

AURORA

CORRIDOR

SHORELINE



WSDOT speaks on Aurora Corridor

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recently clarified its position on a variety of aspects of Shoreline's Aurora Corridor Project. Following are a few excerpts from its letter. For a full copy of the letter, please call Joyce Nichols at (206) 546-0779.

- WSDOT is a partner with the City on this project. We fully support the project's goals of improving safety and traffic flow along this important state highway. We are also committed to ensuring that the City's environmental process and design are consistent with current standards.

- In fact, (Aurora in Shoreline) is one of the most hazardous stretches of urban arterial highway within the state... In the last five-year period that the corridor was reviewed, 42 pedestrian-vehicle accidents occurred within Shoreline. The percentage of these that were fatal or disabling was over twice the statewide average.

- U-turns are not unsafe if properly designed. WSDOT is working closely with City staff to ensure that this is the case. We are confident that the safety benefits of implementing access control far outweigh any additional conflicts at intersections.

- A 4-foot painted median may be an appropriate application for a low volume, high-speed facility with minimal ac-

cess points. It is not appropriate for Aurora Avenue North through Shoreline. WSDOT will require raised channelization along this segment of highway because of high traffic volumes, large numbers of driveways, and accident history.

- Many successful urban roadway designs include street trees. WSDOT is working closely with a number of cities (including Shoreline) to ensure standards are current and that urban roadway design meets aesthetic and safety objectives. It is our understanding that the City is not proposing to plant large trees in the center median. The City is aware of planter options currently allowed by WSDOT, many of which are less than 32" tall. WSDOT supports the aesthetic benefits of landscaping within this urban roadway corridor, and is committed to implementing appropriate landscape designs.

- WSDOT and the City are working closely to determine effective locations for a limited number of new traffic signals. Added enhancements include capacity improvements at intersections and connection of all the corridor signals so they can efficiently operate as one system. The benefits will be visible to both motorists driving from one end of the corridor to the other, as well as community members that may be crossing Aurora Avenue North to and from their residence. Signals also benefit traffic turning from Aurora to local businesses.

**For more information
about Shoreline's
Aurora Corridor
Project, please call
Joyce Nichols at
(206) 546-0779.**