

Chico Way Bridge, Destroyed in 2007 Flood, to Open Friday

# Kitsap Sun

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By Steven Gardner  
Wednesday, July 8, 2009

CENTRAL KITSAP — A lingering inconvenience from the December 2007 floods is expected to be gone Friday.

Construction crews plan to open a rebuilt bridge on Chico Way on Friday, marking the first time drivers will have had the chance to make the trip over the creek in more than a year and a half.

The Dec. 3, 2007, storm dropped 7.5 inches of rain within 24 hours and resulted in 26 road closures. Chico Creek rose to record levels and washed out the bridge between Golf Club Road and Country Club Lane, as well as another on Taylor Road.

The Taylor Road project was given emergency status because it is the only route to some homes.

Because there were other routes available for Chico Way, the county had to go through the standard permit request process with the federal government, which paid 85 percent of the \$1.5 million price tag for the work, said Tina Nelson, senior program manager for the county.

While the permitting process might have lagged, the construction finished well ahead of schedule and cost less than what the county initially anticipated.

The time frame was cut when the contractor, Quigg Brothers of Aberdeen, was able to get permits to go into the salmon-bearing stream earlier than expected, Nelson said.

The cost was lower because of the competitive construction environment, she said. The county had earlier anticipated construction alone might cost more than \$2 million, plus whatever it would cost to demolish and remove the old span.

The bridge's opening should be good news for a lot of travelers. The county's last count on the street in 2007 showed the road saw 4,895 vehicles a day, Nelson said.



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