

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Jones & Stokes for Environmental work for the Aurora Corridor Project (N 165th Street to N 205th Street)
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Kirk McKinley, Aurora Corridor/Interurban Trail Project Manager
Kris Overleese, PE, Capital Projects Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval for authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Jones & Stokes for the Environmental phase of the Aurora Corridor Project (N 165th to N 205th Street). The maximum, not to exceed, contract amount is \$580,000.

The purpose of this phase of the project is to evaluate the environmental impacts of three alignment concepts (and a "do nothing" alternative). One of the project alignments to be evaluated is the Aurora Business Team developed concept.

Jones & Stokes contract is to provide:

- A schedule for creation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documentation.
- Discipline reports that evaluate alignment impacts including: stormwater, economics, air quality, noise, land use, environmental justice.
- Recommendations to streamline the NEPA/SEPA process to be as efficient as feasible.
- Stormwater design concept development – investigation of natural drainage systems that encourage infiltration.
- Completion of all NEPA/SEPA documentation and process if required.


Please see Attachment A for a proposed schedule of the environmental process.

Western Shore Heritage Services has also been retained through a separate contract to create the cultural resources discipline report. CH2M Hill continues to be responsible for the transportation discipline report under a current contract. The work from both CH2M Hill and Western Shore Heritage Services will be incorporated into Jones and Stokes environmental documentation. The Jones & Stokes contract includes extra work above and beyond typical environmental analysis to respond to Council priorities and business concerns about economics and stormwater.

It is important to note that *all discipline reports and technical papers created through this process will be developed to a level to provide adequate documentation for all levels of environmental analysis.* The discipline reports and technical papers will also be written in the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) encouraged "reader friendly format". The economics review is also planned to be completed to a level beyond what is typically required by NEPA and SEPA in response to community concerns. It is also important to recall, that the environmental review process is a "disclosure process", and not a decision making process. Environmental review is intended to provide the decision makers with full information on the environmental impacts of the various alternatives. The decision makers may utilize this, and other, information (financial,etc) in arriving at final direction for design.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Jones & Stokes for Environmental work for the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165th to N 205th Street) for an amount not to exceed \$580,000.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____

BACKGROUND

On May 2, 2005, Council authorized staff to initiate the Public Outreach and Pre-Environmental (POP) phase of the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165th to N 205th Street). The purpose of the POP work was to compile baseline environmental information, develop alignment concepts, discuss project concerns with businesses, property owners, and the community, develop a photo log of the corridor, create a private property access and parking inventory, and traffic analysis. The first open house for the project was August 17, 2005.

The POP process included staff one-on-one meetings with all property owners along Aurora Avenue N between N 165th Street and N 205th Street. Staff met with approximately 90 property owners representing 103 properties and discussed the project and its timeline, specific property concerns, and answered development related questions.

On November 30, 2005 the first Aurora Business Team (ABT) meeting was held. The intent of the Aurora Business Team was to be a sounding board for staff as they started the project. The ABT was originally comprised of 15 members and is now 13 as two members sold their businesses or moved away from the area. There have been 11 meetings to date and multiple issues have been discussed including: the environmental process (SEPA and NEPA), access management, N 185th Street/ Aurora Avenue improvements (discussed grade separation), issue brainstorming, and traffic accident information. Guest speakers at the ABT have included WSDOT staff from these departments: environmental, access management, Local Programs, and engineering. A work product from all of the ABT meetings has been an "issue matrix" that tracks ABT project recommendations, questions and concerns. This matrix will be utilized in the environmental process to ensure the ABT concerns are considered and evaluated.

City staff has also worked with ABT to develop their own alignment concept. Their base design concept is a 98 foot cross section (back of sidewalk to back of sidewalk) and the recommendation to underground utilities. See Attachment B for the ABT developed cross section.

In addition to the ABT work, staff has developed two draft alignment concepts, performed an east/west traffic analysis, and created a business sign inventory. Although the Council adopted cross section for Aurora Avenue N is 112 feet from back of sidewalk to back of sidewalk, staff recommends studying the N 145th to N 165th Street design cross section of 110 feet as one of the environmental alternatives for the next two miles. (The difference is reduced sidewalk width). See Attachment B for a schematic of the 110 foot cross section.

Alternative alignments differ in the vicinity of N 175th Street and north of N 200th Street where the rights of way and sites are the tightest, so the options are to shift east or shift west. Attachments C, D, and E show plan views of the three alignment concepts in the vicinity of N 200th Street. Attachment C (Option 1) shows the 110 foot cross section shifting east. Attachment D (Option 2) shows the 110 foot cross section shifting west. Attachment E (Option 3) shows the ABT developed 98 foot cross section in the same

area. Please note that the 98 foot cross section concept increases to 102 feet at u-turn locations to accommodate vehicle turning.

Now that the draft alignment concepts have been developed and baseline information collected, it is time to move into the formal environmental phase of the project.

Environmental Consultant Selection:

Jones & Stokes was chosen as the environmental consultant for the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165th to N 205th Street) through a competitive process. Staff published a request for consultants to provide their qualifications in August of 2006. Though two firms attended the informational meeting provided by staff, Jones & Stokes was the only firm to submit their qualifications. Jones & Stokes proposal was reviewed by City and WSDOT staff. The interview team was also made up of Shoreline and WSDOT staff. Staff checked five references, all of which were very positive. Jones & Stokes was formally selected based on their experience with the environmental evaluation of transportation projects.

Jones & Stokes Experience: Jones & Stokes has extensive experience evaluating the environmental impacts of transportation projects. They are experienced in developing efficient processes to adhere to WSDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements and provide efficient and systematic environmental review within the requirements and in the reader friendly format. Jones and Stokes Team includes Greg Easton of Property Counselors and SVR Design Company. Greg Easton is the Principal of Property Counselors and he will be evaluating the economic impacts of the project. He has over 30 years experience providing economic and financial advisory services to the real estate industry and government agencies. SVR Design Company will be reviewing the project for opportunities to incorporate natural drainage systems into the project. They are experienced in civil engineering and natural stormwater systems design. One of their recent projects is design of the High Point Natural Drainage Systems project in West Seattle.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165th to N 205th Street) is identified as continuing Council Goal and this project is identified in the 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program. Funds from federal grants and City contributions from the Roads Capital Fund will be utilized to pay for this scope of work that is estimated not to exceed \$580,000.

STAKEHOLDERS:

The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) is the lead NEPA agency on this project. The Washington State Department of Transportation is our liaison to FHWA. WSDOT and FHWA review and approve the NEPA documentation created by the City. Joe Tovar, the City's Planning and Development Services Director, is the SEPA Responsible Official for the project.

The environmental phase for this project will have a formal community involvement process to be developed with Jones & Stokes early in November to meet the environmental requirements. This process will include a community open house this fall

as well as one in the spring. Staff is creating an "Aurora Review Team" (ART) to work with staff to review the project's discipline reports and technical papers for thoroughness and completeness. The ART would include interested members of the current Aurora Business Team and additional members of the broader community. The bulk of the ART's work would occur November 2006 through May 2007 (until the discipline reports and technical papers are submitted to WSDOT). Staff will also be pulling regional stakeholders together at key milestones to review the project's progress (King County METRO, Cities of Seattle and Edmonds, WSDOT, Seattle City Light and Public Utilities, and the State Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife).

Development of NEPA/SEPA reports is a technical agency and staff process. WSDOT and FHWA will have final say on the completeness and adequacy of the NEPA federal environmental documentation while Joe Tovar, as our SEPA Responsible Official, has final authorization on the completeness and adequacy of the SEPA documentation.

SCHEDULE:

Attachment A shows the draft environmental phase schedule for the project. The environmental phase is expected to be complete by the end of 2007. Upon execution of Jones & Stokes contract, work will begin to coordinate with the community to review the draft alignment options through an open house. The draft schedule indicates May 2007 as the period in which the preferred alternative is chosen and the NEPA/SEPA level of documentation will be determined in conjunction with FHWA and WSDOT.

Staff has begun to solicit members for the ART. Final design for the project can begin once certainty has been reached on the project's alignment.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Jones & Stokes for Environmental work for the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project (N 165th to N 205th Street) in an amount not to exceed \$580,000.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A:	Proposed Project Schedule
Attachment B:	Design Concept Cross Sections: adopted 110' cross section and Aurora Business Team 98' design concept
Attachment C:	Option 1 - Shift east in the vicinity of N 200 th Street
Attachment D:	Option 2 - Shift west in the vicinity of N 200 th Street
Attachment E:	Option 3 - Aurora Business Team Design concept in the vicinity of N 200 th Street

Attachment A

Aurora Corridor Project (N 165th to N 205th Street) - Environmental Review Schedule (Proposed)

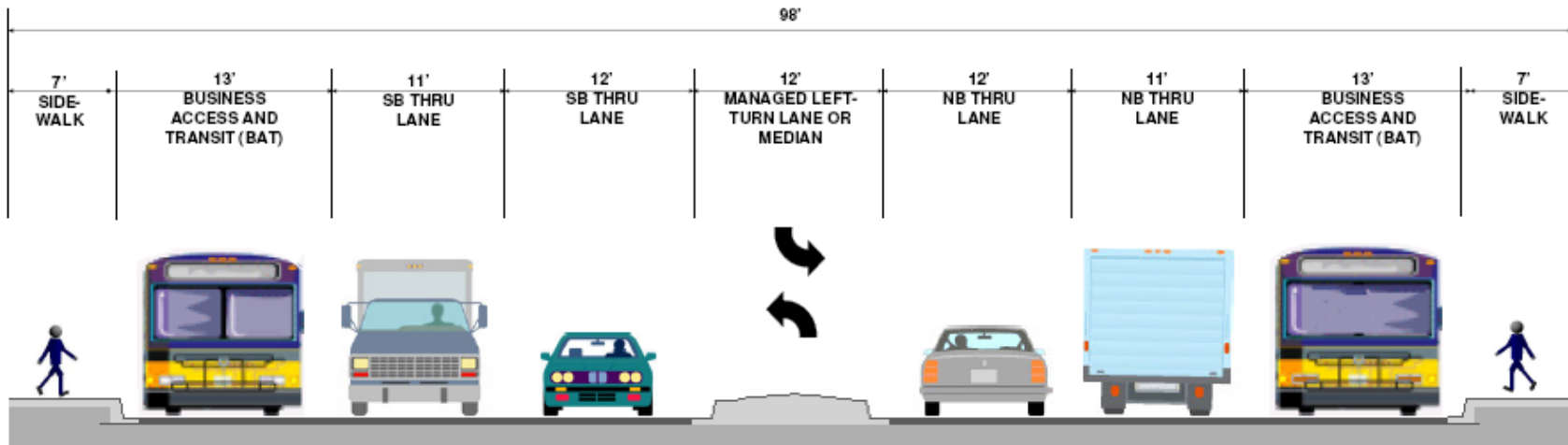
Tasks	2006				2007							
	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Preliminary Environmental Analysis												
Preliminary environmental analysis (includes hazard phase I site assessment)												
Complete draft Environmental Classification Summary and preliminary environmental findings												
Preliminary Stormwater Analysis - complete hydrology, develop concepts												
Discipline Reports & Technical Papers												
Summarize results of environmental review for alternatives analysis												
Select Recommended Alternative												
City select Preferred Alternative												
WSDOT/FHWA Review process and select NEPA level of documentation												
NEPA/SEPA Environmental Documents												
Complete Biological Assessment for preferred alternative												
WSDOT/FHWA/Community Review												
Final Documents and records of decision												

Note: Schedule accommodates NEPA Environmental Assessment and SEPA EIS. If lesser environmental documents are required for NEPA or SEPA, the schedule from June 2007 could be shortened

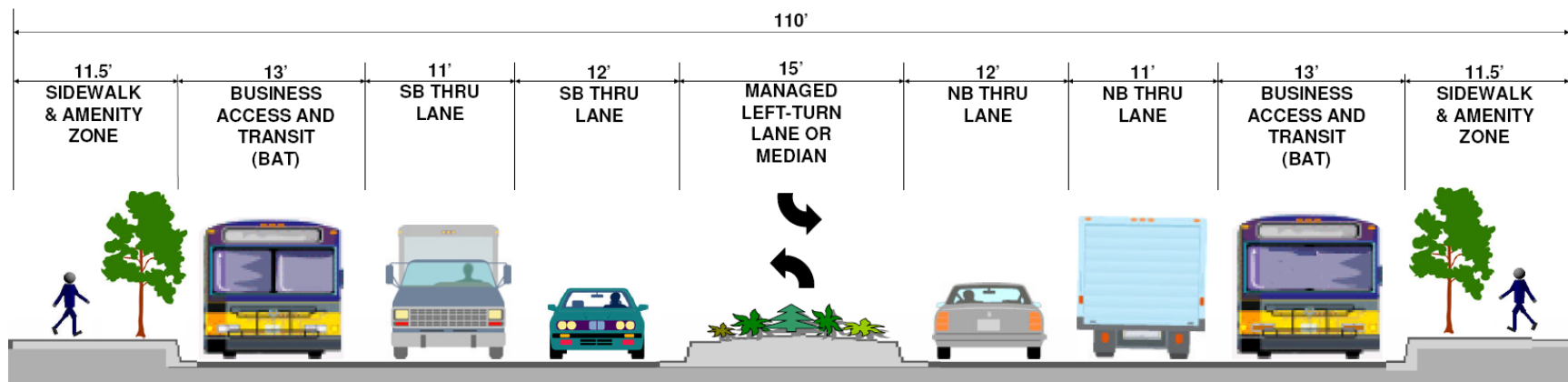
Attachment B

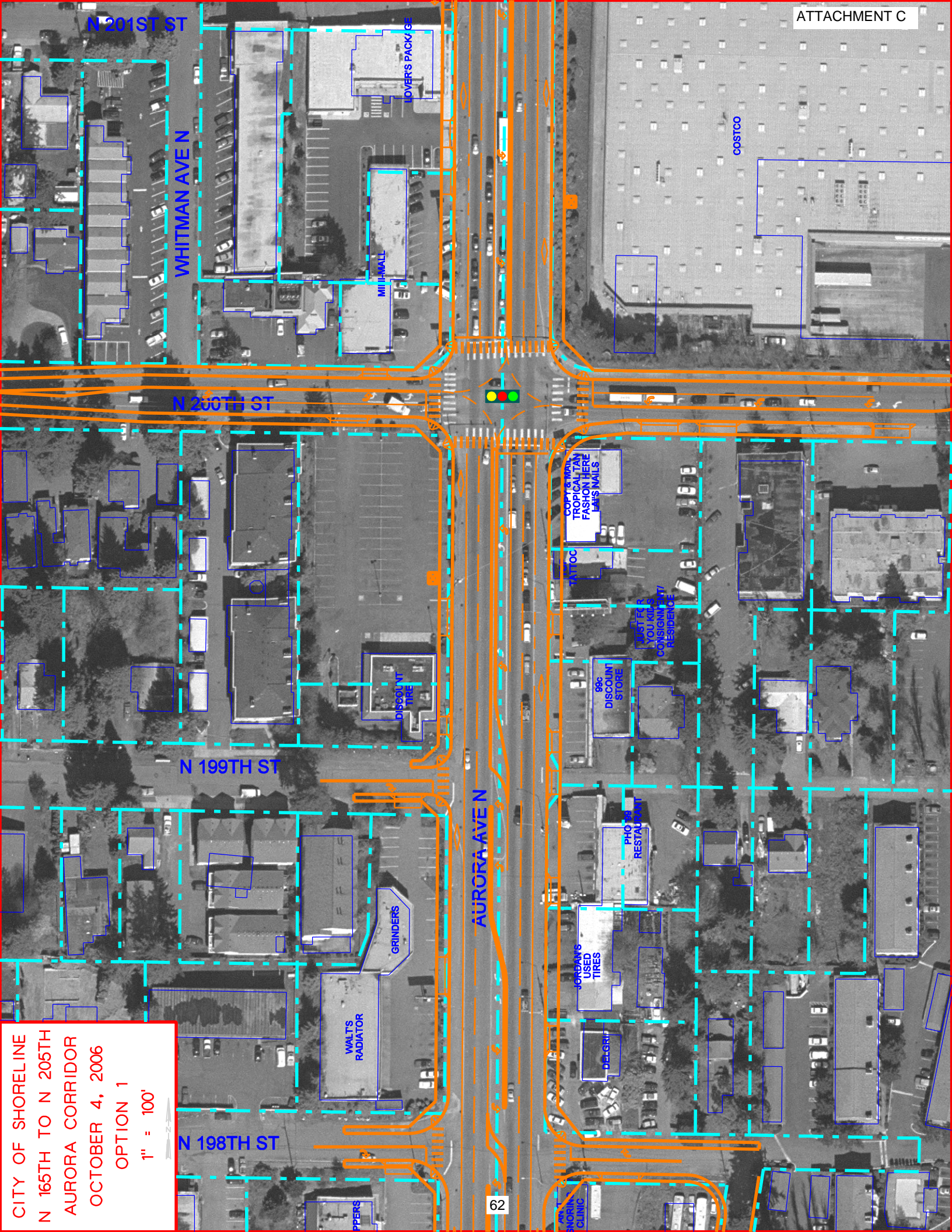
Aurora Avenue N N 165th Street to N 205th Street

ABT Design Cross Section

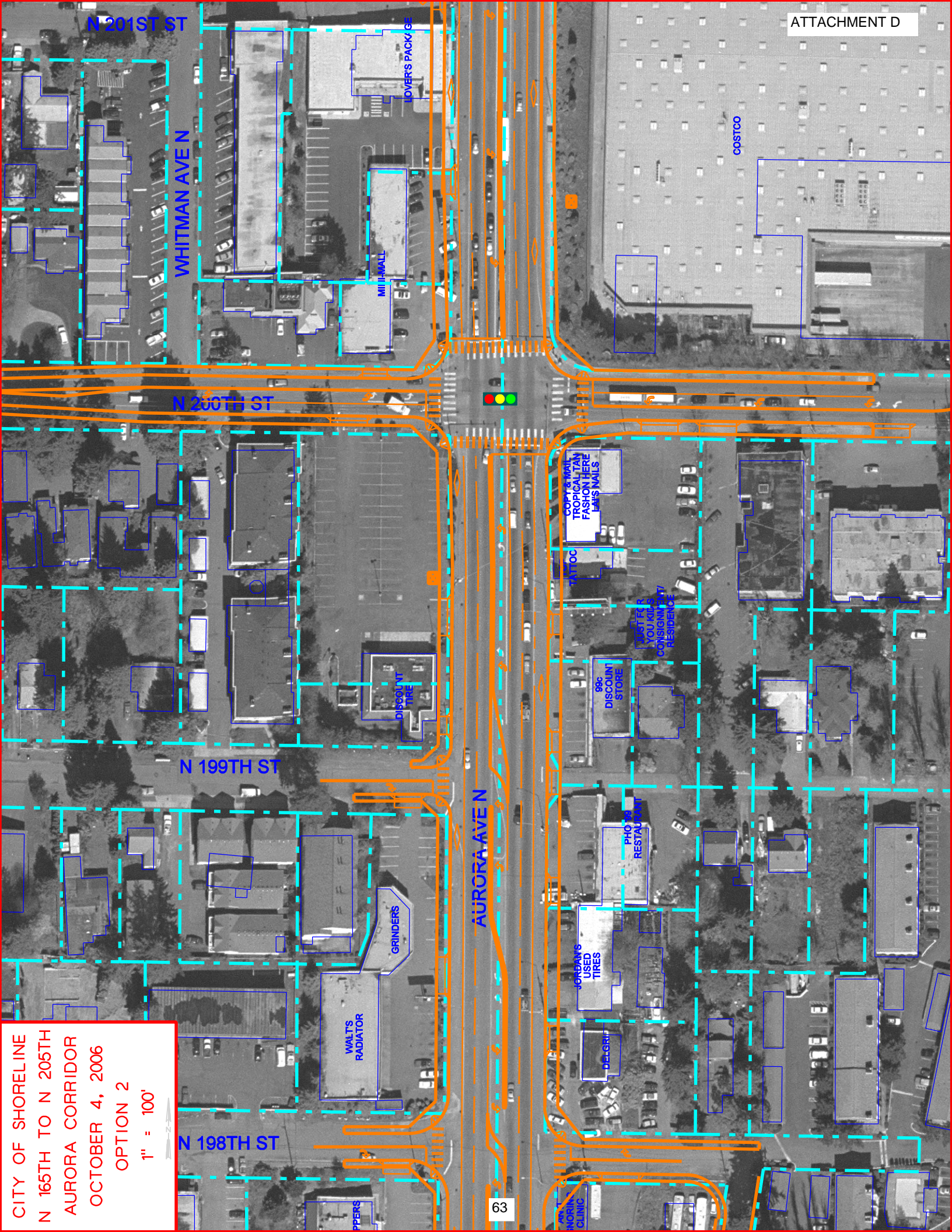


110-Foot Design Cross Section





CITY OF SHORELINE
N 165TH TO N 205TH
AURORA CORRIDOR
OCTOBER 4, 2006
OPTION 1
1" = 100'



N 201ST ST

WHITMAN AVE N

MIDTOWN MALL

LOVER'S PACK & G

COSTCO

N 200TH ST



COPY & MAIL
TROPICAL TAN
FASHION HERE
LA'S NAILS

TATTOO

POSTER YOU KIDS
CONSIGNMENT
RESIDENCE

99c
DISCOUNT
STORE

PHO 78
RESTAURANT

JORDAN'S
USED
TIRES

DEL-GRIFF

DISCOUNT
TIRE

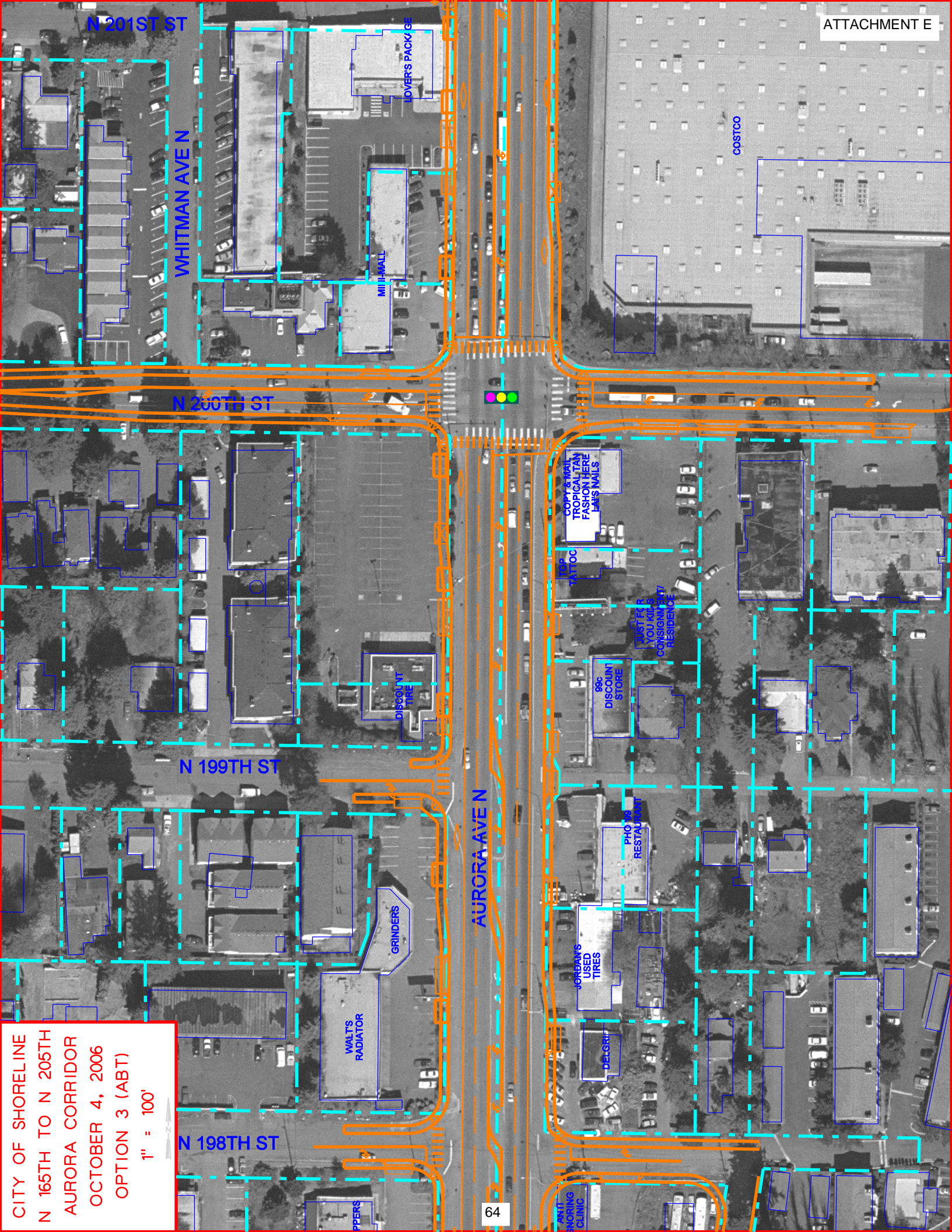
N 199TH ST

GRINDERS

WALT'S
RADIATOR

N 198TH ST

CITY OF SHORELINE
N 165TH TO N 205TH
AURORA CORRIDOR
OCTOBER 4, 2006
OPTION 2
1" = 100'



CITY OF SHORELINE
N 165TH TO N 205TH
AURORA CORRIDOR
OCTOBER 4, 2006
OPTION 3 (ABT)
1" = 100'