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info?

AURORA CORRIDOR SHORELINE



June 2001

Give us a call

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Aurora Corridor Project Manager
(206) 546-6795

Write us a letter

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Send an e-mail

atonella@ci.shoreline.wa.us

Pick up a fact sheet

City Hall Annex
1110 North 175th Street, Suite 107
Shoreline, WA 98133

Fact sheets available

Project benefits
Project funding
Cultural resources
Pedestrian safety and access benefits
Traffic improvements
Median width
Street trees and landscaping
Comparing SR-99: City of Shoreline vs. Snohomish County
Right-of-way acquisition
Fact sheets on the benefits of urban landscaping provided by the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture are also available.

Korean translation

If you or someone you know would like a Korean translation of this newsletter, please call Justin D. Lee at (206) 546-2799.

한국어 설명이 필요
하시면 (206) 546-2799 으로 전화
주십시오.

Contact Us

If you would like to arrange a presentation about the Aurora project, give us a call.

Due to its central location, Aurora Avenue represents the City not only to those who drive through and patronize local businesses, but to all those who live and work in Shoreline.

Unfortunately, Shoreline's three-mile section of Aurora is one of the most dangerous roads in Washington. This is why planned improvements for the Aurora corridor are such a focus for the City of Shoreline.

"At a recent Council of Neighborhoods meeting I attended, nearly everyone mentioned that the improvements to Aurora are necessary and long-awaited," said Shoreline's new City Manager, Steve Burkett. "Since these planned improvements will benefit the whole community, it is no surprise that the City Council has made this project a priority."

The goal of the Aurora Corridor project is to improve safety for pedestrians and motorists, enhance the use of alternate modes of transportation and improve the image of the street while supporting existing and future businesses and preserving the neighborhood character. This newsletter is one in a series that

the City of Shoreline will be sending to keep you updated on the status and progress of the Aurora Corridor project.

Design of the first phase of the Aurora Corridor project — from North 145th St. to North 165th St. — is well underway. As final design begins, the City of Shoreline invites the community to an open house to review the project's progress and learn more about the next steps. The **open house** is set for Thursday, June 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Meridian Park Elementary School, 17077 Meridian Ave. N.

The information fair atmosphere of the open house will feature displays on the alignment of the roadway, medians and sidewalks on Aurora between 145th and 165th; a life-size model of the proposed streetscape; landscape and lighting options; and an outline of the environmental process and anticipated environmental impacts. The open house will also present an update on the progress the City is making in mitigating property owner concerns along the first phase section of Aurora.

Last month, the City of Shoreline received approval from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the **"Channelization Plan"** for the first phase of the Aurora Corridor project. The Channelization Plan details the width of the roadway, medians and sidewalks for the project. This plan needed to be approved by WSDOT before final design could begin.

The proposed corridor plan includes three lanes running in each direction and a landscaped median with left- and U-turn pockets. One lane in each direction will be designated specifically for business access and buses. Additional upgrades include

continued

we're moving
forward

Open House
Thursday, June 14
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Meridian Park
Elementary School

Those who attend the June 14 open house will have the chance to experience the sidewalk design with the help of the life-size model featured at last November's open house.



Aurora Corridor Project
17544 Midvale Avenue North
Shoreline, WA 98133

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moving forward *continued*

marked pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, new traffic signals, curbs and gutters. These features will meet the growing need for improved traffic flow within Shoreline and will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

The City of Shoreline also completed the first step in the **environmental process** for Aurora's first phase when it submitted National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) forms to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) last month. Since the first phase of the Aurora project is not expected to have significant environmental impacts,

the City has submitted the forms for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). FHWA will review the forms over the coming weeks and may require more information from the City before making a final determination. Copies of the submitted CE forms are available for review at City Hall in the City Clerk's Office, Richmond Beach Library, Shoreline Library and both Neighborhood Police Centers.

Although the **right-of-way acquisition process** for the first phase won't begin until the environmental process is complete, the project team will prepare by assessing impacts to properties and

researching land values. This process will be guided by the *Right-of-Way Policies and Procedures Manual* which was approved by the City Council in January following a public comment period. This document outlines the negotiation process for purchasing land along the street edge to fit the roadway improvements. It addresses the City's commitment to negotiating compensation, as well as the impacts of construction on properties along the corridor. It also addresses incentives for displaced businesses so that they can remain in Shoreline, although no businesses will be displaced in the first phase of the project.

In the coming months, the project team will continue to work on refining the options for the **aesthetic elements** of the Aurora improvements such as landscaping, street lighting, bus shelters, special paving materials and public art opportunities. These elements will be consistent for the entire project.

In November 2000, over 150 residents attending a community open house focusing on landscaping and urban design learned more about these elements. One example showed how landscaping along sidewalks not only creates a buffer zone between traffic and

water. Those attending were also able to experience the improvements first hand with the life-size model of the proposed sidewalk design. This model will also be featured at the June 14 open house.

Environmental analysis of the **next two phases** of the Aurora project — from North 165 St. to North 205th St. — will begin in the coming months. Although significant environmental impacts are also not expected for the next two phases, the City of Shoreline is planning on submitting an Environmental Assessment (EA) under NEPA. This document will analyze the environmental impacts of the improvements and will help determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement is required. Future issues of this newsletter will let you know how you can be involved in the environmental process once it begins.

If you have **questions** about any aspect of the Aurora Corridor project or would like to schedule a presentation about the project for your community group, please call Aurora Corridor Project Manager Anne Tonella-Howe at (206) 546-6795.

Aurora Corridor Planning Process

Fall 2000	Community open house on November 30
Winter 2001	Interviews with property owners begin and continue through summer 2001
Spring 2001	Preliminary design and environmental analysis Phase one preliminary design and environmental analysis complete
Summer 2001	Second community open house on June 14 Phase one final design begins
Fall 2001	Phase two and three environmental analysis begins

Phase One: N. 145th St. to 165th St.
Phase Two: N. 165th St. to N. 185th St.
Phase Three: N. 185th St. to N. 205th St.

Designing solutions

Property owners play key role in design

As part of the design process, the City of Shoreline will be interviewing each property and business owner within the three-mile project corridor to better understand their concerns, and to create the best improvements possible. The interview process is being conducted in phases to reflect the phases of design and construction. Project team members have already contacted business and property owners between North 145th and 165th Streets and are working with them to find solutions for their concerns. Below is an aerial view of the first phase of the project. Sample interview comments from business owners are included along with responses from the project team. If you have any questions about this process or about the project in general, contact Aurora Corridor Project Manager Anne Tonella-Howe at (206) 546-6795.



CARE PLUS
The owner expressed concern over losing parking in front of the building. The project team is working on improving wheelchair access between the north end parking and the building.

ALLSTATE, PHO HOA and U-GRILL
The owner requested two driveways and expressed concern about loss of business. The project team is including two driveways in the design to improve access to and from these sites.

FOUR SEASONS, SHAY'S and SHORELINE NAILS
The owner expressed concern over the potential loss of part of their parking lot. The project team is working on designing the alignment to minimize impacts to parking.

DAN'S PRODUCE
The owner was concerned about access for semi-truck deliveries, wanted to maintain the two driveways for the two businesses on this site and suggested a winter construction period to coincide with a slow business period. The project team is looking into these requests and will explore all options to minimize construction impacts. A construction schedule, including an opportunity to phase construction, will be developed during the final design and discussed with the community at a future open house.

SHURGARD
The owners are concerned that the proposed design will result in a steep access to their property which will affect circulation on the site. The project team is working on improving access and minimizing the steep driveway approach in the design, and will continue to work with the property owners to modify circulation.

THE BRAKE SHOP
The owner expressed concern over loss of parking on west side of the building. The project team is looking into ways of addressing loss of parking on this site.

The comments noted on this map are a sample of discussions held at meetings between property owners and project team members and solutions the project team is exploring or has already included in the design.

GOLDIE'S and MULTITRONICS
The owners of both properties were concerned about the loss of parking on the west side of Multitronics. They also recognized the need for improvements at the intersection of Aurora Ave. and N. 152nd St. The design includes a new traffic signal at the intersection of 152nd that will help traffic circulation, access and safety. The project team is exploring the possibility of a driveway on 152nd to provide access to both properties.

SHORELINE FAMILY AUTO
The owners were concerned about the duration of construction and how it will impact access to this site. The project team has included in the design two driveways — one for each lot — to help with access and site circulation. As with all businesses, the City will work with property owners to provide signage so patrons will know businesses are open during construction.

VON SQUARE
This site will be minimally impacted, however the owner wants to talk with the City about possibly purchasing unused rights-of-way after construction. The City will consider this request once it has had the opportunity to assess the needs of the project.