
Council Meeting Date: December 10, 2001

Agenda Item: 7(I)

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: North 205 th Street Traffic Signal Ownership Transfer
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Jesus Sanchez, Public Works Operations Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT: As discussed with the Council on December 3, 2001, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) would like to transfer ownership and responsibility for two traffic signals on North 205th Street to the City of Shoreline. One signal is located at the intersection of Aurora Avenue North and the other signal is at the Home Depot entrance. In return for assuming responsibility for these two signals, King County/Metro and WSDOT have agreed to fund an upgrade of the signals to current King County Traffic standards. This will include installing interconnect system equipment to tie the intersections to the Aurora Corridor system. Based upon the Council's direction on December 3rd, the City will sign an agreement to transfer to the City of Shoreline ownership of two traffic signals on North 205th Street.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED: Staff has analyzed the following alternatives to address this issue:

1. Continue to have WSDOT retain maintenance responsibility for these two signals.
2. Sign an agreement to transfer ownership of the two signals from WSDOT to the City of Shoreline (Recommended).

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

1. If WSDOT continued maintenance responsibilities of the two signals, there would be no financial impact on the City of Shoreline.
2. If ownership of the two signals were transferred to the City of Shoreline, the estimated cost for maintaining both signals will be approximately \$7,800 per year. The additional maintenance costs for these two intersections can be absorbed within the 2002 Street Operations budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with WSDOT transferring ownership to the City of Shoreline of two traffic signals located on North 205th Street at the intersections of Aurora Avenue North and at the Home Depot entrance.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney 

INTRODUCTION

The Public Works Department has been negotiating with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and others to resolve problems and issues associated with the City of Shoreline's North and South boundaries. As part of these negotiations, WSDOT would like to transfer ownership of and responsibility for two traffic signals on the North boundary. The signals are located on North 205th Street at the intersections of Aurora Avenue North and at the Home Depot entrance. Staff is recommending that Council authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with WSDOT transferring ownership of the two traffic signals to the City of Shoreline.

BACKGROUND

When the City of Shoreline incorporated, its jurisdictional boundary on the south was set at the north edge of the right-of-way on Northeast/North 145th Street. The northern city limit was set at the south edge of Northeast/North/Northwest 205th Street right-of-way because of a 1989 law. Prior to 1989, annexations typically included all rights-of-way to the centerline of the boundary road, with the result being that bordering municipalities shared maintenance and emergency response up to the roadway centerline, and counties were relieved of responsibility. Because of the 1989 law, half of the rights-of-way of North 205th Street and North 145th Street were part of unincorporated King County, and the other half part of the bordering cities, consisting of Shoreline, Edmonds and Seattle.

On December 2, 1996, Kirk McKinley City of Shoreline Transportation Planner, presented a staff report to Council describing the issues, options and costs associated with this ownership transfer. At that time, Council passed a motion to take control of both streets (northern and southern boundaries) as long as it fit within the budget. No additional progress was made to resolve this issue until late 1999, when Public Works took the lead to resolve it. Using the 1996 Council motion as a guideline, Public Works has been negotiating with WSDOT, the City of Seattle, King County and the City of Edmonds to reach an agreement.

As part of these discussions, WSDOT has stated a desire to relinquish ownership and control of two traffic signals on the North boundary. Public Works feels that it is in the best interest of the City to assume ownership and responsibility for these two traffic signals.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

1. WSDOT continues ownership and maintenance responsibility for these two signals. WSDOT has been working to relieve itself of responsibility for State Highways within the boundaries of cities with a population over 25,000. Their goal is to reduce their responsibility to the actual pavement surface and facilities within the designated "limited access" area. As such, WSDOT has no real vested interest in the signals at North 205th Street and Aurora Avenue North and at the Home Depot entrance, and has no plans for upgrading these signals.

Under this option of WSDOT retention of ownership there would be no financial impact to the City.

2. Sign an agreement to transfer ownership of the two signals from WSDOT to the City of Shoreline.

The traffic signal on North 205th Street at Aurora Avenue North has several equipment and operational problems. The primary problem is that the signal equipment is incompatible with the other traffic signal equipment along the Aurora Corridor that is being maintained by King County Traffic for the City of Shoreline. Because of the compatibility problem, this intersection cannot be connected to the Aurora Corridor interconnect system. As a condition to transfer of responsibility for these two intersections, the City of Shoreline would be able to have the equipment upgraded and link the intersections to the existing Aurora Corridor interconnect system at no cost to the City. King County/Metro has some vested interest, that of seeing the intersection become part of the Aurora Corridor interconnect system, and has offered \$20,000 in grant funds to make this happen. WSDOT has agreed to fund the remaining costs associated with bringing these two signals up to current King County Traffic standards, if the City of Shoreline will take over ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

The average cost per year for maintaining City of Shoreline traffic signal equipment at one signalized intersection is \$6,150. This average cost is high due to the fact that we have a number of traffic signals that are very old and require a high level of maintenance. The signal equipment at North 205th Street and the Home Depot entrance is relatively new and requires a lower level of maintenance. Following the planned upgrades to the intersection of Aurora Avenue North at North 205th Street, this equipment will also require a low level of maintenance. It is estimated that the cost for maintaining both signals will be approximately \$7,800 per year. The additional maintenance costs for these two intersections can be absorbed within the 2002 Street Operations budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Alternative 2, and that the Council authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with WSDOT transferring ownership to the City of Shoreline of two traffic signals located on North 205th Street at the intersections of Aurora Avenue North, and at the Home Depot entrance.