

NEPA REVIEW SCREENING FORM (NRSF) 3
Categorically Excluded Actions

Document ID #:
DOE/CX-00219

I. Project Title:

U. S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Property Transfer to Washington State Department of Transportation for Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a State Route 240/225 and Hanford Route 10 Roundabout

II. Describe the proposed action, including location, time period over which proposed action will occur, project dimension (e.g., acres displaced/disturbed, excavation length/depth), and area/location/number of buildings. Attach narratives, maps and drawings of proposed action. Describe existing environmental conditions and potential for environmental impacts from the proposed action. If the proposed action is not a project, describe the action or plan.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL), proposes to provide the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) a temporary construction easement, and upon completion a permanent easement, for the exclusive right of ingress and egress access to the Hanford Site, as shown on Exhibit A, for the sole purpose of installing, operating, and maintaining a proposed State Route 240 (SR240) Roundabout (see Figure 1). The DOE-RL proposed action involves a real property transfer of DOE-managed land to WSDOT through the permanent easement.

WSDOT has determined that their proposed action to install, operate, and maintain the SR240 roundabout has National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage under an existing Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) categorical exclusion and is categorically exempt under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). WSDOT proposes to construct the roundabout at the intersection of SR240, SR225, and Hanford Route 10 to improve traffic operations and safety. Congestion in the transportation corridor creates delays for people, goods, and services, and adversely affects air quality. Especially during peak commute periods when travel time through the corridor increases significantly and is projected to worsen in the future.

The easement boundary on the Hanford Site is approximately 1.5 acres and is located contiguous to the north right-of-way line of SR240 and within the right-of-way line of Hanford Route 10 (see Figures 2 and 3). Also included is an area consisting of approximately 4440 square feet of existing gravel parking area for a temporary construction laydown yard. The project would include excavation and necessary road material to add approximately 620 square feet of additional asphalt paving for safe ingress to the Hanford Site from SR240 onto Hanford Route 10, and the application of road striping on Hanford Route 10 to control safe ingress and egress to and from the Hanford Site. Upon completion of the project, a permanent easement would be provided to WSDOT but would exclude the temporary construction laydown yard. Figure 4 provides photographs of the SR 225/240 and Hanford Route 10 intersection.

Work is tentatively scheduled for April through October in 2022, daylight hours only. Equipment to be utilized includes, but is not limited to, excavators, compactors, millers, pavers, rollers, trucks (including dump and concrete), hydroseeders, generators, and various pieces of hand-held or truck-mounted equipment.

The legal description for the parcel of land comprising the permanent easement is as follows:

THAT PORTION OF THE GOVERNMENT LOT 3; THE NW¼ OF THE NW¼ OF THE SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 10 NORTH, RANGE 27 EAST OF THE WILLAMETTE MERIDIAN, LOCATED IN BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON AND LOCATED AT THE APPROXIMATE COORDINATES, AN AREA OF 1.48 ACRES, beginning at station M 204 plus 14.93 and ending at station M 210 plus 59.90, 90 feet wide, being 45 feet on the Northwesterly side and 45 feet on the Southeasterly side of the centerline of DOE Route 10 as surveyed over and across Government Lot 3; the NW¼ of the NW¼ of Section 3; T.10N., R.27E., W.M., except as follows, to wit; from station M 204 plus 14.93 to station 204 plus 40, said strip shall extend 90 feet Southeasterly from said centerline, and station M 204 plus 40 to station 205 plus 20, said strip shall extend to 123 feet Southeasterly from said center line.

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW. WSDOT performed a cultural resources review of the project area and documented the findings in a memo to the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Wanapum People, and Yakama Nation, which is dated December 16, 2021. The following information is extracted from the WSDOT findings.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulation 36 CFR Part 800, WSDOT initiated consultation for the SR240 roundabout undertaking. WSDOT is aware of the cultural significance of the Horn Rapids area, particularly the Wanawish Traditional

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Cultural Property. No other recorded historic properties were identified within or adjacent to the project area.

WSDOT inspected the project areas in the field and verified that they are in areas of existing disturbance, fill, or in truncated gravelly sediments with minimal archaeological potential. The ground disturbing portions of this project are within previous disturbance, and have minimal potential to affect any historic property. The only effect to the setting will be temporary and related to construction. No presently accessible roadside area will be made inaccessible. Given these factors, it appears to WSDOT that the project will not affect the Wanawish Traditional Cultural Property as they understand it.

Based on the results of their investigations, WSDOT expects that the SR240 roundabout will not affect any historic property and made a determination of "no historic properties affected" for this undertaking.

ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW. WSDOT performed an ecological resources review of the project area and documented its findings in a memo to the project file, which is dated September 29, 2021. The following information is extracted from the WSDOT findings.

The project footprint is limited to the existing paved roadway surface and adjacent dry, largely unvegetated areas. The project area, delimited by elevated construction noise and visual disturbance above ambient levels, includes all terrestrial areas within a 1,000 feet radius of the project footprint.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure that all loose materials are contained so that no aquatic resource, including wetlands, will be impacted by work activity. As such, the project area lacks an aquatic zone of impact. All storm water arising from new impervious surfaces will be infiltrated. Vegetation to be impacted is limited to annual roadside weeds and several small sagebrush shrubs.

No bald eagle nests are documented within 660 feet of the project footprint, therefore construction timing restrictions are not required. No vegetation or structures supporting active bird nests will be impacted during construction. For these reasons, the project complies with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

A list of species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) under the regulatory jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was procured from their respective websites on September 29, 2021 to verify the potential for ESA-listed species or their designated critical habitats to occur within the project area. A visual reconnaissance of the project footprint and vicinity was also conducted to evaluate baseline disturbance and habitat suitability.

Under USFWS jurisdiction, the species listed as potentially occurring within the project area were identified. Due to lack of suitable habitat within the project area, the proposed project will have no effect on any species or designated critical habitat (DCH) under the jurisdiction of the USFWS.

Regarding species under the jurisdiction of the NMFS, the project area occurs within the regulatory limits of Middle Columbia River Distinct Population Segment (DPS) steelhead. However, since the project will not affect aquatic or riparian habitat, no species under NMFS jurisdiction will be affected.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires federal agencies to consult with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries on activities that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). It is determined that the project will have no adverse effect on EFH because no suitable habitat will be affected by project activities.

CONCLUSION. DOE's proposed action has National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coverage under 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, Categorical Exclusion (CX) B1.24, "Property Transfers." This CX provides for the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (including, but not limited to, equipment and materials) or real property (including, but not limited to, permanent structures and land), provided that under reasonably foreseeable uses (1)

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there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment and (2) the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests. Furthermore, the requirements and conditions that are integral elements for applying CXs to proposed actions (10 CFR 1021.410 and Appendix B) are met without extraordinary circumstances.

III. Existing Evaluations (Provide with NRSF to DOE NCO):

Maps:

- FIGURE 1 - Exhibit A, Plan View of Proposed SR 225/240 and Hanford Route 10 Roundabout
- FIGURE 2 - SR 225/240 and Hanford Route 10 Intersection Project Location Map
- FIGURE 3 - Temporary Construction Easement Boundary
- FIGURE 4 - SR 225/240 and Hanford Route 10 Intersection

Other Attachments:

N/A

IV. List Applicable CX(s) from Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021:

B1.24, "Property Transfers"

V. Integral Elements and Extraordinary Circumstances (See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, B. Conditions that are Integral Elements of the Class of Actions in Appendix B; and 10 CFR 1021.410(b)(2) under Application of Categorical Exclusions)

Yes No

Are there extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposed action? If yes, describe them. Yes No

Is the proposed action connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or that could result in cumulatively significant impacts? If yes, describe them. Yes No

Would the proposed action threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements related to the environment, safety, health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders? Yes No

Would the proposed action require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities? Yes No

Would the proposed action disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or natural gas products already in the environment such that there might be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases? Yes No

Would the proposed action have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources? See examples in Appendix B(4) to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021. Yes No

Would the proposed action involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, such that the action is not contained or confined in a manner designed, operated, and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements to prevent unauthorized release into the environment? Yes No

If "No" to all questions above, complete Section VI, and provide NRSF and any attachments to DOE NCO for review.
 If "Yes" to any of the questions above, contact DOE NCO for additional NEPA review.

VI. Responsible Organization's Signatures:

Initiator:

Jerry W. Cammann, HMIS NEPA SME
 Print First and Last Name

Jerry W. Cammann 3/21/2022
 Signature / Date

Cognizant Program/Project Representative:

Paula K. Call, DOE SSD
 Print First and Last Name

PAULA CALL Digitally signed by PAULA CALL
 Date: 2022.03.10 14:34:21 -08'00'
 Signature / Date

VII. DOE NEPA Compliance Officer Approval/Determination:

Based on my review of information conveyed to me concerning the proposed action, the proposed action fits within the specified CX(s): Yes No

Douglas H. Chapin, DOE NCO
 Print First and Last Name

DOUGLAS CHAPIN Digitally signed by DOUGLAS
 CHAPIN
 Date: 2022.03.21 13:25:27 -07'00'
 Signature / Date

NCO Comments:

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NCO Comments:

FIGURES

**U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office, Property Transfer to Washington
State Department of Transportation for Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a
State Route 225/240 and Hanford Route 10 Roundabout**

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FIGURE 1 - EXHIBIT A, PLAN VIEW OF PROPOSED SR225/240 AND HANFORD ROUTE 10 ROUNDABOUT

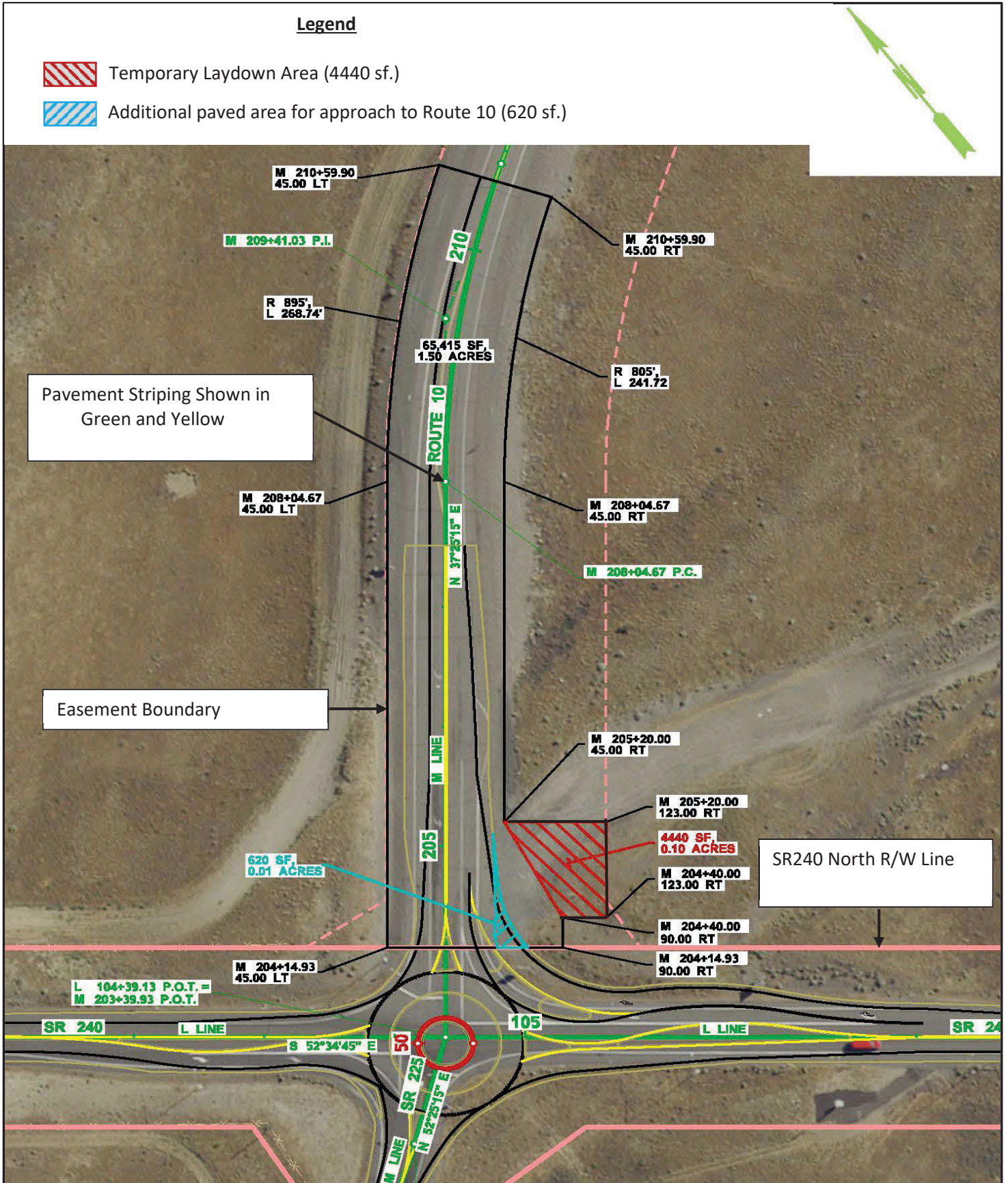
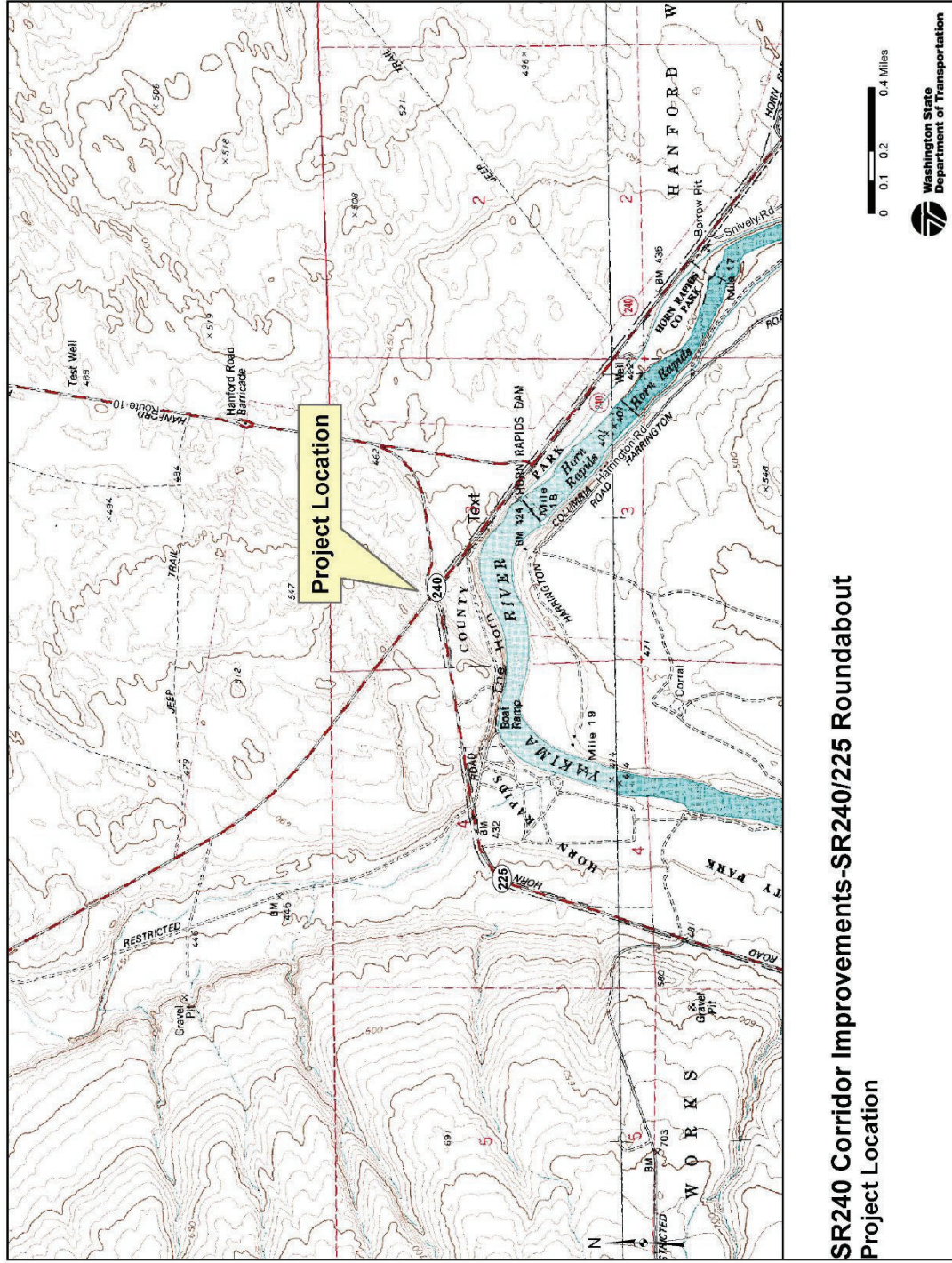


FIGURE 2 – SR 225/240 AND HANFORD ROUTE 10 INTERSECTION PROJECT LOCATION MAP



SR240 Corridor Improvements-SR240/225 Roundabout
Project Location

FIGURE 3 – TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT BOUNDARY

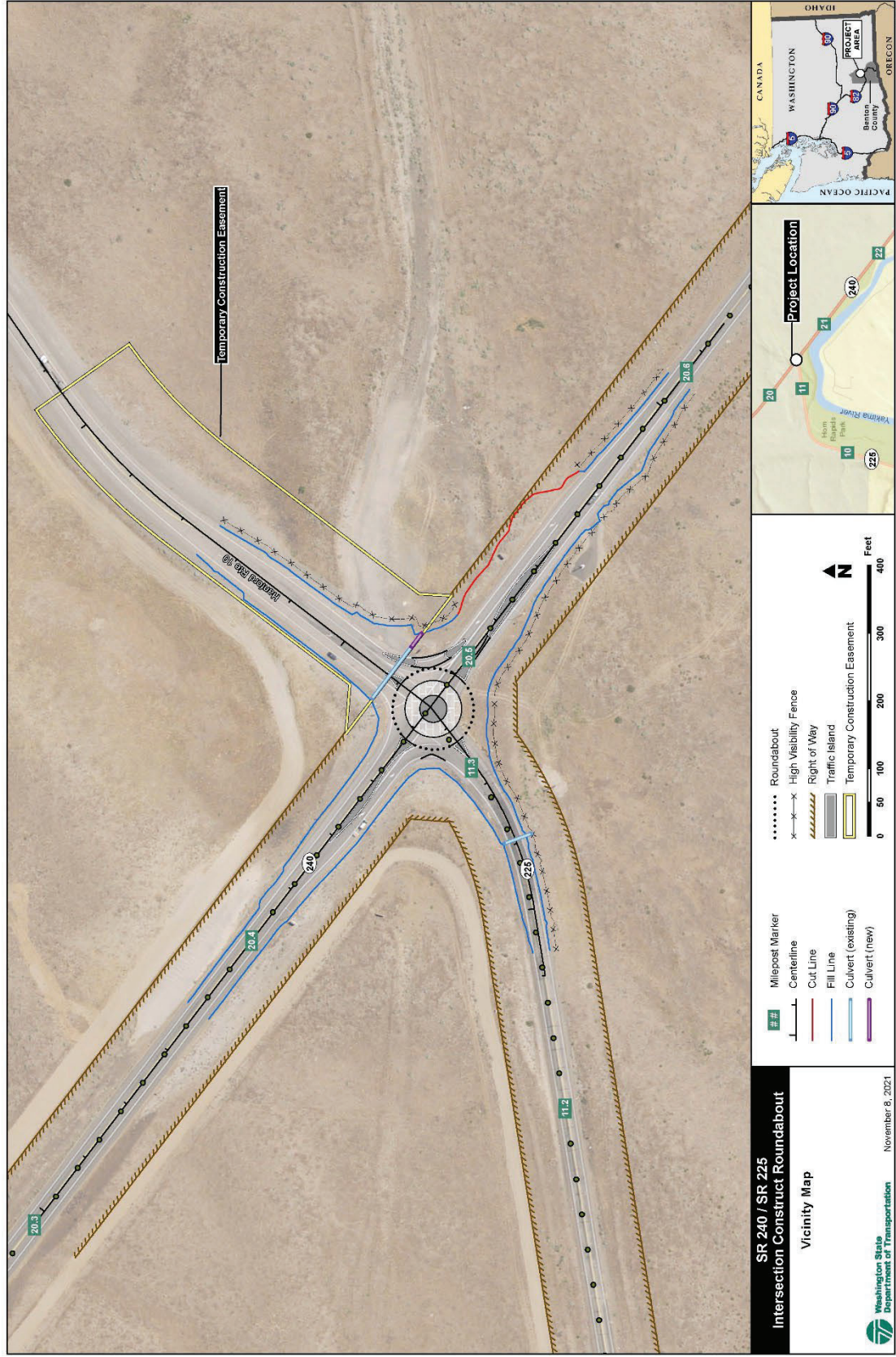


FIGURE 4 – SR 225/240 AND HANFORD ROUTE 10 INTERSECTION

