

**CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON  
RESOLUTION 23-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON IN SUPPORT OF  
REPAIRING THE OLD CASCADE HIGHWAY WASHOUT AT MILLER RIVER**

**WHEREAS**, a flood in 2011 washed out and closed the Old Cascade Highway at the Miller River bridge in King County, Washington, severing a travel route that had been uninterruptedly open for approximately 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of this crossing interrupted a historically, culturally, and economically significant and necessary thoroughfare in the upper Skykomish Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of this thoroughfare creates a significant and harmful lack of necessary redundancy in the US2 highway corridor, negatively affecting:

- ingress and egress of residents and guests for both commonplace and emergency needs,
- emergency responder access to affected zones and emergency egress in the event of emergency or disaster, as dramatically proven by the recent Bolt Creek fire,
- trade, commerce, and tourism
- travel alternatives to portions of US2 during closures; and

**WHEREAS**, the losses and barriers thus imposed upon the local community and travelers alike are of a nature and magnitude which would have been deemed unacceptable, and likely long since dealt with, had they affected the more populous regions in the Puget Sound basin; and

**WHEREAS**, loss of channel constraints imposed by the destroyed crossing potentially threatens the BNSF mainline crossing immediately downstream; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gold Bar finds that neglect of the health and redundancy of the US2 corridor has wide ranging and negative impact on all communities in the Skykomish Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gold Bar and the Town of Skykomish have entered an interlocal agreement for the City of Gold Bar to provide management of the Skykomish Water System; and

**WHEREAS**, the long-term failure to maintain, repair and/or restore flood-based interruptions to the continuity of alternatives to US Highway 2, specifically at Scenic, Miller River, and Lowe Creek have combined to essentially destroy what was in the recent past a near continuous transportation alternative between Baring and Stevens Pass; and

**WHEREAS**, the significant and adequate resources necessary to make an acceptable repair are believed to be held by, or available to, the government of King County, the question being instead one of priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, necessary repairs now being completed to similar damage to the nearby Index-Galena Road clearly demonstrate that such necessary projects are both environmentally and financially feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, in the intervening eleven-plus years since the flood event, zero progress has been made towards a solution acceptable to local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, interminable delays in pursuing a repair will only result in unnecessary and avoidable increases in project costs,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR THAT:**

- Section I      Old Cascade Highway Washout**
- Section II     Severability**
- Section III    Effective Date**

**Section I, Old Cascade Highway Washout**

1. The City of Gold Bar finds that restoration of the Miller River washout is an essential component of transportation infrastructure health in the Skykomish Valley.
2. The City supports a repair alternative to Old Cascade Highway at the Miller River crossing nothing less than adequate to support pedestrian, bicycle, motor vehicle, and emergency traffic.
3. The City calls upon King County government to assign a high priority to repairs and to work with State and Federal agencies to secure necessary funding and move forward with construction.

**Section II, Severability**

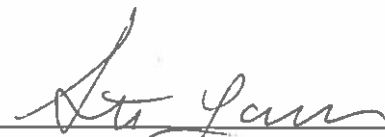
This resolution is severable and if any portion of it shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion shall remain valid and enforceable.

**Section III, Effective Date**

This Resolution shall take effect from, and after, its passage and approval, as provided by law.

Resolved this 2nd day of May, 2023.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

  
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Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer