

AURORA

CORRIDOR

SHORELINE



Why BAT lanes make a difference

Shoreline's goals for redesigning Aurora Ave. N. are to improve safety, traffic flow and economic development aesthetics of the three-mile corridor. The design concept calls for sidewalks, medians, coordinated traffic signals, landscaping, underground utilities and improved street lighting along with two through lanes and a BAT lane in each direction. But what is a BAT lane?

BAT stands for Business Access and Transit and refers to the outside lane designated specifically for use by buses as well as vehicles entering and exiting businesses. These lanes are also used for right turns at intersections. BAT lanes are part of roadway design throughout the Puget Sound area — Highway 99 in Snohomish County and SeaTac are just two places BAT lanes can be found.

The reason BAT lanes are a popular roadway feature is because they improve traffic flow and make riding

buses easier and more attractive. With a BAT lane, traffic in the through lanes is not interrupted by buses stopping or pulling into and out of the traffic flow. The BAT lanes also allow vehicles a place to slow down as they make right turns into businesses and accelerate to get back into traffic. This makes customer access safer and keeps traffic moving.

The BAT lane also keeps buses moving. One of the old ways to accommodate buses was to have pull outs. On streets with heavy traffic, pull outs delay bus service and interrupt the traffic flow as the bus returns to the travel lane. Quicker bus service attracts more riders which in turn improves traffic flow.

Since Aurora is a commercial corridor, BAT lanes are preferred over HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes to provide better business access which HOV lanes actually discourage.

For more information
about Shoreline's
Aurora Corridor
Project, please call
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