

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussing the Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension Project Update		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office		
PRESENTED BY:	Juniper Nammi, Light Rail Project Manager		
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Sound Transit started construction of the Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) Light Rail Project in April 2019 and much of Shoreline has changed permanently along the I-5 corridor. Construction will continue through 2023 and light rail service is scheduled to start in July of 2024.

Tonight, Council will hear from Randy Harlow, Executive Project Director, and Erik Ashlie-Vinke, Government and Community Relations Manager, from Sound Transit on the construction phase of the light rail project. They will provide Council with a brief update on light rail construction to date and what the community can expect to see develop and change this year. City staff will also provide a brief update on the remaining permitting of the LLE project.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with tonight's discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

No formal action is required for this agenda item. Staff recommends that Council ask questions of Sound Transit and City staff for a better understanding of both the design and construction phase of the LLE project in Shoreline.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

The Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) Light Rail Project has been a long time in coming. The City of Shoreline has been actively engaged in Sound Transit's planning, environmental review, public outreach, design, permitting and now construction coordination of the LLE Project in Shoreline since 2010. The City Council, staff and the public participated in numerous public open houses and opportunities to provide comment and feedback on the planning and design specifics for the two stations, garages, accessory structures, and over three miles of guideway within the Shoreline city limits between 2010 and 2019.

Sound Transit staff last updated the City Council on the project as a whole and the construction phase more specifically at the Council's March 4, 2019, meeting. The staff report for this Council discussion can be found at the following link: [March 4, 2019 Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension Project Update.](#)

Construction of the project officially started in April 2019 with demolition, tree removal, utility relocations, and set up for construction access and staging. This early work is now wrapping up and in November 2019, the City issued the first 'main package' permit approvals so construction of the new light rail system could begin in earnest.

DISCUSSION

Most of the construction completed so far has been about clearing the way for the guideway (train tracks) and station sites. The following items provide both completed construction components of the project and components that are just now getting underway:

Completed Work

- New improvements along the guideway so far include new sewer, water, and electrical connections to the east, where they were moved out of the path of the project.
- Wetland mitigation was also completed at Ronald Bog Park, with the park reopening to the public in the near future.
- The intersection of 10th Avenue NE and NE 185th Street is the location of the City's first ever roundabout (See Attachment A).

Work Underway/Forthcoming

- At the end of June, NE 185th Street will be reduced to alternating one-way traffic with temporary signals and 5th Avenue NE will be closed to NE 183rd Street with local access only to the south. This area will remain closed for approximately one year while 5th Avenue NE is realigned to the east and the south portion of NE 185th Street is constructed with a new undercrossing for light rail east of I-5 (see Attachment B).
- The project contractors have started on the shafts and columns for the elevated portions of the project. In the next month or so, the public will see the columns being constructed at the Shoreline South/145th station site and at the north end of

Shoreline where the track must go up and over the SR 104 (205th Street) interchange with I-5.

- Three of the project's retaining walls are already under construction between NE 155th Street and NE 175th Street. Most of the retaining walls on the east and west sides of the light rail tracks will be constructed this year.
- The NE 195th Street Pedestrian Bridge over I-5 will also be closed for approximately six (6) weeks in June and July this year. This closure is for utility relocation work and improvements to the bridge abutment so the light rail tracks can safely be constructed under this existing bridge. Additional work at the end of NE 195th Street will create a new hammer head turn around and upgrade the water main to provide adequate fire flow but will not require full closure of the bridge.
- Ridgecrest Park will receive a new parking lot by the end of the year.
- In the cloverleaf of the I-5 SR104 interchange, Sound Transit will start the first half of the required mitigation for the impacts to the McAleer Creek buffer and associated wetlands. This mitigation work will not be easily viewable by the public but will ensure that the functions of these ecological features are restored. This work includes placement of large woody debris, invasive species control, and extensive native plantings throughout the cloverleaf area inside the northbound onramp to I-5. Segments of 1st Avenue NE will remain closed as new stormwater infrastructure is installed throughout the project area.
- Not in Shoreline, but potentially impacting community residents, are the construction activities to the north in Mountlake Terrace. Temporary signals will be installed just north of Shoreline at the I-5 SR104 interchange, and the Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station for busses will be closed starting in July to facilitate the project construction activities to the north.
- The community will experience traffic delays, construction noise and vibration, and will continue to see construction vehicles of all types up and down the project alignment

Tonight's Council Meeting

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STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Sound Transit outreach staff are actively implementing the project outreach plans, providing regular Construction Alerts and Project Updates as well as responding to community questions and complaints. While face-to-face drop-in sessions and meetings with residents are more challenging under the current circumstances of the COVID-19 emergency, Sound Transit is adapting their methods and will continue to provide communication and outreach to the community to the best of their ability. Sound Transit last held a drop-in outreach session on February 25, 2020 at the Spartan

Recreational Center to share information about the work just started in May on NE 185th Street and 5th Avenue NE.

One example of adaptive outreach is the use of real estate style flyer boxes posted on signs near affected locations, with location and phase specific information instead of having outreach staff personally on site to intercept and talk with walkers and bikers or other facility users.

Community complaints and issues with light rail construction activities over the past year have ranged from concerns about tree removal and replacement, to the impacts of trucks on local residential streets, nighttime construction noise, and vibrations impacting their homes and ability to work or sleep during construction. Additional, less frequent concerns have also been noted regarding construction work vehicles speeding on City streets, gates being left unlocked or open overnight, construction vehicles using driveways to turn around or parking in neighborhood areas.

Sound Transit works with property owners and concerned community members to document the issues raised and communicate with their contractors to identify and implement a solution. Sound Transit is addressing these concerns in a number of ways, including adjusting construction methods to reduce impacts such as vibration, placing no parking signage for their contractors near gates and work sites, implementing contractor gate checks every day after work hours, offering noise tool kits (including earplugs, white noise machines, and noise dampening curtains) to affected residents, placing sound dampening noise blankets near work sites and areas with increased noise levels, spraying down work sites to reduce dust, increasing use of street sweepers, and responding to all 24-hour Construction Hotline reports in a timely manner.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

This project addresses Council Goal 3: Continue preparation for regional mass transit, and specifically the action step to “Work collaboratively with Sound Transit to complete the permitting phase of the Lynnwood Link Extension Project and coordinate on project construction and inspection.”

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with tonight’s discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

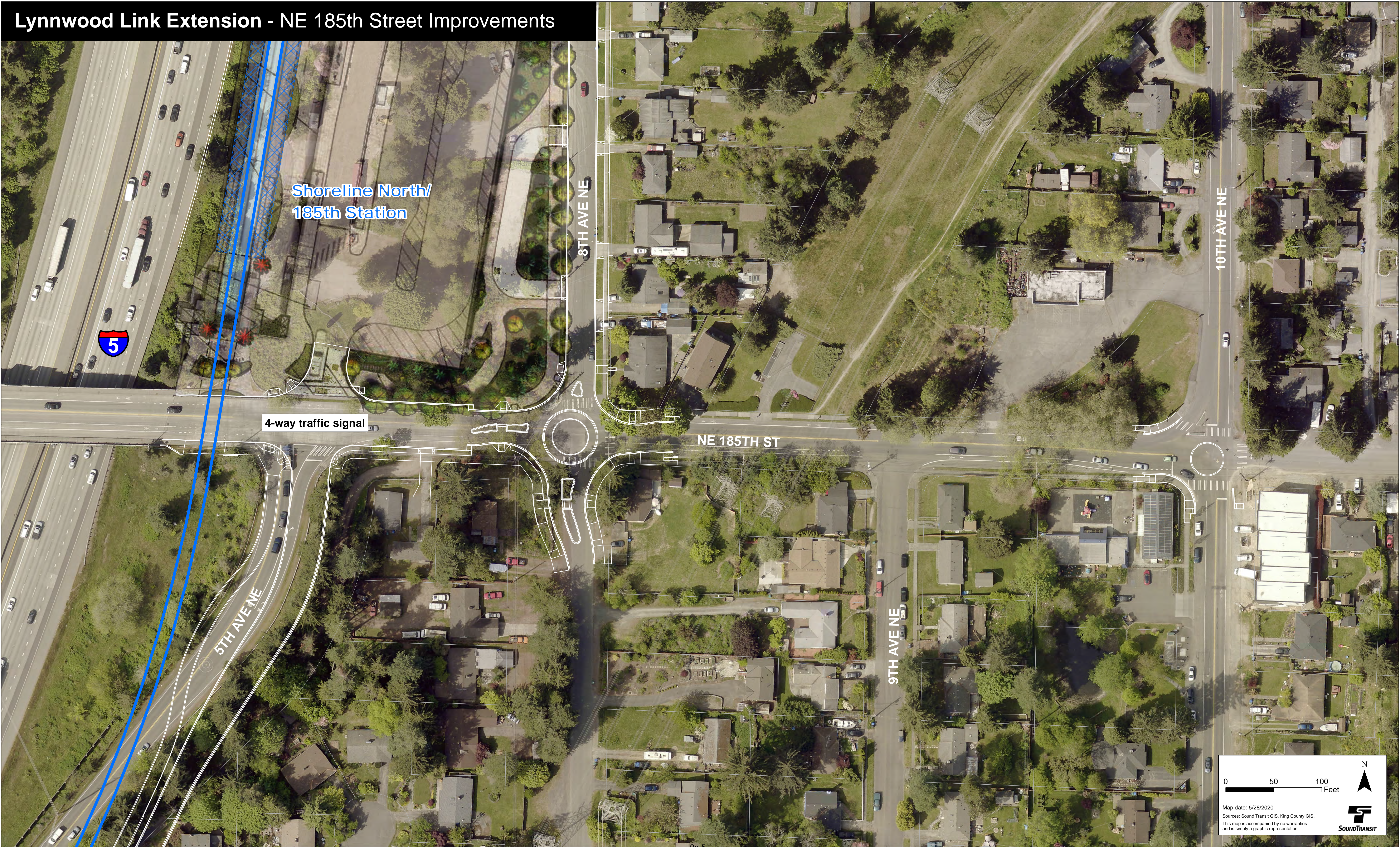
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – 185th Street and 5th Avenue NE Map of Planned Transportation Improvements

Attachment B – NE 185th Street Phase 2 Outreach Flyer and Update

Lynnwood Link Extension - NE 185th Street Improvements



Map date: 5/28/2020
Sources: Sound Transit GIS, King County GIS.
This map is accompanied by no warranties
and is simply a graphic representation





Construction alert

Lane reduction at NE 185th Street overcrossing near Shoreline Stadium

Beginning **Friday, June 5th**, drivers can expect heavy traffic at Northeast 185th Street and 5th Avenue Northeast as Sound Transit begins Phase 2 of the Northeast 185th Street overcrossing work. Riders should expect traffic delays and use suggested detours.

What

- Sound Transit will begin **Phase 2** of the Northeast 185th Street construction. For more information regarding the phases of construction at Northeast 185th Street make sure to visit www.soundtransit.org/185thchanges.
- Crews will cut and cover to construct the south side of the light rail tunnel under 185th Street and realign 5th Avenue Northeast to the south.
- Traffic on Northeast 185th Street will be reduced to one single lane with temporary signals for alternating one-way traffic.
- 5th Avenue Northeast will be fully closed between Northeast 183rd and Northeast 185th Streets and open to local access only north of Northeast 180th Street.
- Residents and drivers should expect traffic delays, noise and vibration from construction work.
- Flaggers will be on site to direct pedestrians, vehicles, and bicyclists.
- A roundabout was installed at Northeast 185th Street and 10th Avenue Northeast to reduce the traffic congestion.
- When Lynnwood Link opens in 2024, the City of Shoreline will evaluate the roundabout at Northeast 185th Street and 10th Avenue Northeast to determine if it should remain or be removed. To provide feedback regarding the future of the roundabout, please contact the City of Shoreline.

When

- The full closure of 5th Avenue Northeast will begin as early as June 5th from Northeast 183rd Court to Northeast 185th Street and 5th Avenue Northeast. There will be local access only.
- The work for Phase 2 of this construction will take approximately one year.
- Work hours are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with occasional night work.

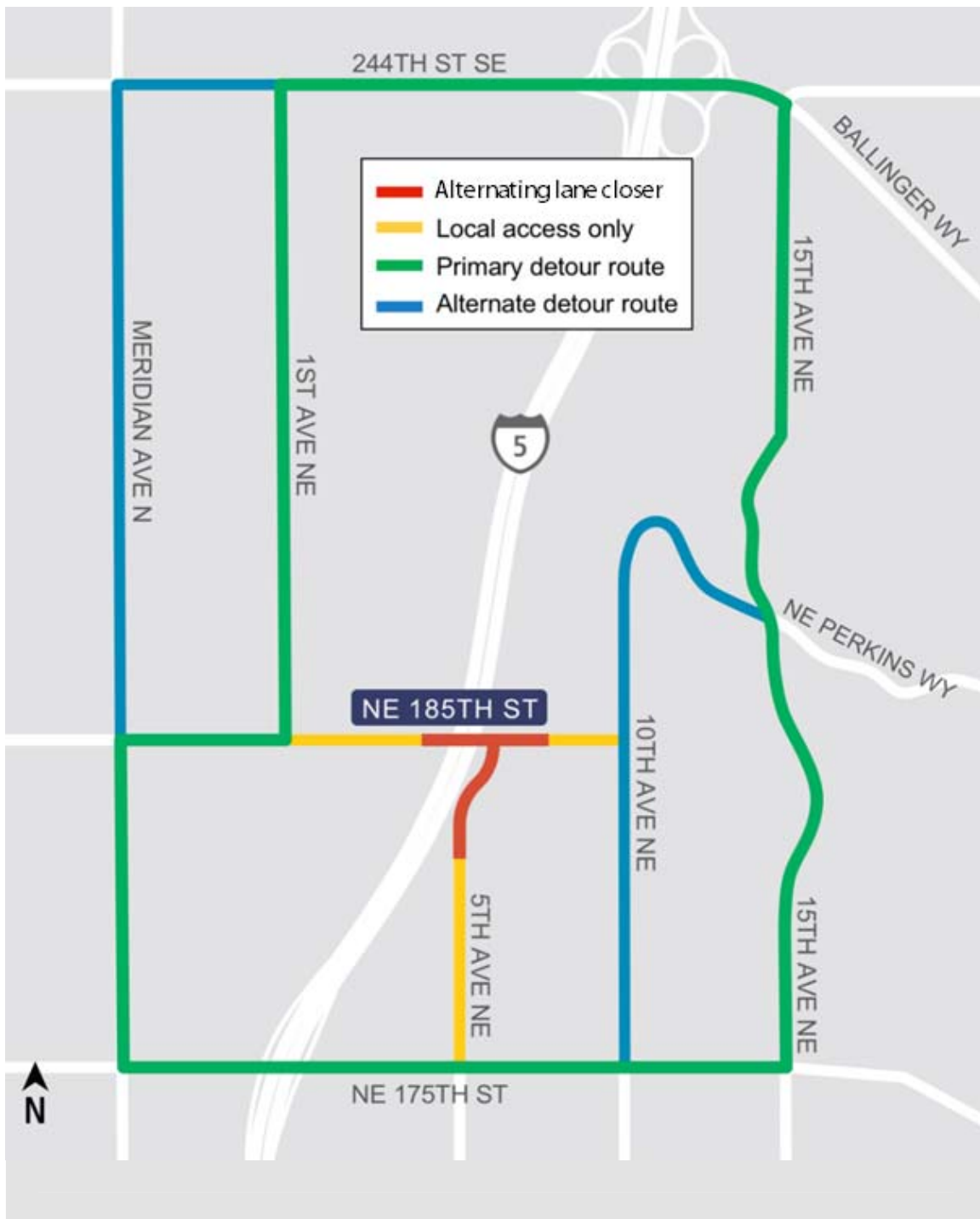
Where

- Northeast 185th Street and 5th Avenue Northeast, east of Interstate 5.
- 5th Avenue Northeast is closed between Northeast 183rd Court and Northeast 185th and will only remain open to local access only south of 183rd Court.
- See maps for traffic impacts and detours.

Contact us

Outreach Specialist: my.nguyen@soundtransit.org or 206-370-5690 

After-hours construction hotline: 888-298-2395 



Your safety is our priority

Learn how to stay safe around our construction sites.

Stay safe

24-hour construction hotline: 888-298-2395 

More project info: soundtransit.org/le

Get in touch: my.nguyen@soundtransit.org or 206-370-5690 

Reschedule work for lane reduction at NE 185th Street overcrossing near Shoreline Stadium

Publish Date

May 29, 2020

This work has been rescheduled to **Tuesday, June 23rd**, drivers can expect heavy traffic at Northeast 185th Street and 5th Avenue Northeast as Sound Transit begins Phase 2 of the Northeast 185th Street overcrossing work. Riders should expect traffic delays and use suggested detours.

Visit www.soundtransit.org/185thchanges for more information on construction activities at NE 185th Street

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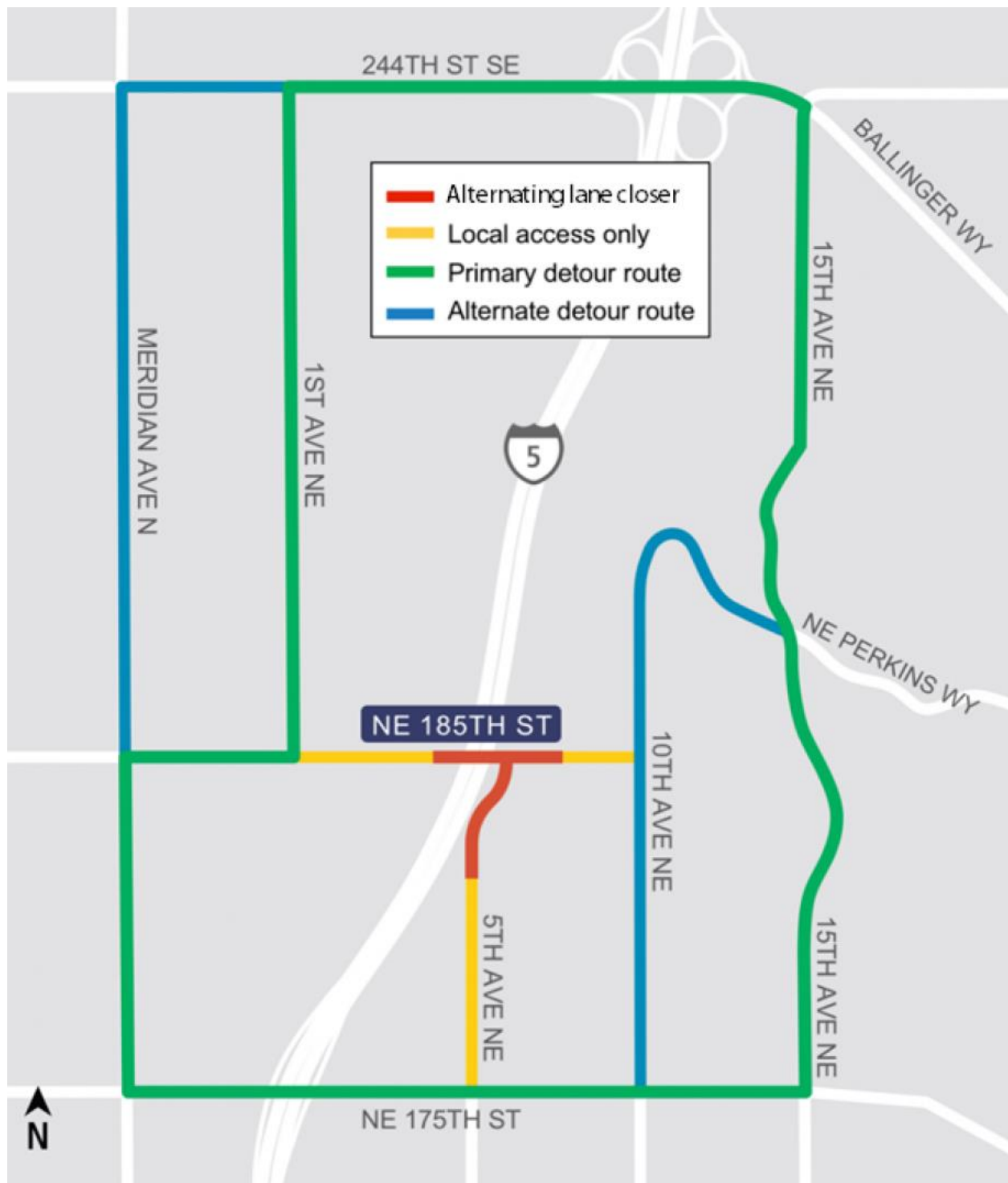
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Where

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- 5th Avenue Northeast is closed between Northeast 183rd Court and Northeast 185th and will only remain open to local access only south of 183rd Court.
- See maps for traffic impacts and detours.



- See more project updates for Shoreline North/185th Station
- See more project updates for Shoreline South/145th Station