



King County

Local Services

How can we serve you?



King County

Department of Local Services

Road Services Division

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King County

Local Services



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Connecting Communities to a Broader Regional Road Network

Unincorporated King County Roads

- **Reliable transportation networks need unified regional support**
- **Unincorporated King County Network:**
 - ~1500 miles of unincorporated county roads
 - 188 bridges
 - 400+ employees
 - 6 regional maintenance facilities
- **1 million vehicle** trips a day

If the road miles of unincorporated King County were laid end-to-end they would stretch from Mexico to the Canadian border and beyond.



King County Road Network Challenges

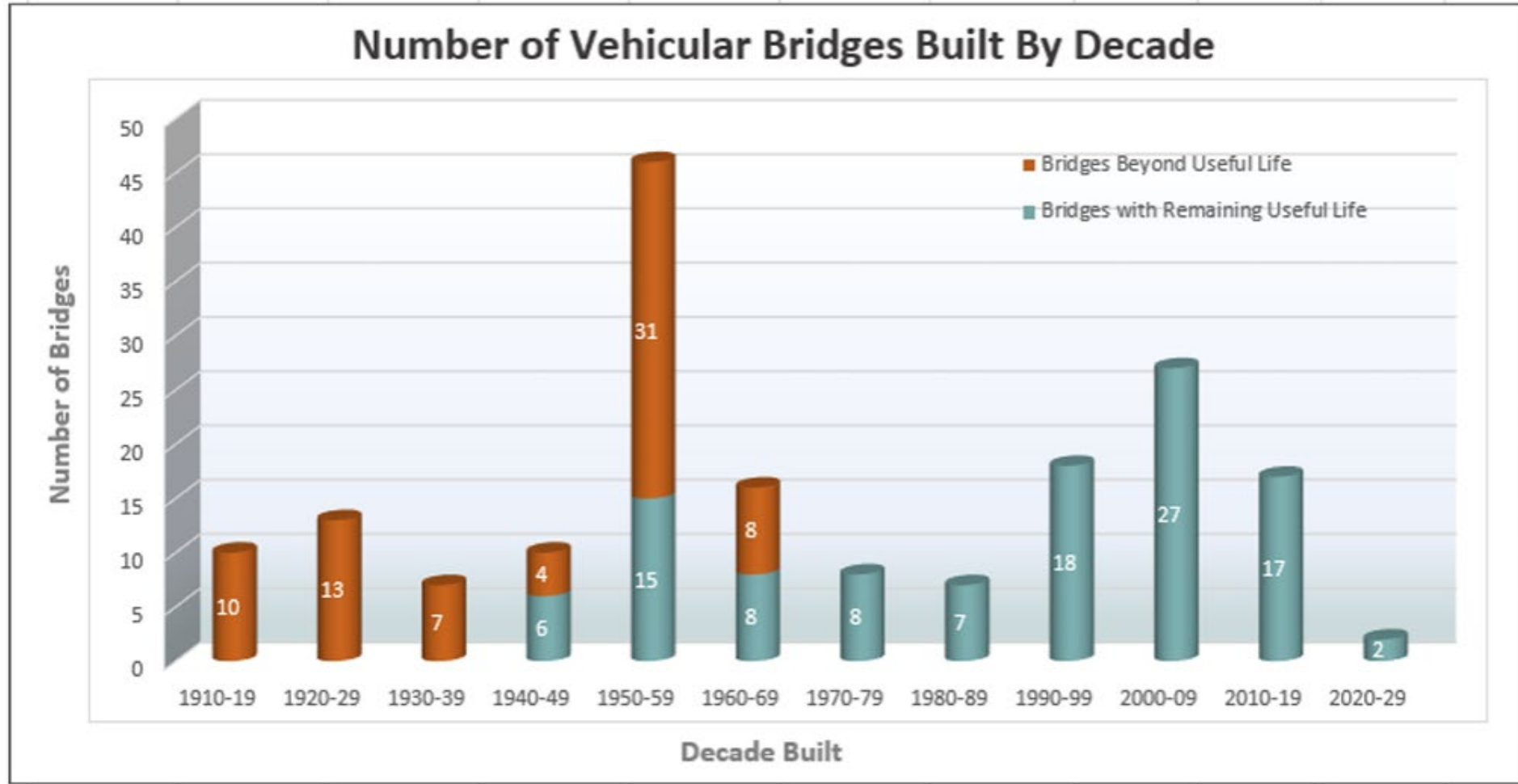
Transportation needs continue to greatly out pace available resources for a road and bridge system in decline.



- **Climate impacts** – flooding, slides, colder and hotter temperatures
- **Increased demand** – growth in surrounding cities traveling between cities and counties
- **System in decline** – an inability to adequately invest in infrastructure asset management, have resulted in a system of roads, bridges, and buildings in decline and at risk of failure
- **Regulatory changes** – 6ppd-q, fish passable culverts, Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan
- **Cost escalation** - construction costs are rising significantly, driven by supply chain issues, labor shortages, and materials costs.
- Nearly **\$20 billion in infrastructure needs** across the unincorporated King County road network documented in the Transportation Needs Report (2020).



Aging Bridges in Decline



Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan

Sidewalks



335 miles

Curb Ramps



5,200+

Crosswalks



2,600+

Pushbuttons



436

Total Estimated Need: \$551 million
Annual Funding Available¹: \$150,000

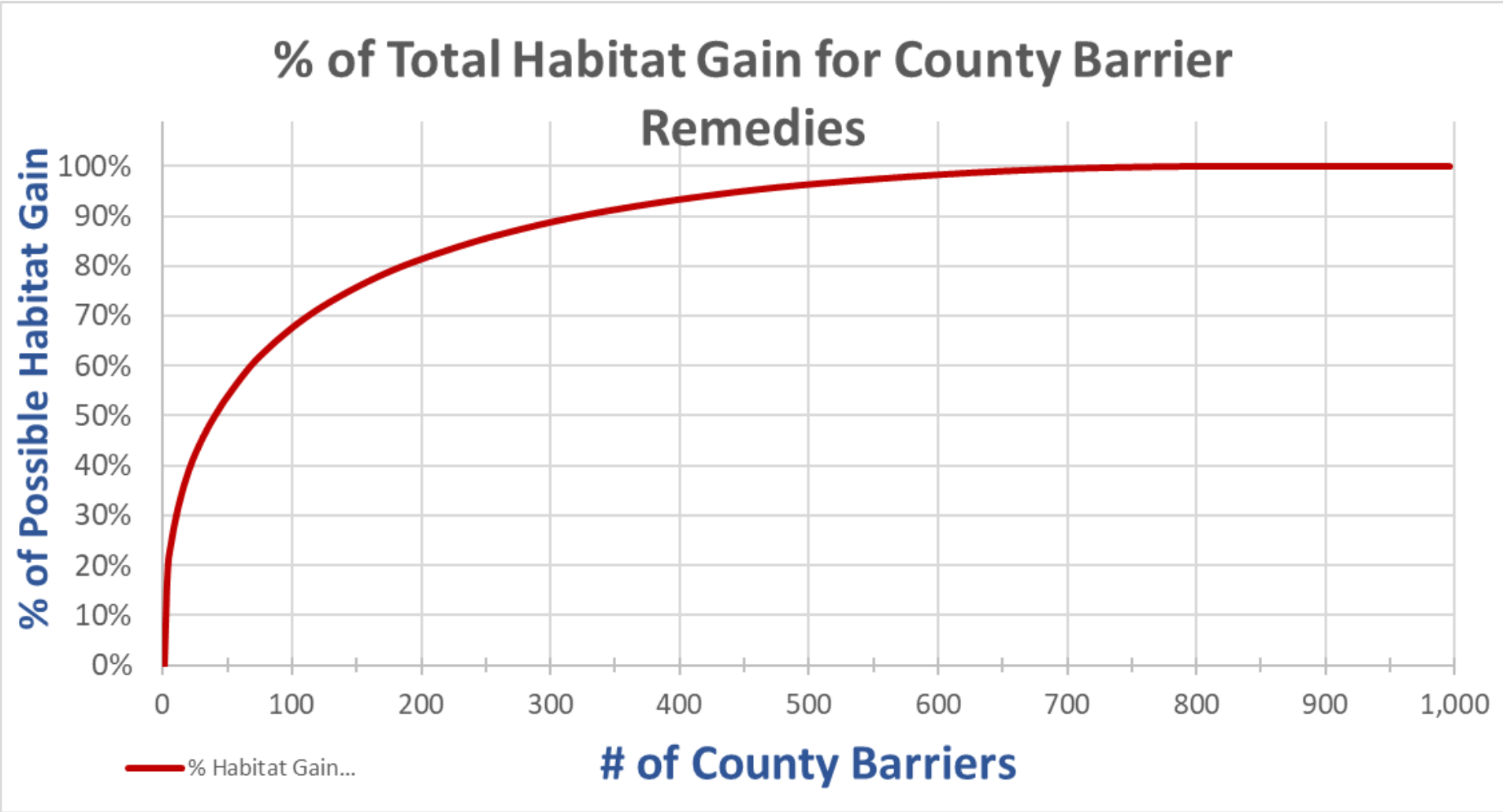
1. Roads typically completes \$100,000 - \$200,000 of ADA improvements annually as incidental elements of larger capital projects and maintenance programs. These improvements may address low, medium, or high priority barriers based on the location of the larger project or program and are not included in the Annual Funding amount above.

Removing Barriers to High-Quality Salmon Habitat



King County replaced two worn out, narrow pipes under SE 432nd Street with a new box culvert. Another small pipe that is parallel to SE 432nd Street was also replaced with a larger box culvert. The new culverts are located beneath and alongside SE 432nd Street between the Enumclaw-Foothill Trail and 278th Avenue SE, northeast of Enumclaw, WA.

Removing Barriers to High-Quality Salmon Habitat



King County Road Funding Challenge

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Impact of the Growth Management Act

- Small tax base relative to the size and age of our unincorporated road network system.
- Annexations consistent with GMA resulted in disproportional annexation of tax base compared to transportation assets.

Washington's Tax Structure

- Washington's tax system limits Roads' ability to leverage revenue sources to resolve its funding crisis.
- Property tax growth is capped at 1%.
- Gas tax revenues are flat.



Crews plan the next steps of the Redmond Ridge roundabout at NE Alder Crest Dr.



Actions Taken to Address Shortfall



40% REDUCTION
OF STAFF



REDUCTION OF
SERVICES



NEW FINANCIAL
POLICIES



STRATEGIC PLAN
AND REGIONAL TASK
FORCE



Impact to Regional Customers

The Few Are Paying for the Many

- Limited funding restricts investment to life safety and basic infrastructure maintenance.
- Unfunded needs, regional growth, and aging infrastructure are driving network decline.
- Emergency response and readiness at risk.

Activities at risk

- Snow and ice response
- Storm washout repair
- Bridge maintenance and replacement
- Pavement repairs
- Sign & signal maintenance
- Drainage pipe maintenance



Limited Tools, Interconnected Responsibilities

Empowering Counties to Provide Essential Services with Sustainable Revenue Tools

County Revenue Mechanisms and Funding Sources Currently Authorized by the State

- Voter approved levy lid lift
- Transportation Benefit District
- Competitive grants


Opportunities for More Sustainable Revenue Tools

- 1% cap on property tax
- Expanded county funding options
- Consider the entire transportation network, including county roads, when allocating revenue



Questions?

Contact Us!

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