

The Burlington Journal

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Bridge Issue Before County At Election

Official election notice for a \$700,000 bond issue for the purpose of building a bridge and access roads across the Skagit river in the vicinity of Concrete has been published by Skagit county commissioners with a special vote to be held at the November 2 general election.

The proposition as outlined in the election notice is as follows: "Shall the County of Skagit, State of Washington, issue its general obligation bonds in the principal sum of \$700,000 or such lesser amount as can be legally issued under the statute governing the limitations of indebtedness, payable by unlimited tax levies beyond the 40-mill limit, bearing interest at not to exceed six per cent per annum payable semi-annually and maturing in from two to 10 years from the date of issue, for the purpose of acquiring road rights-of-way between Faber Ferry and Concrete all in the County of Skagit, and constructing roads between Faber Ferry and vicinity of Concrete in Skagit county and the construction of a bridge across the Skagit river, connecting the proposed road with existing state highway No. 17A between Faber Ferry and vicinity of Concrete, and the providing of necessary equipment and facilities for such roads and bridge as the funds may allow, all as provided for by Resolution 822 of the Board of county commissioners."

The annual tax levy to be collected over a 10-year period has been set at between 2 1/2 and 3 mills, which would provide sufficient funds to carry out the program.

The map on page 3 of this week's Journal shows the proposed locations of the

bridge. Most favored is the Dalles site, which would require a span of only 290 feet, but would require more access roads. The cost would be practically the same for either site in that the Faber bridge would cost as much as the Dalles bridge plus the access roads.

The bridge will open up a loop highway from the eastern end of Skagit county to Darrington and the Snohomish valley, in addition to providing an outlet for the largest single stand of virgin timber in the nation, soon to be placed on sale by the U. S. Forestry service. The huge timber stand is located on the slopes of Finney creek.

Building of the bridge would eliminate three of the county's river ferries, as a savings estimated at from \$30,000 to \$60,000 a year. It would also eliminate a dangerous ferry crossing for school students at Concrete, 28 of whom cross the Faber ferry by bus twice each day. This dangerous trip has received much publicity in the past few years.

The upper Skagit bridge proposition has been a problem of the county for the past 15 years. In January of this year a committee of leaders from every town in the county got together to prepare a county-wide road and bridge program for presentation the legislative Interim Committee. In doing so they designated the Skagit river bridge at Concrete as the second most needed project of the county. The number one project was, of course, the Cascade highway. Their resultant campaign has resulted in having the county commissioners submit the proposition to the voters of the county.

The plan has been approved and is being sponsored by every Chamber of

Commerce in the county, in addition to various service clubs and private individuals.