

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**  
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

**AGENDA TITLE:** Interurban Trail North Central Section Design Update  
**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works Department  
**PRESENTED BY:** Kirk McKinley, Aurora Corridor & Interurban Trail Project Manager  
Dave Buchan, Capital Projects Manager

**PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:**

The purpose of this staff report is to brief the Council on the status of the project and solicit Council opinions regarding potential additive elements to the project that will enhance the trail as an important feature of the City's central corridor.

The North Central segment of the Interurban Trail (N 175<sup>th</sup> Street to N 192<sup>nd</sup> Street) is roughly 4500 lineal feet in length. Three private entities are currently developing property adjacent to the trail. As a result of City-required frontage improvements for these private projects, roughly half of this length the Interurban Trail will be built by these private developments to City of Shoreline standards. This would include over 800 feet built by the Gateway Plaza project, 421 feet built by Walgreens Pharmacy and over 900 feet built by Sky Nursery as a part of Sky's redevelopment efforts.

The North Central segment of the trail is rapidly moving toward final design and staff is working to have plans and specifications ready for bid in mid-March of 2006. The recent allocation of Federal SAFETEA-LU funding for the Aurora Corridor and Interurban Trail Pedestrian Bridge projects presents the City with an opportunity to shift City Roads Capital funding to the North Central Segment of the Interurban Trail. This would allow the City to move forward now with selected enhancements to the North Central segment that had previously been considered as only future possibilities. At your January 17, 2006 Workshop, staff will review these enhancement options in greater detail with renderings, sketches and photographs of similar design treatments for your consideration.

These enhancements could include:

Pedestrian lighting from N 175 <sup>th</sup> to N 185 <sup>th</sup> Streets.....	\$372,500
(cost includes electrical infrastructure)	
Trellis lighting at N 185 <sup>th</sup> Street and Aurora Avenue.....	\$29,500
(cost includes infrastructure)	
Tivoli lighting at N 178 <sup>th</sup> Street.....	\$44,000
(cost includes infrastructure)	
Midvale pedestrian lighting from N 185 <sup>th</sup> to N 192 <sup>nd</sup> Streets.....	\$160,000
(cost includes electrical infrastructure)	

20-stall parking lot at N 178 <sup>th</sup> Street and Midvale Avenue.....	\$76,000
(cost includes lot lighting)	
New sidewalk on east side of Midvale Avenue from N 185 <sup>th</sup> Street to N 186 <sup>th</sup> Street	\$31,000
Safety, maintenance and user enhancements along entire trail.....	\$150,000
<b>Total cost of Optional Additive Elements</b>	<b>\$863,000</b>

If additive elements are selected to be included in the North Central project, these items need to be carried through the full design process and integrated into the bid documents for the project. The process to complete plans and specifications for these new elements will take a few weeks to accomplish. With Council's direction staff will incorporate any selected items as additive elements in bid documents for the project. By having these items as separate additive bid items, Council will have the ability to keep or eliminate bid items depending on bid costs prior to the award of a construction contract for the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** The North Central segment of the Interurban Trail project is identified in the 2006 - 2011 Capital Improvement Program with a project budget of \$2,430,000. The following provides a breakdown of current project funding:

Grant Source	Amount
King County Parks Grant	\$129,533
Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)	\$1,212,239
Partner Contributions	\$200,000
Roads Capital Fund	\$888,228
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,430,000</b>

The recent allocation of new SAFETEA-LU funding to the Aurora Corridor Project and the Interurban Trail Pedestrian and Bicycle Crossing Project provides the City with the opportunity to reallocate a portion of the Roads Capital funding to add selected amenities to improve the impact of the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail for the benefit of Shoreline residents.

By way of background, Council awarded the Interurban Trail Pedestrian Bridge contract to Gary Merlino Construction Company on June 6, 2005. In order to award the two proposed additives for the Pedestrian Bridge project, Council approved an additional \$1.3 million in Roads Capital Fund revenues to fund the Pedestrian Bridge project additives. This occurred with the understanding that if SAFETEA-LU money was granted to the City as anticipated, the Roads Capital Fund revenues would be unencumbered from the Pedestrian Bridge project. It was also anticipated that there would be additional funds for upgrades to the trail in other locations. The recent Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) allocation of \$1,368,755 in SAFETEA-LU funding now provides the City with the opportunity to allocate Roads Capital Fund revenues to add selected amenities as described above to the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff feels that the safety and aesthetic benefits realized from implementing these proposed additive elements will make a significant statement about the future of our community. This segment of the trail will be a major visual focal point for Shoreline. Staff is seeking direction from Council on which of any of the above additive elements they are interested in pursuing. Selected items will then be carried through detailed design and included in the bid documents as additive elements. Staff will then come back to Council with bid prices for the selected additives for Council action. It is anticipated that the contract award resolution would include a budget amendment to reallocate the necessary Roads Capital Funds to implement these improvements.

Approved By:      City Manager RS City Attorney \_\_\_\_

## **INTRODUCTION**

Completion of the Interurban Trail has been identified as Goal #2 of the Council's 2005-2006 Work Plan for the City of Shoreline. The North Central segment of the Interurban Trail is the last remaining segment of the Interurban Trail to be developed in Shoreline. This segment spans from N 175<sup>th</sup> Street to N 192<sup>nd</sup> Street. The portion of the North Central segment on Aurora Avenue N from N 175<sup>th</sup> Street to N 185<sup>th</sup> Street has long been seen as the figurative "heart of Shoreline." The development of the Interurban Trail adjacent to Aurora Avenue provides the City with the first real opportunity to create the urban character and sense of place that is important in creating a strong statement about the future appearance of our City.

While staff has always viewed lighting and other amenities along the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail as important to the long-term success of the project, the cost to create these improvements has been out of reach given the current project budget.

With the City's option to reprogram City of Shoreline Roads Capital funding from the Aurora Corridor and Pedestrian Bridge projects to the North Central segment of the Trail, the City now has the opportunity to build into the North Central project the infrastructure necessary to move ahead with partial or full implementation of lighting and other amenities that will dramatically improve the character and appearance of this segment of the Interurban Trail.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Council was last briefed on the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail in May of 2005. At that time, Council concurred with staff recommendation that the trail should run on the east side of Sky Nursery, locating the trail on the west side of Midvale Avenue N. This alignment was chosen over placing the trail along the Seattle City Light right-of-way (located on the west side of Sky Nursery) in order to maximize pedestrian safety. Design concepts presented to the Council in May reinforced the desire to create a quality urban space that can be seen as a gathering space in the heart of the City. Specifically, the trail surfacing has been shown to be in concrete from N 175<sup>th</sup> Street to N 185<sup>th</sup> Street with scoring patterns that suggest a historical nod to the old Interurban Trolley. The design features areas of well-developed landscaping and trees to offer seasonal color and interest. In the area near N 178<sup>th</sup> Street where there is land to eventually create a new public gathering space, the trail represents the first step in creating this public gathering place.

Since the May briefing to Council, staff and the consultant team have been preparing detailed drawings in preparation for bidding the North Central segment. Staff worked closely with SGA Corporation in the construction of the first section of the trail – that area from N 183<sup>rd</sup> Street to N 185<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to the new Gateway Plaza development. Council also authorized and directed staff to provide assistance to businesses located in the Seattle City Light right-of-way. To that end, staff has contacted affected businesses numerous times with an offer of support services for finding new business locations or contacts with private agencies that can assist with a variety of business enhancement services, such as relocation planning and financing.

In addition to meeting with businesses, staff has met on multiple occasions with residents along Midvale Avenue N from N 185<sup>th</sup> Street to N 190<sup>th</sup> Street to work through the details of trail routing along their street.

## DISCUSSION

Staff recommends that the Council consider adding any or all of the following improvements to the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail:

### 1. **Lighting improvements:**

Pedestrian-level lighting and special effect lighting are important improvements to create a festive atmosphere, a sense of place, and a safer pedestrian environment. For the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail, staff is recommending the following specific lighting enhancements:

a. Pedestrian-level trail lighting from N 175<sup>th</sup> Street to N 185<sup>th</sup> Street:

Provide pedestrian-height light fixtures along the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail to provide for safer travel and to help create a special ambience in the heart of Shoreline. The estimated cost to provide both fixtures and electrical infrastructure along the full 2900 lineal feet from N 175<sup>th</sup> Street to N 185<sup>th</sup> Street is \$372,500.

b. Trellis lighting at N 185<sup>th</sup> Street and Aurora Avenue N:

Create special-effects lighting at the concrete planter and trellis to be located at the southeast corner of the N 185<sup>th</sup> Street and Aurora Avenue N intersection. This would be a highly visible, signature treatment at this intersection to highlight seasonal color with both the planter and adjacent trees. The cost estimate for carrying out trellis lighting and infrastructure is \$29,500.

c. Tivoli lighting:

“Tivoli” lighting refers to the use of multiple strings of small white lights suspended on tree branches or between pole tops to create a festive ambience to a space. The term comes from the use of this specialty lighting in Tivoli Park in Copenhagen. This additive option calls for creating 300 lineal feet of Tivoli lighting north of the new Walgreens Pharmacy now in construction. This lighting represents the first phase of work for this future City gathering space and helps create the festive ambience essential to defining a focal point for the City. Cost estimated for Tivoli lighting and infrastructure is \$44,000.

d. Midvale pedestrian lighting from N 185<sup>th</sup> Street to N 192<sup>nd</sup> Street:

In the recent series of meetings conducted by staff with residents between N 185<sup>th</sup> Street and N 190<sup>th</sup> Street on Midvale Avenue North, neighbors were strongly supportive of having pedestrian-level lighting along the North Central segment of the Interurban Trail from N 185<sup>th</sup> Street to N 192<sup>nd</sup> Street. This lighting would help create a safer environment for trail users adjacent to the new Sky Nursery entry on Midvale Avenue and northward through the Seattle City Light right-of-way to N 192<sup>nd</sup> Street where the trail meets the already completed “North A” segment of the Interurban Trail. Estimated cost for pedestrian-level lighting from N185<sup>th</sup> Street to N 192<sup>nd</sup> Street is \$160,000.

**2. New parking lot on Midvale Avenue N:**

Create a 20-stall angle-in parking lot originally envisioned for the west side of Midvale Avenue at N 178<sup>th</sup> Street. This lot will provide parking for trail users without impacting adjacent businesses. Estimated cost is \$76,000 which includes parking lot lighting. Illustrations of the proposed new parking lot will be provided at the January 17, 2006 meeting.

**3. New sidewalk on east side of Midvale Ave N from N 185<sup>th</sup> to N 186<sup>th</sup> Streets:**

The new sidewalk will connect to an existing sidewalk to the north and create a finished condition to the N 185<sup>th</sup> Street and Midvale Avenue N intersection. The cost of this new length of sidewalk is estimated at \$31,000.

**4. Safety, maintenance and pedestrian amenities for the full trail:**

Staff has identified a series of possible amenities along the full length of the Interurban Trail in Shoreline that would further improve the user experience on the trail. This might include additional benches, bollards, hard-surfaced rest areas built adjacent to the trail, safety lighting in especially dark areas, signage and enhanced connections to adjacent commercial properties. These assorted safety, maintenance and pedestrian amenities are estimated to cost \$150,000.

**Total cost of proposed additional improvements is estimated at \$863,000.**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff feels that the safety and aesthetic benefits realized from implementing these proposed additive elements will make a significant statement about the future of our community. This segment of the trail will be a major visual focal point for Shoreline. Staff is seeking direction from Council on which of any of the above additive elements they are interested in pursuing. Selected items will then be carried through detailed design and included in the bid documents as additive elements. Staff will then come back to Council with bid prices for the selected additives for Council action. It is anticipated that the contract award resolution would include a budget amendment to reallocate the necessary Roads Capital funds to implement these improvements.

PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING  
N 175TH ST TO N 185TH ST

AURORA TIVOLI LIGHTING

TRELLIS LIGHTING

MIDVALE  
PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING  
N 189TH ST TO N 192ND ST

EASTSIDE  
MIDVALE  
SIDEWALK

**SHORELINE INTERURBAN TRAIL**  
NORTH CENTRAL SEGMENT

N. 175th STREET

N. 178th STREET

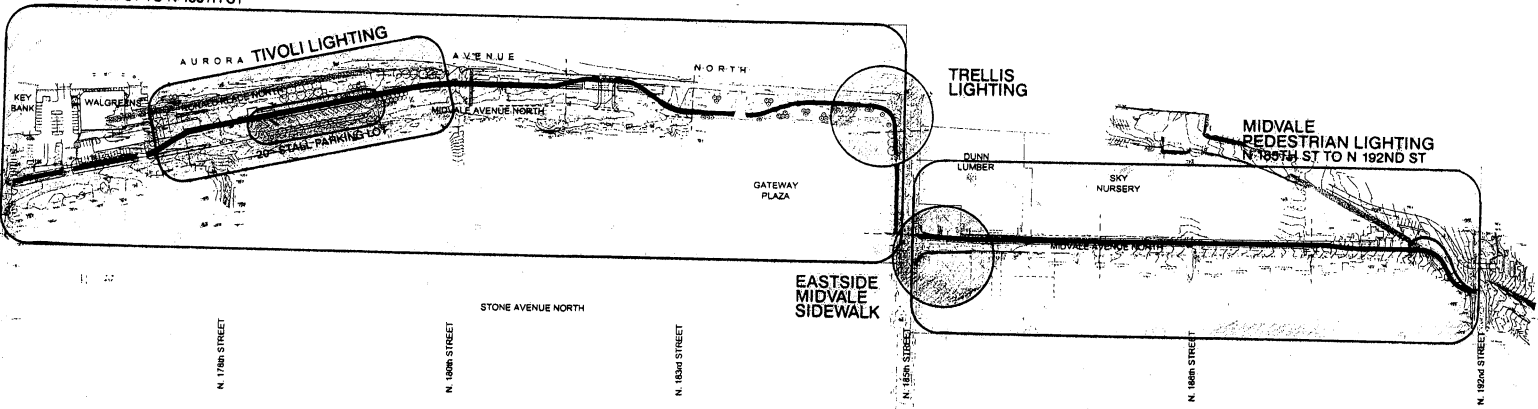
N. 180th STREET

N. 183rd STREET

N. 185th STREET

N. 189th STREET

N. 192nd STREET



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