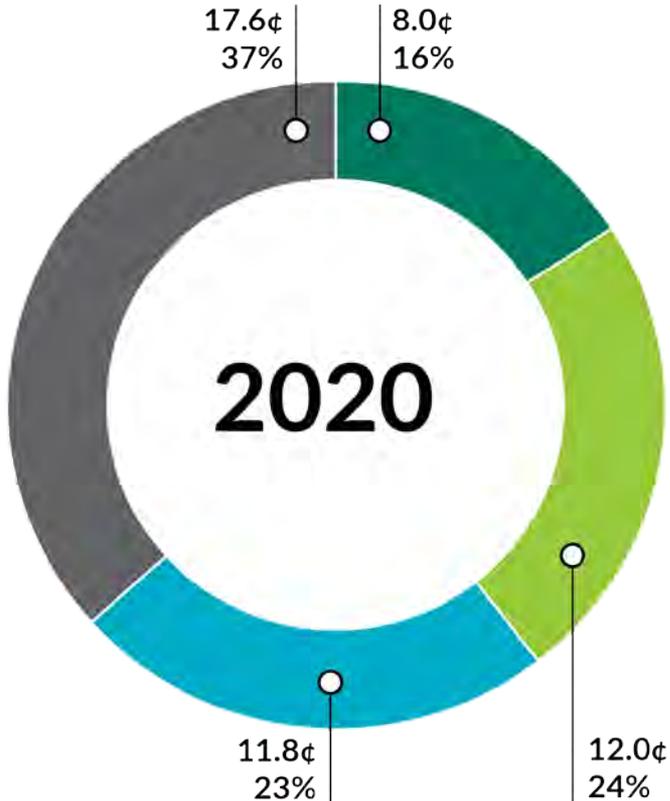
32
Transit systems

802,000
annual passengers

298
miles WSDOT-owned shortline
freight railroad

Where does the gas tax go?

Where Does the 49.4¢ State Gas Tax Go?



Where Will the 49.4¢ State Gas Tax Go?



- WSDOT*
- Cities & Counties (Local Government)
- Legislatively Directed Investments**
- Debt Service**

* Includes operations, maintenance, preservation and safety improvements.

** Includes funding for projects specified in the 2003 Nickel, 2005 Transportation Partnership, and 2015 Connecting Washington acts, as well as funding to pay off bonds funded by pre-2003 fuel tax.

Asset Management – All WSDOT

(Millions of dollars)	Replacement Value	Average Annual Need	Current plan annual average spending	Average annual funding shortfall
Highways	\$109,390	\$665	\$335	\$330
Multimodal (i.e. Aviation, Public Transportation, Rail)	\$600	\$110	\$20	\$90
Intra-Agency (i.e. IT, Facilities, Fleet, Real Estate)	\$66,480	\$125	\$70	\$55
Ferries	\$4,940	\$340	\$125	\$215
TOTAL	\$181,410	\$1,240	\$550	\$690

Revenue challenges in the “new normal”

Financial implications of Stay Home orders

- Experienced significant reductions in travel:
 - Vehicle traffic – down 45% average
 - Ferries ridership – down 75% average
 - Transit ridership – down 75% average
 - Amtrak Cascades ridership – down 95% average
 - Use of toll facilities – down 42-77%
- Projects suspended for safety are incurring costs to restart
- Official revenue forecast in June; currently, estimated \$100 million in lost revenue per month for all transportation agencies; 35% of our average monthly revenue collections
- 85% of our budget comes from state revenue sources and bonds



Revenue challenges in the “new normal”

Many demands while revenue is down

- COVID-19: Estimated fuel tax revenue loss for transportation agencies is \$100 million per month
- I-976: Estimated \$360 million revenue loss in 2019-2021 budget
- Fish passage federal obligations: \$3.1 billion needed through 2030
- Seismic retrofit: at least \$1.5 billion needed to protect bridges in Western Washington
- Maintenance and preservation: \$7 billion needed through 2030

WSDOT’s immediate actions:

- Stayed on winter ferry schedule due to significant passenger reductions
- Deferring both permanent and non-permanent new hires
- Discontinuing out-of-state travel
- Suspending new consultant contracts and task orders
- Holding off Transportation Equipment Fund and other major purchases
- Working with Congressional delegation to request federal funding backfill for lost revenues

Preparing recommendations for the Governor and the Legislature

- Reductions to WSDOT operating programs
- Deferrals of capital investment
- Pivot to respond to lessons from COVID-19

WSDOT Organization

Regions

- Northwest
- Southwest
- Olympic
- North Central
- South Central
- Eastern



Mega Projects

Washington State Ferries (WSF)

Headquarters

WSDOT Northwest Region

Mount Baker Area
Whatcom
Skagit
San Juan and
Island Counties

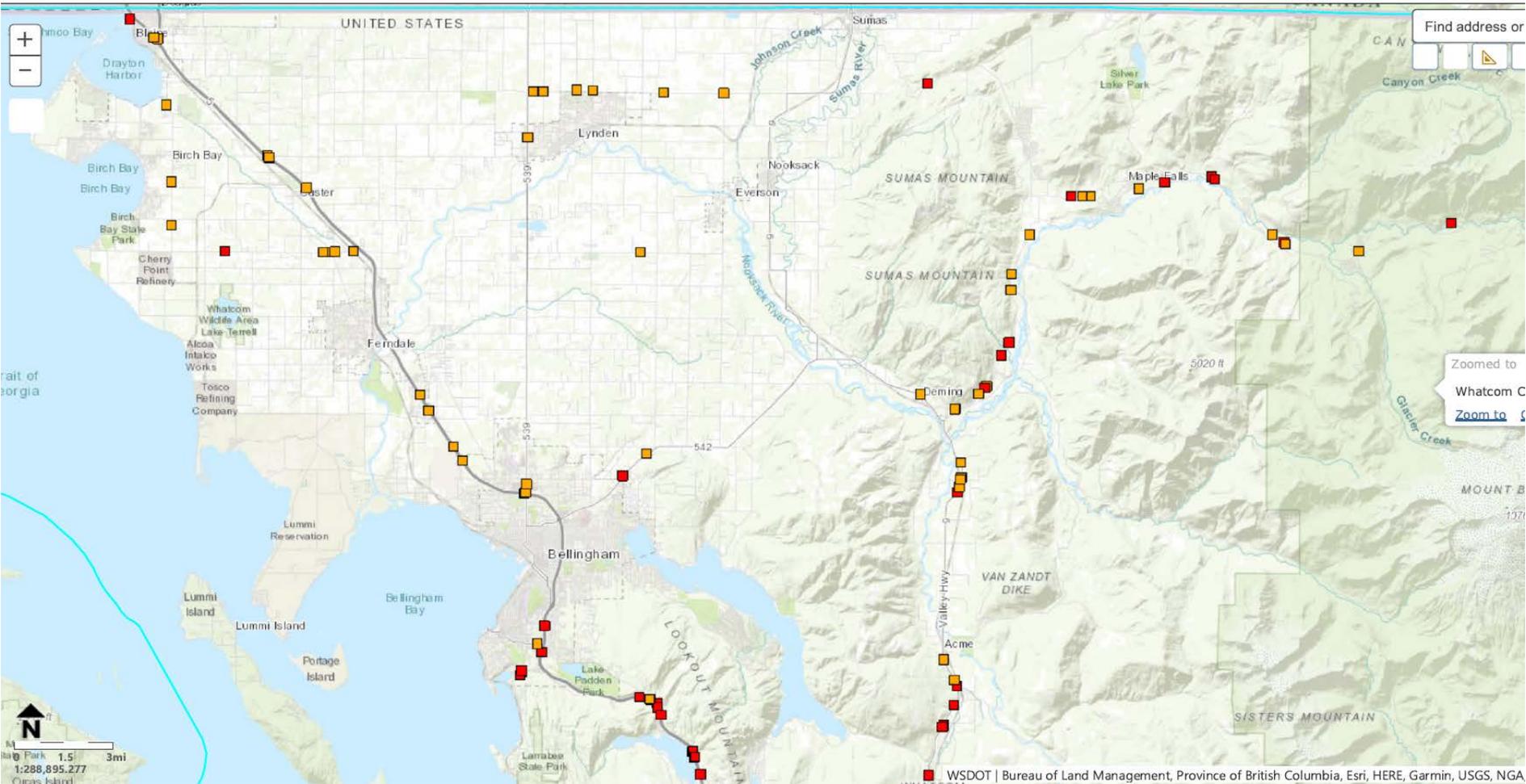
Snohomish-King Area
Snohomish and
King Counties



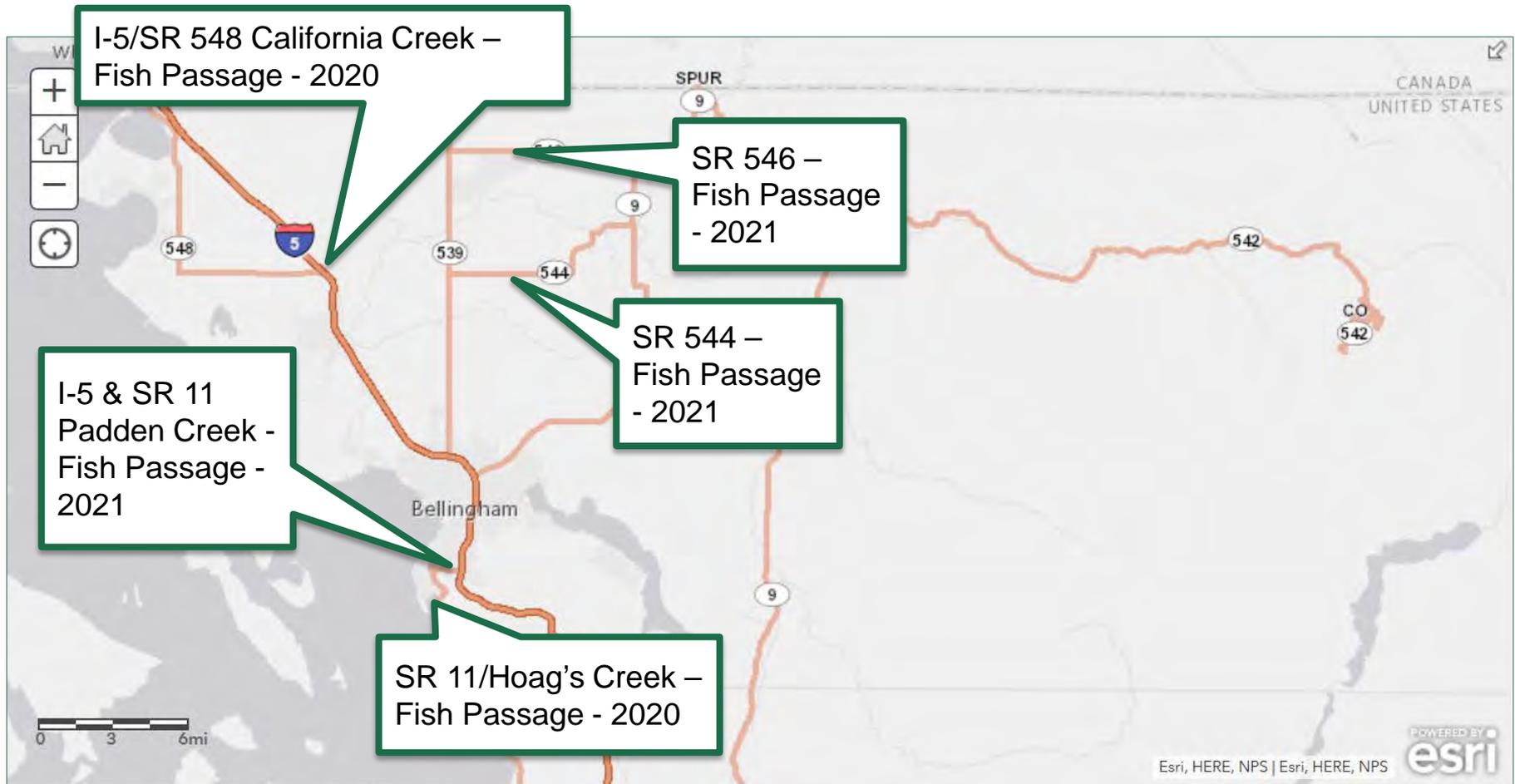
Overview of the area



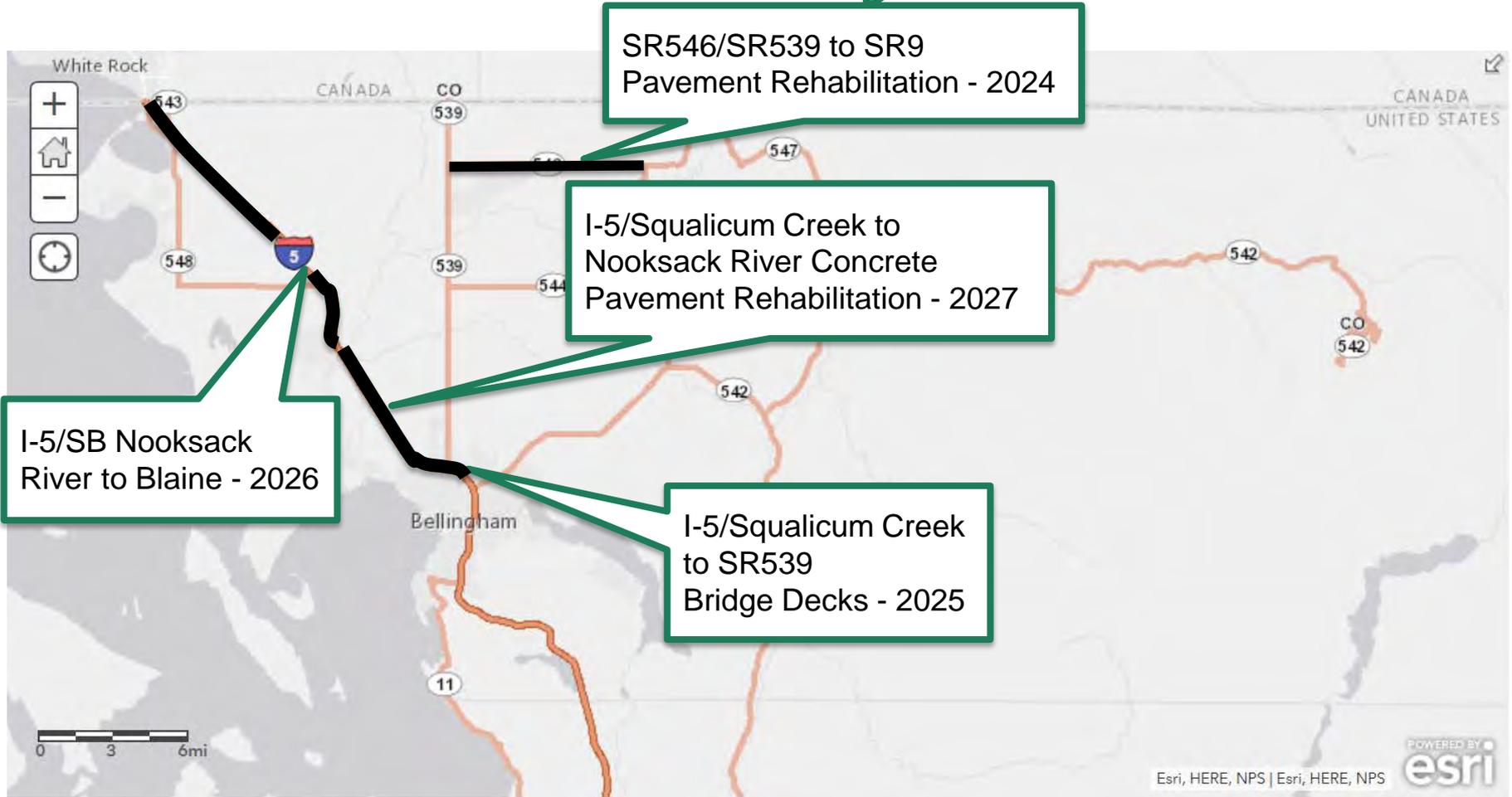
WSDOT fish passage inventory - Whatcom County



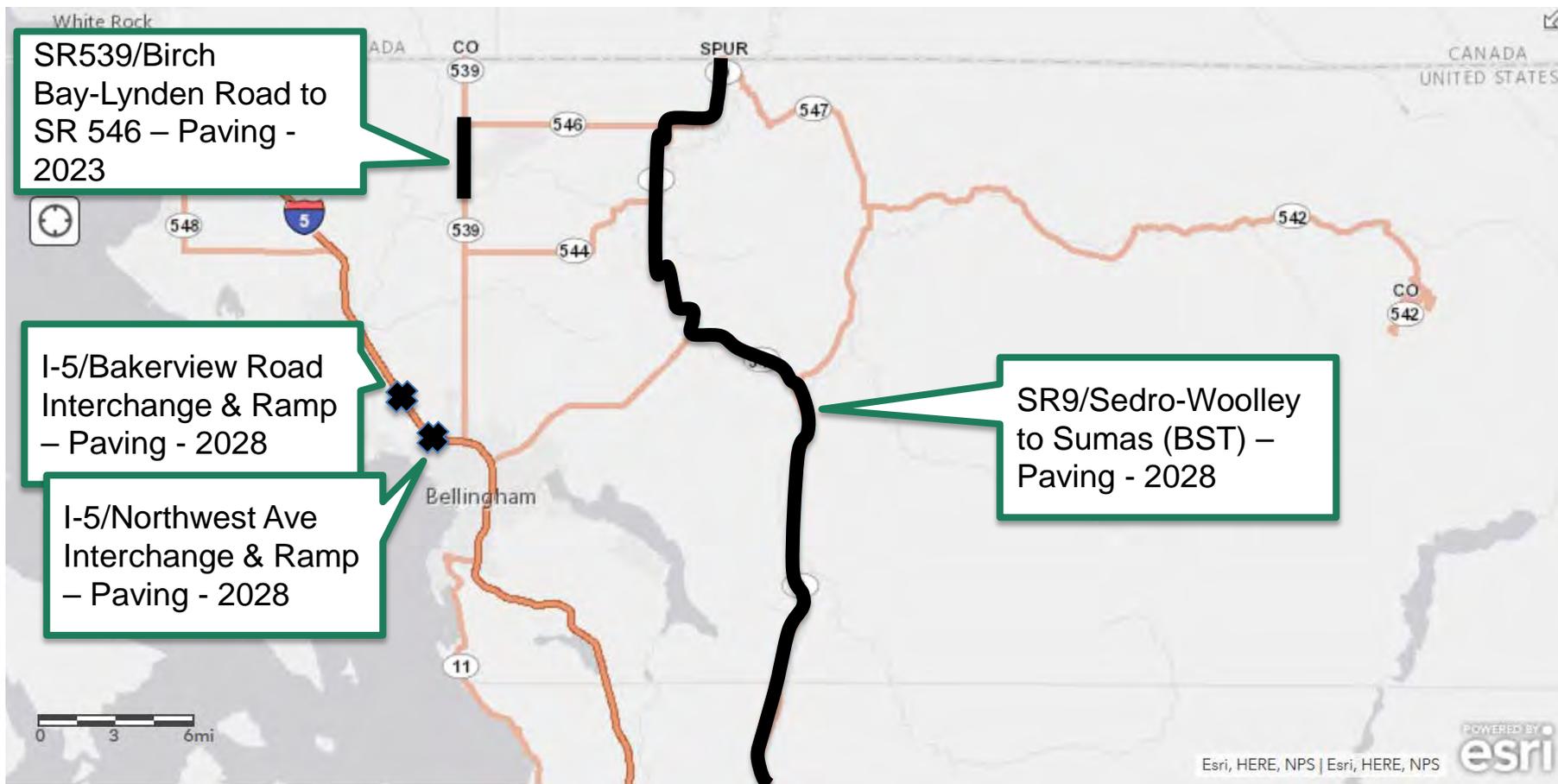
Current fish passage projects in Whatcom County



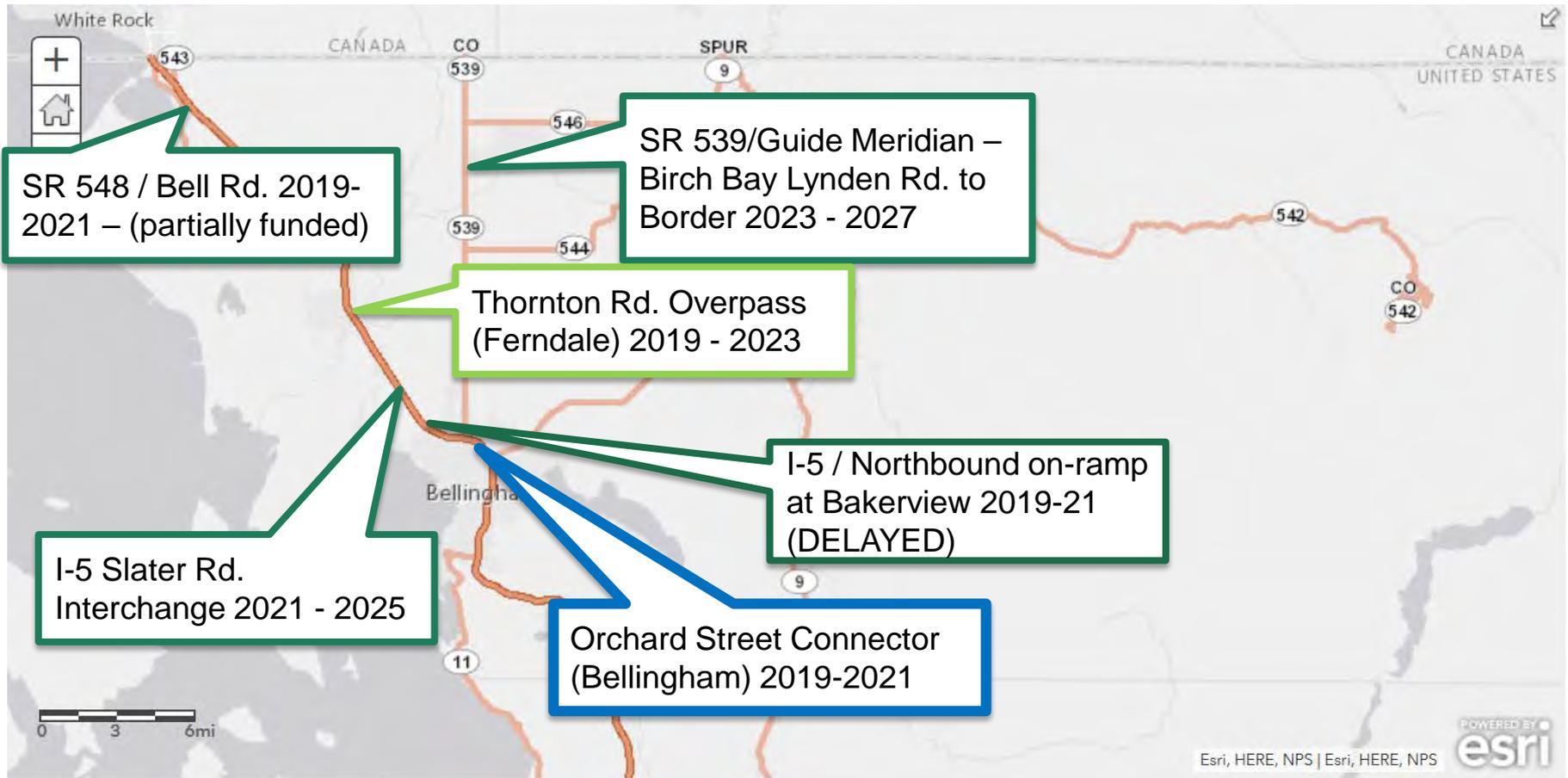
Current preservation projects in Whatcom County



Preservation projects deferred in Whatcom County



Connecting Washington projects in Whatcom County



Questions?



Jay Drye, PE
Assistant Regional Administrator
Northwest Region – Mount Baker Area
Washington State Department of Transportation
360-757-5990
dryej@wsdot.wa.gov

