



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

May 24, 2004

Ordinance 14918

Proposed No. 2004-0233.2

Sponsors Pelz and Lambert

1 AN ORDINANCE waiving requirements in chapters 36.32,
2 39.80 and 39.10 RCW and K.C.C. chapters 4.04, 4.16,
3 4.18, 12.16, 12.18 and 20.62 relating to the Norman Bridge
4 122P; and declaring an emergency.

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BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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SECTION 1. Findings.

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10 A. The Norman Bridge 122P crosses the middle fork of the Snoqualmie river,
11 north of the city of North Bend and east of 428th Avenue SE. This timber truss bridge
12 was built in 1950 and replaced a similar bridge that was constructed in 1924. In 1984,
13 when the Norman Bridge could no longer sustain vehicular traffic, the roadway was
realigned and a new bridge constructed in its place.

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15 B. A 1984 report by the Pacific Transportation Services Company stated that
16 prudent maintenance practices should preserve the bridge for the next fifteen years under
17 pedestrian and bicycle traffic. This same year the bridge was designated a King County
Landmark. In 1989 the public works department and the natural resources and parks

18 division signed an interdepartmental agreement ending the need for the old bridge and
19 alignment as part of the county road system and initiating the use for recreational
20 purposes. The intent of the agreement is to permit the parks division to assume
21 operations and maintenance of the bridge.

22 C. In 1994, the bridge was closed to all public use after an accident involving a
23 horse crossing the bridge. An inspection of the bridge by the Washington state
24 Department of Transportation found that there was extensive rot in the timber structure.
25 The cost to repair the bridge was estimated at over one million dollars. Sufficient funds
26 were not available to conduct these repairs. Consequently, the bridge was closed and
27 remains closed to all public use.

28 D. In 1999, the main pier supporting the south end of the timber truss was in
29 danger of failing. The parks department contracted with the road services division to
30 perform emergency repairs to prevent the bridge from collapse.

31 E. In 2003, the road services division was again asked to conduct an inspection of
32 the bridge. The results of this inspection found that additional timber members show
33 advanced decay and the north main support pier is vulnerable to collapse. An immediate,
34 but only temporary, repair measure to stabilize the structure was performed. Although
35 unauthorized, there is evidence that the public is using the bridge for gatherings and
36 climbing and jumping off the bridge.

37 F. In 1984, the bridge was designated a King County Landmark. In 1994, it was
38 listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The road services division is working
39 with the historic preservation program in the office of business relations and economic

40 development and will brief King County landmarks commission on plans to dismantle the
41 bridge.

42 G. The parks division has determined that it no longer has a need for the bridge
43 for the purpose of recreational trails or for any other purpose. The road services division
44 constructed a new bridge in 1984 and has no need for the bridge.

45 H. The bridge is in imminent danger of structural failure. The bridge has only
46 marginal capacity to sustain its own weight and no capacity to sustain any additional
47 loads. Due to the extremely deteriorated condition of the bridge, normal repair and
48 maintenance techniques are not an option. Because of the current condition, county
49 workers are now being exposed to unusual hazards whenever inspection or work on the
50 bridge is required.

51 I. If the bridge were to collapse it would jeopardize the roadway and the bridge
52 downstream and cause flooding of private property from the damming effect of the
53 bridge obstructing the natural water flow. The possibility of a failure and collapse of the
54 bridge constitutes an emergency that presents a real and immediate threat to the proper
55 performance of essential government functions, and will likely result in material loss or
56 damage to public and private property and potential injury to King County workers or to
57 other persons unless expeditious action is taken to demolish the bridge.

58 J. An emergency waiver of competitive bidding and formal solicitation
59 requirements of state and county law is necessary as well as waiver of reviews by various
60 committees, to assure the timely availability of construction/demolition, design and other
61 required services, materials and equipment necessary to prevent delay in removing the
62 bridge.

63 SECTION 2. The requirements for competitive bidding and formal solicitation of
64 construction, design and other required services, materials and equipment under chapters
65 36.32, 39.80 and 39.10 RCW and K.C.C. chapters 4.04, 4.16, 4.18, 12.16, 12.18 and
66 20.62 are hereby waived with reference to any actions or contracts relating to the Norman
67 Bridge 122P. This waiver expires upon completion of this project.

68 SECTION 3. For the reasons set in section 1 of this ordinance, the county council
69 finds as a fact and declares that an emergency exists due to the imminent danger of the
70 Norman Bridge 122P failing, and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate

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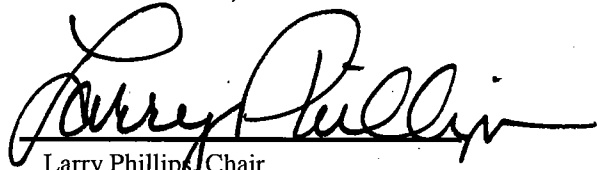
71 preservation of the peace, health, safety and welfare of the public and King County
72 employees.

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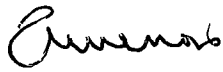
Ordinance 14918 was introduced on 5/10/2004 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 5/24/2004, by the following vote:

Yes: 11 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr.
Pelz, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague
and Mr. Irons
No: 0
Excused: 2 - Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 3 day of June, 2004.


Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL