



CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline Volume 17 No. 9

November 2015

20 years as a City - Past to Present *Aurora Corridor Improvements*

Improving the Aurora Corridor has been a community goal since the City incorporated in 1995. With more than 45,000 vehicles and 7,000 transit riders using the corridor daily, Aurora is a major regional transportation corridor connecting Everett and Seattle. It is also a major retail and business corridor providing services and employment to thousands. Built in three phases over the past 10 years, the Aurora Corridor Improvement Project has already improved safety, fostered economic development, eased traffic congestion, enhanced environmental quality, and increased pedestrian mobility.

Twenty years ago it was a different story. Shoreline's three-mile section of Aurora Avenue used to be one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the entire state, both for pedestrians and vehicles. According to the Washington State Department of transportation, in the two years (2003-2004) prior to construction beginning on the first phase of Aurora (145th to 165th), there was an average of 209 collisions per year along the entire corridor through Shoreline. In the two years (2012-2013) after completion of the second phase (165th to 192nd) the average number of collisions had dropped to 125, a decrease of 40%. During the same period of time, collisions resulting in injuries decreased by 56%. Collisions involving pedestrians declined by more than 40%.

Today, the three-mile stretch through Shoreline is one of the nicest stretches of Aurora in the region and is serving as an example to other communities. The investments we've made in Aurora over the past 20 years will benefit the City for decades to come through better safety, more efficient transit, improved pedestrian access, and innovative stormwater management.



Maintaining our level of service

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Shoreline 2016 Budget

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CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE **AURORA CORRIDOR**

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Shoreline City Hall Lobby and Council Chamber

Please join Shoreline City Council and staff as we celebrate the completion of the Aurora Corridor Project. Continental breakfast will be served.



Upcoming events

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Shoreline City Hall, Council Chamber
Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings

Financial stewardship and sustainability confirmed

The City takes its role as a steward of public resources very seriously. There are two major external measures of our effectiveness in this area – annual audit results and bond rating agency reviews.

We are proud to share that the State Auditor's Office recently issued the City its 19th consecutive "unqualified" opinion on its 2014 Financial Statements. An "unqualified" opinion is the highest rating possible, and indicates that the Auditor believes that the Financial Statements are fairly stated and that the underlying financial records and processes support the information reported in the financial statements.

In addition to reviewing the City's financial statements, the Auditor's Office also performs an accountability audit and Federal "Single Audit" for grant recipients. Audit reports for both the Accountability Audit and Federal Single Grant found no issues, concluding that the City complied with applicable laws, policies, and guidelines and has adequate internal controls. All audit reports are available for review on the State of Washington Auditor's Office website at sao.wa.gov.

The second external measure of the effectiveness of our financial management is found through the ratings of independent rating agencies, such as Standard & Poor's (S&P). The City currently holds a rating of AA+, S&P's second highest rating. In its most recent review of the City's general obligation bonds, S&P noted Shoreline's very strong economy, management, and budget flexibility as support for continuing this rating. The City currently exceeds all of its reserve policies and anticipates general reserves of \$10.6 million at the end of 2016, which is critical to maintaining a high bond rating.

Strong management is evidenced by the City's proactive actions to ensure its long-term financial sustainability through the development of the 10 Year Financial Sustainability Plan (10 YFSP) and ongoing monitoring of its 10 Year Financial Sustainability Model. The 10 YFSP engaged Citizens to help identify and prioritize options for maintaining financial sustainability. Council accepted the 10 YFSP in June 2014. The plan and the sustainability model are now incorporated as part of the City's annual budget process. The plan and model are having the effect on budget planning that was desired by the Council, allowing staff and Council to proactively evaluate the impacts of budgetary decisions on our fiscal sustainability.

Comprehensive Plan amendment suggestions due by December 31, 2015

Every year the City goes through a Comprehensive Plan amendment process. The annual amendment process is an opportunity for individuals to propose changes to Shoreline's Comprehensive Plan. Suggested amendments usually address changing conditions or emerging issues.

Individuals are encouraged to propose changes to Shoreline's Comprehensive Plan and submit them to the Planning and Community Development Department (P&CD). Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application materials can be found on the City's website on the Permits and Development Information page.

To be eligible for consideration, applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. December 31, 2015 to Senior Planner Steven Szafran, P&CD, 17500 Midvale Avenue North, Shoreline, WA 98133 or emailed to sszafran@shorelinewa.gov.

Once all amendments have been received, the City Council will develop a list of amendments to be studied in early 2016. For more information, visit the City's website or contact Steven Szafran at (206) 801-2512 or sszafran@shorelinewa.gov.

MAINTAINING SHORELINE'S LEVEL OF SERVICE

In November 2010, Shoreline voters passed a maintenance and operation levy for basic public safety, parks, recreation, and community services. Passage of the levy has allowed the City to maintain a basic level of services Shoreline residents have come to expect.

The levy was necessary to address the structural imbalance that exists due to a state law that limits cities to a 1% increase in property tax revenue per year, unless voters approve a larger increase. Over time, a 1% annual increase in property tax revenues simply does not keep pace with increased costs needed to maintain basic services. Inflation continues to increase at rates higher than 1% every year. As the gap grows, it becomes necessary for the City to find ways of making up for the diminished revenue or cut basic services.

Shoreline's 2010 levy reset the levy rate and limited the annual increase in 2012 through 2016 to the rate of inflation. The levy provided funding for public safety programs, such as the School Resource Officer program and traffic enforcement. It provided fund-

ing to help preserve safe, well maintained parks, playgrounds, playfields, restrooms, play equipment, soccer and baseball fields, the Shoreline Pool, and recreation programs for youth, families, and seniors. It also assisted in maintaining important community services, including the Shoreline Senior Center, the Shoreline Historical Museum, and basic human services that address such issues as domestic violence, hunger, and teen suicide.

The six-year levy is set to expire next year in 2016. As part of the City's 10-year Financial Sustainability Plan, the City Council included renewal of the maintenance and operations levy in its list of recommendations for how to address future revenue short falls.

When Shoreline taxpayers pay their property taxes, only 13% goes to the City. For the average property owner in Shoreline, that comes out to \$43.50 per month. Of that amount, \$6.00 goes to repay the 2006 voter approved parks bond, which was used to acquire open

space, improve and construct trails, and to improve park and recreational facilities. The remaining \$37.50 goes to pay for the basic public services residents depend on every day, such as police; park and athletic field maintenance; recreational programs; neighborhood support; street lights, traffic signals, and traffic control equipment maintenance; jail services; social service funding; and emergency management, just to name a few.

Early in 2016, City staff, the Council, and Shoreline citizens will engage in discussions about whether the City should renew the levy in 2016 or look at other ways to address coming revenue shortfalls resulting from the structural imbalance in revenue collections.



Shoreline Police



Maintaining Shoreline's parks



2016 Budget maintains priority services and investments in our future

City Manager Debbie Tarry presented the 2016 Proposed Budget to the Shoreline City Council at its October 12 meeting. The Budget is balanced, maintains service levels for residents, and supports actions and projects to achieve Council goals and Shoreline's Vision 2029.

The proposed budget of nearly \$78 million includes the City's Operating, Capital, and Utility budgets. The total represents a 1.6% overall decrease from the current 2015 budget, primarily due to the substantial completion of the Aurora Corridor Project in 2015. Newer major capital projects remain in the early planning stages.

In 2015, the City continued a pattern of slow to moderate growth experienced since 2012. For 2016, regional forecasters are anticipating that trend continuing, which is reflected in our 2016 budget.

The 2016 Budget allows the City to replace some staffing that was eliminated during the economic downturn, allowing us to maintain service levels as workloads increase due to higher demand for services. The budget also supports investment in capital and technology projects that meet Council goals and supports the effective delivery of public services.

The City's budget plays a critical role in achieving Vision 2029 and Council's Goals through the allocation of resources to services and projects. During its planning work each year, Council reviews feedback from the community to update its goals and identify priority action steps to achieve those goals.

For 2015-2017 Council has identified the following 5 goals:

Goal 1: Strengthen Shoreline's economic base to maintain the public services that the community expects

Goal 2: Improve Shoreline's utility, transportation, and environmental infrastructure

Goal 3: Prepare for two Shoreline light rail stations

Goal 4: Enhance openness and opportunities for community engagement

Goal 5: Promote and enhance the City's safe community and neighborhood initiatives and programs

"The Proposed Budget addresses, or begins to address, most of the action items identified to achieve Council's goals," noted City Manager Debbie Tarry. "It goes a long way in meeting both the short and long-term needs of the community, while maintaining long-term financial sustainability."

The 2016 budget incorporates many of the strategies identified in the 10 Year Financial Sustainability Plan (10 YFSP). All requests were evaluated based upon their impact to the ten year forecast. The 10 YFSP initially projected that expenditures would exceed revenues in 2018, but the proposed budget has moved that date to 2019. Staff will continue with efforts to implement the strategies identified to further delay the "gap" and to maintain the public services the community expects.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget	\$45.7 million	58.63%
Capital Budget	\$21.2 million	27.19%
Surface Water Utility	\$6.8 million	8.77%
Debt Service Budget	\$3.6 million	4.66%
Other	\$0.6 million	0.75%
Total	\$77.9 million	100.00%

ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Monday, Nov. 23, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

More Information

Shorelinewa.gov/budget
Shorelinewa.gov/calendar

Where do your property taxes go?

YOUR TAX DOLLAR



State Schools 18¢	City Operating Levy 11¢
Shoreline School District 37¢	City 2006 Park Bond Levy 2¢
Library District 4¢	Shoreline Fire District 13¢
Port of Seattle 1¢	King County 12¢
King County EMS 2¢	

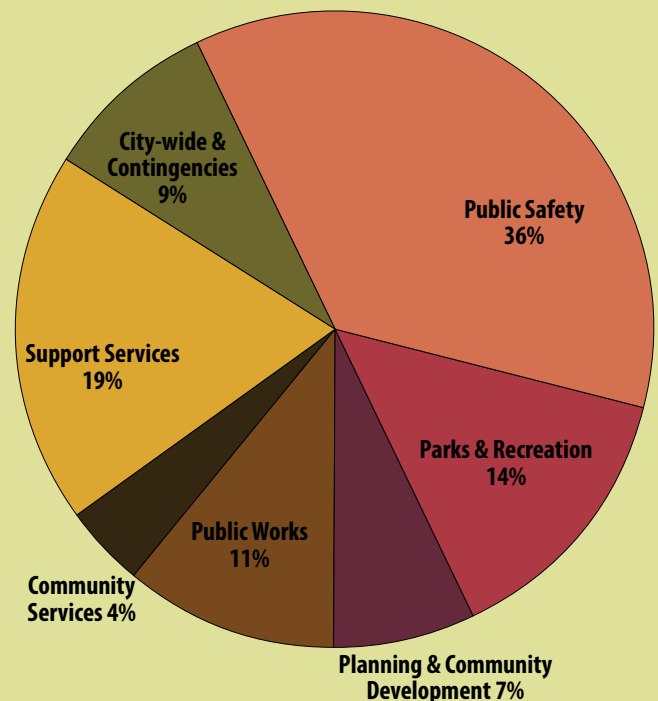
Washington State Property Taxes are one of the most complicated in the nation. Property owners in Shoreline may support 10 or more different taxing districts each with its own levy and levy rate. Out of all the property taxes paid by a Shoreline resident, about 13% goes to the City of Shoreline. This includes the City's operating levy used to fund City services (11%) and the 2006 voter approved parks bond levy (2%). The parks bond levy was used to acquire open space and make a variety of park and trail improvements throughout the City. While the work has been completed, the levy paid by property owners supports the repayment of the bonds used to finance the improvements.

Your resources at work in the City

The City's 2016 Budget totals \$77.9 million. Almost 59% of the total (\$45.7 million) is spent on the City's operating budget. The operating budget represents the cost of providing services to the Shoreline Community on a day-to-day basis:

- **Public Safety:** Police services, domestic violence assistance, prosecuting attorney, public defender, municipal court, and jail services.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Parks and open space maintenance, recreation programs, and cultural services.
- **Planning and Community Development:** Code enforcement, permitting, zoning, and Comprehensive Plan updating.
- **Public Works:** Street and right-of-way maintenance, traffic management, and environmental services.
- **Community Services:** Customer Response Team, emergency management, neighborhoods coordination, and human services.
- **Support Services:** Budget and financial reporting, accounts payable/receivable and payroll, grant writing, maintaining network, computer and telephone systems, administration, legal services, communications, records management.
- **City-Wide and Contingencies:** Liability and property insurance, equipment and vehicle maintenance, operations and replacement.

OPERATING BUDGET ALLOCATIONS



HOLIDAY BASKETS DRIVE

Food, Toys, & Teen Gifts

The Shoreline PTA Council, the Shoreline Fire Department, Hopelink, Rotary Club of Lake Forest Park, and Dale Turner Family YMCA are joining together to support families with children in the Shoreline School District who need assistance during the holiday season. The 2015 Shoreline PTA Council Holiday Baskets Food, Toys & Teen Gifts Drive will run November 30 through December 11. Donations of non-perishable food and gift cards for teens (i.e. Fred Meyer, Target, Walmart, iTunes, etc) may be dropped off at any Shoreline School District school, including the district office, during regular school hours.

To learn more visit shorelinepta.org/holiday-baskets.

DID YOU KNOW?

The best place to recycle your plastic bags is at a grocery store that collects them separately from other items. If you put them into your curbside recycling container, the bags go to a recycling facility, where machines sort the recyclables. Unfortunately, the plastic bags often fly around, contaminating the sorting process and clogging machinery.

Instead you can recycle your plastic bags, including produce and bulk food bags, at Shoreline's larger grocery stores, such as Central Market, Fred Meyer, and Safeway, or at QFC if you give them to QFC staff. This way all of your bags are recycled as you intended.

Seattle declines to sell the SPU water system to Shoreline

After extensive negotiations, the City of Shoreline and the City of Seattle could not reach agreement on a reasonable price for the portion of the Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) water system that serves Shoreline. Shoreline began formal negotiations with SPU in 2009. In 2011, Shoreline and Seattle reached an agreement on a tentative \$26.6 million price for the acquisition. In November 2012, Shoreline voters authorized the City to purchase the utility and make necessary improvements for a total investment of \$40.8 million.

After receiving voter approval in 2012, Shoreline City staff worked closely with SPU staff to finalize a sale agreement. However, when Seattle Mayor Ed Murray entered office in 2014 he instructed SPU staff to reevaluate the sale of the utility to Shoreline. He questioned the tentative price and what the loss of revenue would mean to the utility revenues and Seattle's general fund. Seattle reevaluated and offered a new sale price, which was substantially higher than the tentative price negotiated under Mayor McGinn.

Ultimately, Mayor Murray's direction that the sale couldn't negatively affect Seattle rates resulted in a much higher purchase price that made purchase of the utility impossible.

The City continues to work with SPU to better serve Shoreline and its residents, including an agreement to increase the money spent on infrastructure projects in Shoreline. Ensuring more Shoreline ratepayer money is spent here in Shoreline addressing Shoreline issues is a priority for the City. City staff and Council will continue to work with SPU and Mayor Murray's office to address our concerns.

For more information on utilities, visit shorelinewa.gov/utilities.

City receives planning award for 185th Street Station Subarea Plan

The Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) and the Planning Association of Washington (PAW) jointly awarded the City its Honor Award for the City's 185th Street Light Rail Station Subarea Plan. Award jurists deemed the Subarea Plan to be an "outstanding example of good planning in Washington."

Every year, PAW and APA jointly honor outstanding contributions to the field of planning in Washington. Jurists identified the broad-based public involvement process, phased zoning, different housing options, and how the Subarea Plan worked with the City's overall Comprehensive Plan as some of the reasons why the 185th Street Station Subarea Plan stood out. Jurists also stated that the plan would be seen as an example for other jurisdictions across the state in how to tackle difficult decisions around growth over the next twenty years.

Earlier this year, the City received an award from the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County for its leadership in supporting affordable housing opportunities in Shoreline. The award recognized the City's use of incentive zoning and impact fee exemptions for affordable housing in the 185th Street Station Subarea Plan.

To learn more about the 185th Street Light Rail Station Subarea Plan visit shorelinewa.gov/185station.



Winners of the 2015 Kids Move Challenge were recognized and accepted their prizes at a City Council meeting

Kids Move Challenge winners

This summer, the City challenged Shoreline's kids to exercise at least 60 minutes a day for 30 days as part of the Healthy City Campaign. Kids were encouraged to play games, run, walk, hike, walk their dogs, skip, swim or any activity that kept them up and moving. Kids that tracked their activities and sent in their tracking forms were entered to win a prize.

A big congratulations to this year's winners:

Knox Clay, age 4 ★ Rilan Fly, age 6 ★ Razi Muzaffar, age 11

Thank you to Scott Phariss & Associates at Windermere's Shoreline Office and the Edmonds Kiwanis for donating the prizes!

We encourage all Shoreline kids to keep moving through the fall and winter. For some fun ideas, check out the City's Recreation Guide at shorelinewa.gov/recreation.

HOLIDAY FACILITY CLOSURES

CITY HALL

November 26, 27
December 25 and January 1

SPARTAN RECREATION CENTER

November 26, 27
December 24, 25 and January 1

SHORELINE POOL

November 26, 27
December 24, 25, and 31
January 1

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Recreation classes/programs may be cancelled when the Shoreline School District closes for inclement weather.

Holiday Events

HOLIDAY CRAFTS MARKET

Saturday, Nov. 21
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Spartan Recreation Center
202 NE 185th Street

NORTH CITY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Saturday, Dec. 5
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Les Schwab
NE 180th & 15th Avenue NE

CHRISTMAS SHIP VISIT

Tuesday, Dec. 8
7:30 to 8:50 p.m.
Richmond Beach Saltwater Park
2021 NW 190th Street

Teen Program

GARDEN OF LIGHTS AND SNOWFLAKE LANE VISIT

Monday, Dec. 14
4:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Free trip for 7th-12th grade students
Richmond Highlands Rec Center
16554 Fremont Ave N

Camp Shoreline for kids 4-12

HOLIDAY DAY CAMP

Dec. 21-23, 28-30
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
\$40/\$45 per day
Spartan Recreation Center
Register at (206) 801-2600 or
shorelinewa.gov/registration



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CITY OF SHORELINE
CURRENTS

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CAMP SHORELINE Holiday Break SCHOOL'S OUT CAMP

Spend Your Holiday Break With Us

AGES	4-12
DATES	M-W Dec. 21-23, 28-30
TIME	8:00am - 6:00pm
COST	\$40*/\$45 per day *Resident Discount
LOCATION	Spartan Recreation Center, 202 NE 185th Street
REGISTER	(206) 801-2600, shorelinewa.gov/registration



(206) 801-2700 Customer Response Team 24 hours/7 days a week
(206) 801-2485 Aurora Construction Hotline 24 hours/7 days a week

shorelinewa.gov