

**CITY OF CLE ELUM
Kittitas County, Washington**

**CITY OF CLE ELUM
PARK AND RIDE**

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Prepared by



**HLA Project No. 21164E
October 2021**

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This project will construct a park and ride facility with: limited access from Railroad Avenue; approximately 38 parking stalls, including a minimum of 1 handicapped access van space and 1 handicapped access car space; approximately 3 EV charging stations with at least one connection to an accessible stalls; 2+ long-term parking spaces; designated transit vehicle loading/unloading area; bus shelter; bicycle rack; crosswalks from 1 new concrete sidewalk bulb-out; landscaping; stormwater drainage; and signage. BNSF owns the property on which the park and ride will be constructed. The City leases the land from BNSF, and in the lease, parking is specifically identified as a permissible capital improvement project on the property.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project is located in the southwest corner fo the Oakes Avenue and Railroad Avenue intersection within the City of Cle Elum, Section 26, Township 20 North, Range 15 East, in Kittitas County. The location is shown in the attached vicinity map.

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Approximately 0% to 2% cross slope on the site.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), there are two soil types found within the project boundary: Xerofluvents and Patnish-Mippon-Myzel complex. Both types are deep, moderately well drained soils, typically found in flood plains or stream terraces. Patnish-Mippon-Myzel complex is classified by the USDA-NRCS as Prime Farmland. However, this site has been totally committed to urban uses for at least 50 years or more. The project elements involve replacement and upgrades of existing urban infrastructure, which would not impact any existing farmland.

d. *Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.*

There are no surface indications of unstable soils.

e. *Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.*

The total area is approximately 22,500 sq. ft. with typical excavation approximately 1 foot deep. The deepest excavations will be for street light foundations at approximately 10 feet deep. Backfilling for utilities will consist of crushed aggregate for pipe zone bedding and native material for trench backfill. Minor grading for new asphalt parking lot, new sidewalks, and subgrade will have minimal impact.

f. *Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.*

No erosion is anticipated to occur as a result of construction.

g. *About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?*

Approximately 95% of the right-of-way will be covered with impervious surfaces following construction.

h. *Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:*

Potential erosion due to construction activities will be controlled through the implementation of sedimentation and erosion control best management practices.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

a. *What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.*

During construction, minor amounts of dust and exhaust from equipment activity may result in emissions to the air. The completed project has the potential to reduce emissions by providing safer alternative transportation facilities, increasing the transit, pedestrian, and bicycle modal splits, as well as creating an opportunity for personal van- or carpooling.

b. *Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.*

No off-site sources of emissions or odor are anticipated to affect the project.

c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:*

The construction contractor will be required to control dust during construction by watering the project site. The contractor will also be required to clean mud and dust from public roadways as necessary.

3. Water [\[help\]](#)

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) *Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.*

The Yakima River is located approximately 900 feet to the south of the project site.

- 2) *Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.*

No.

- 3) *Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.*

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands.

- 4) *Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.*

No surface water will be withdrawn or diverted as part of this project.

- 5) *Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.*

The project is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

- 6) *Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.*

No waste materials will be discharged to surface waters.

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) *Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.*

No groundwater will be withdrawn for drinking water. If groundwater is encountered during storm drain installation, construction dewatering will occur, but none is anticipated.

- 2) *Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.*

No waste materials will be discharged into the ground.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) *Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.*

All storm water will be collected by surface swales or catch basins and piped to infiltration trenches meeting the *Eastern Washington Storm Water Manual* standards.

2) *Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.*

No waste materials are anticipated to enter ground or surface waters.

3) *Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.*

No.

d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:*

None.

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

a. *Check the types of vegetation found on the site:*

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs

grass

pasture

crop or grain

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

*other types of vegetation: **miscellaneous weeds***

b. *What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?*

Minor amounts of weeds will be replaced with new landscaping.

c. *List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.*

There are no listed endangered or threatened plants that occur within the general project vicinity.

d. *Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:*

The new landscaping will include a variety of species. A nearby project, completed in 2020, included plantings such as Redpointe Maple, Kelsey Dogwood, Black Eyed Susan, and Woods Compact Kinnikinnick. These or similar species may be used in this project.

e. *List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.*

No noxious weeds or invasive species are known to be on or near the project site.

5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

- a. *List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.*

Songbirds

- b. *List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.*

The project occurs in the downtown core of Cle Elum. Several species listed on the threatened or endangered species list (Canada Lynx, Gray Wolf, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Bull Trout) are associated with the forest areas outside the city limits or the Yakima River to the south of I-90 and are not anticipated to be affected by this project.

- c. *Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.*

Washington State is located within the Pacific Flyway migratory route for birds.

- d. *Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:*

Not applicable.

- e. *List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.*

No invasive animal species are known to on or near this site.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#)

- a. *What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.*

New LED street lighting will be operated by electricity.

- b. *Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?*

If so, generally describe.

This project should not affect any solar energy usage by adjacent properties.

- c. *What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?*

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

LED street lights will be used for illumination.

7. **Environmental Health** [\[help\]](#)

- a. *Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.*

A fuel spill may occur as a result of construction activities. However, all best management practices will be employed to ensure spills do not occur. Should a spill occur, Ecology and WSDOT will be notified and Ecology-approved clean-up methodology will be used to clean up the spill as quickly as possible.

- 1) *Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.*

There are no known contaminants at the project site.

- 2) *Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.*

There are no known hazardous chemicals or conditions at the project site.

- 3) *Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.*

None anticipated.

- 4) *Describe special emergency services that might be required.*

Emergency medical aid may be required should an injury occur during construction.

- 5) *Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:*

Contaminated groundwater should not be encountered during construction of these project improvements. Contaminated soils are not anticipated, but if they are discovered, will be reported to the Department of Ecology, tested in compliance with MTCA, and disposed of legally.

b. Noise

- 1) *What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?*

The project is located adjacent to a major industrial corridor and a railroad. Noise from industrial and railroad use will not affect the project.

- 2) *What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.*

Short-term construction noise is anticipated to be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during typical construction activities. If night construction is considered for utility crossings, construction noise may be during night hours for a limited period. Long-term noise will be associated with normal vehicular traffic.

- 3) *Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:*

Construction will typically be restricted to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Night construction may occur for utility crossings to minimize day-time disruptions to vehicular traffic along Oakes Avenue or Railroad Avenue.

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

- a. *What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.*

The current use of the property is municipal parking. Land use on Railroad Avenue is primarily industrial and the BNSF Railroad is located directly to the south of the property. Construction is not anticipated to affect the operating hours of industries or the railroad. Land use will not be affected.

b. *Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?*

This site has been entirely dedicated to urban uses for 50 years or more. No current land use will be converted to other uses as a result of this project.

1) *Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:*

No working farm or forest land business operations are anticipated to be affected by this project.

c. *Describe any structures on the site.*

There are no structures located within the project right-of-way.

d. *Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?*

No structures will be demolished.

e. *What is the current zoning classification of the site?*

The project lies within the City of Cle Elum and the City of Cle Elum Urban Growth Area. The current zoning of the site is Public Lands. BNSF owns the land, but the City of Cle Elum leases the property for parking.

f. *What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?*

The current comprehensive plan designation of the site is public facilities.

g. *If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?*

Not applicable.

h. *Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.*

No part of the site has been classified as a critical area by the City of Cle Elum or Kittitas County.

i. *Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?*

The park and ride is estimated to have significant carpool and transit usage at approximately 5,400 vehicle trips per year.

j. *Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?*

This project will not permanently displace any residents or workers. During construction operations, there will be temporary impacts to street usage and parking areas. Construction activities will require customers, business owners, and residents within the project limits to park elsewhere at times throughout the project duration. All parking and street impacts will be kept to a minimum as necessary for construction of the project.

k. *Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:*

Not applicable.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:*
The proposed capital improvement is specifically identified as an acceptable use in the City's lease with BNSF.

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:*
Not applicable.

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*
No housing will be provided.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*
No housing will be eliminated.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:*
Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?*
Streetlights will be installed within the project limits. Pole heights will be less than or equal to the current street light poles and/or utility poles, which is approximately 32'.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?*
New landscaping will include trees that potentially reduce visibility of storefronts on the opposite side of Railroad Avenue. The trees will be selected to comply with best practices in street landscaping and will be placed and maintained so as not to create safety hazards.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:*
This project will be located near the recent Downtown Revitalization project, located one block to the north. Elements of the aesthetic theme developed for the typical downtown corridor as part of the Downtown Revitalization project may be used for the park and ride, including: wide, patterned sidewalks, street trees and shrubs, bike racks, benches, and trash receptacles.

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?*
LED streetlights will produce light during the morning, evening, and night.

- b. *Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?*
Street lighting will improve safety at the existing site for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians by increasing visibility. LED technology will be used to reduce interference with the night sky.
- c. *What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?*
There are no off-site sources of light or glare that will affect this project.
- d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:*
The new street lights will use LED technology, producing minimal light pollution.

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

- a. *What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?*
Wye Park is located one block (approximately 500 feet) to the west of the project.
- b. *Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.*
No existing recreational uses will be displaced.
- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:*
Not applicable.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

- a. *Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.*
There are no currently listed nor eligible sites near the project.
- b. *Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.*
A Cultural Resource Survey was completed for the Downtown Revitalization project one block to the north of the project. Nothing of historic significance is anticipated to be discovered on this project site.
- c. *Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.*
An APE letter will be delivered to the local tribe and Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation for an open comment period. The City's Historic Preservation Commission consults with local landowners and organizations to identify historic properties or buildings.

- d. *Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.*
Not applicable.

14. Transportation [\[help\]](#)

- a. *Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.*
See attached vicinity map.
- b. *Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?*
The park and ride will serve as the new transit stop for the two services that operate within the City of Cle Elum: Kittitas County Commuter bus program, operated by HopeSource, and the Bellair Airporter Shuttle that operates between Yakima and Seattle.
- c. *How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?*
This project will replace the existing gravel parking lot with approximately 38 vehicle parking spaces and a dedicated transit stop.
- d. *Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).*
This project improves the intersection of Oakes Avenue and Railroad Avenue as described in Section A. Background, Question 11.
- e. *Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.*
A rail line is located approximately 50 feet to the south of the project. No impacts to the railroad are anticipated.
- f. *How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?*
The vehicle trips per day are estimated at approximately 70, which includes scheduled transit stops and passenger vehicles. As this is a Park and Ride, no freight traffic is anticipated at this facility.

A Vehicle Trip and Vehicle Miles Traveled Estimation was completed as part of the grant application process for this facility, which estimated the anticipated reduction in trips and vehicles miles due to the construction of a park and ride. The estimated trips to and from the park and ride were calculated as part of that document, which is based on assumptions from the data obtained from Kittitas County, the QUADCO Regional Transportation Plan, the City of Cle Elum Comprehensive Plan, and the US Census, as well as transit data directly from HopeSource and the Bellair Airporter Shuttle.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No interference is anticipated with the movement of agricultural or forest products beyond temporary traffic control measures discussed below. The design of the permanent measures will account for the movement of freight along Railroad Avenue.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Temporary measures include providing proper signage and traffic control during construction. Permanent measures include constructing bulbouts which have been shown to reduce vehicle through- and turning speeds.

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No additional or increased needs for public services will be generated by this project.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable.

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: _____

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

An irrigation system will be constructed for the landscape planters, to be owned and operated by the City of Cle Elum.

C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee: BENJAMIN A. ANNEN

Position and Agency/Organization: CONTRACT CITY ENGINEER, HLA

Date Submitted: 10-12-21