Construction on final segment of Aurora begins in January

Shoreline is closer to realizing the completion of a long-time community goal. The final segment of the City’s largest Capital Improvement Project, the Aurora Corridor Multimodal Improvement Project from N 192nd to N 205th Streets, will break ground in January.

The last segment of the Aurora Corridor Project includes similar amenities as the previous segments. However, topographical challenges and grade changes will result in six large retaining walls with extension into some of the cross streets. The project will also include a gateway sign at N 205th Street.

The total cost of this final segment is estimated at $42.6 million. Shoreline’s City Council approved award of the construction contract to Gary Merlino Construction Company. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015, weather permitting.

Throughout all three miles of the Aurora Corridor Project, the City has brought residents’ tax dollars back into our community through federal and state grants and funded the corridor with no debt. On the final segment, 95.4% of the funding will come from non-City funds.

While the City has worked with many groups and individuals to gain feedback and direction for the project, construction can still be difficult and inconvenient for residents, businesses, and corridor users. Your continued patience has been and is greatly appreciated.

For additional information, an overview of the Aurora Project and construction updates once construction begins, please visit shorelinewa.gov/aurora. You may also contact us at aurora@shorelinewa.gov, or through our 24-hour construction hotline at (206) 801-2485.

Plastic bag regulations go into effect February 1

In April 2013, the City Council voted to ban plastic carryout bags at all Shoreline retail locations beginning February 1, 2014. Paper grocery bags are still allowed, but shoppers will be charged a five cent fee per bag to use them. Shoreline is the eighth city in Washington State to ban or regulate plastic bags.

The new regulations also include a number of exemptions. Produce bags, dry cleaning bags, small bags for bulk items, and bags to wrap around certain goods where dampness may be a problem are still allowed. Individuals with low incomes are exempt from the five cent fee for paper bags.

For more information about the carryout bag regulations visit shorelinewa.gov/plasticbags.
Dear Shoreline Community:

You may be aware that the City of Shoreline and the Ronald Wastewater District (District) have an existing agreement to merge the District’s operations and personnel into the City in 2017. At the time the City and the District jointly signed the agreement in 2002, both parties saw the benefit of unifying the wastewater utility operations with City provided services. The City Council continues to believe such unification is in the Shoreline Community’s best long-term interest.

The 2002 Agreement provides that the City will assume the sewer utility, which means the District will cease to exist and the City will take over utility operations at no additional cost to ratepayers or taxpayers. The existing sewer system, including employees, equipment and any District debt will become the responsibility of the City. The same people currently working for the District will continue to work for the utility; the only change would be their employer.

As a Shoreline resident you should expect to have your tax dollars and utility fees used efficiently. The City currently operates the solid waste (garbage and recycling) and stormwater utilities and is in the process of acquiring the Seattle Public Utilities water system in Shoreline. Unifying the sewer utility is a logical step in achieving even greater efficiencies for your tax dollar.

We have accomplished some amazing things in our short history as a City and there is great potential in our future. Consolidating utility services with City services will benefit the Shoreline community. It will allow us to better plan for and achieve our Vision 2029 goals. Ronald Wastewater District has provided good service to our community for many years and we will continue to provide that good service into the future as we move forward with unification.

For more information about the City’s assumption of the wastewater utility visit shorelinewa.gov/ronaldassumption or contact Public Works Director Mark Relph at mrelph@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2401.

Sincerely,

Keith A. McGlashan
Mayor
On behalf of the Shoreline City Council
Chris Eggen
Deputy Mayor
Will Hall
Doris McConnell
Chris Roberts
Jesse Salomon
Shari Winstead

Benefits of unifying the City’s utilities

Supports Community Vision – As articulated in the City’s overarching planning documents (Vision 2029 and the Comprehensive Plan), the community’s vision is for City operation of utilities.

Cost Effective – Achieve cost savings by combining two independent local governments into one. This will result in shared facilities and equipment, reduced operational costs, such as having one finance department, and eliminating the cost of a second set of elected officials.

Better Communication and Customer Service – Provide better customer service through:
- combined utility billing;
- access to all information through a single website;
- unified customer service; and
- a streamlined permitting process.

Greater Transparency – Provide ratepayers with a more transparent process for rate-setting and decision-making by having a single group of elected officials (elected by all the citizens of Shoreline) accountable to Shoreline voters.

Coordinated Capital Improvement Projects – Instead of tearing up roads or sidewalks twice to make separate road and utility improvements, unification will provide better project coordination, helping redevelopment throughout the City.

More Robust Emergency Response – Provide more financial and human resources to the utility in the event of an emergency.
Community volunteer groups help City leverage taxpayer money

Without partnerships, many programs that contribute to the great quality of life that people experience in Shoreline would not be possible. One of the ways the City maximizes taxpayer money is to partner with outside organizations to provide certain services to Shoreline residents, allowing taxpayer money to go even further. One such organization that has been an instrumental part in ensuring the success of our three off-lease dog areas is ShoreDog (Shoreline Dog Off-Leash Group).

Through the partnership between ShoreDog and the City, several concerns regarding the daily upkeep and maintenance of the off-lease dog areas are addressed. ShoreDog has helped reduce the City’s overall operating costs for the off-lease dog areas through their regular volunteer work parties. ShoreDog volunteers help organize and run work parties where dog park users and community volunteers improve the dog park surfacing, provide water for the dogs, replenish dog waste bags for dog owners, shore up the perimeter fencing, and complete general dog waste clean-up.

ShoreDog has volunteers called Dog Park Stewards who are liaisons between the off-lease users and City staff to inform staff of maintenance or operating concerns. ShoreDog volunteers also help organize special events like “DogFest,” a one day festival with dog games and specialty dog vendors. These events create a way to provide dog owners with information about pet licenses, leash law enforcement and how scooping the “poop” improves our water quality.

How you can help

Our off-lease areas are a success because of the committed volunteers of ShoreDog, but more volunteers are needed. If you enjoy our off-lease parks consider supporting ShoreDog by volunteering. To learn more, join us for a special meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 301 in City Hall.

Work parties are set for February 8 at the East Side Off-Leash Dog Area, located at 1902 NE 150th Street, and March 8 at the Shoreview Off-Leash Dog Area located at 320 Innis Arden Way.

For more information on how to volunteer at our off-lease dog areas or to help support the ShoreDog organization, contact Maureen Colaizzi at mcolaizzi@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2603.
Be prepared for inclement weather. Wind, rain, and snow are all part of the season and with proper preparation we can minimize the impacts of bad weather on our community.

During a Storm

Unless there is an emergency, stay home. If you must travel, please use public transportation whenever possible. You can sign up with Metro Transit to receive snow routing alerts at metro.kingcounty.gov/signup.

Snow Removal

When it snows, City plows will concentrate their efforts on primary routes first to accommodate fire, medical, and police response, as well as Metro transit, school buses, and commuter traffic. As long as it continues to snow, these primary routes will be plowed. Once the snow has stopped and all primary roads are clear, plows will move to secondary routes, and once those are clear, neighborhood streets will be plowed. If it starts snowing again, the process of clearing main roads will start over. Please keep in mind that during a heavy, continuous snowstorm it may take several days before all City streets are cleared. Snow plowing route maps are available at shorelinewa.gov/stormready.

Resident Responsibilities

Shoreline homeowners and business/property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice off driveways and sidewalks near their property, including the ridge of snow left along the edge of driveways by the snow plow. Please clear storm drains and catch basins in order to help clear melting snow and avoid pooling water.

Solid Waste Collection

Missed collections of garbage, yard waste, and recycling due to winter weather will be rescheduled for the following week. Please protect your materials from blowing away by making sure bins are closed. To learn more about Cleanscapes’ adverse weather and holiday policies visit cleanscapes.com or call (206) 763-4444.

During a storm

For life-threatening emergencies, call 911.

Non-emergency issues, such as downed trees, signs or problems with drainage due to rain or snow, should be reported to the City 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (206) 801-2700.

Check the City’s website and Facebook pages for information about facility and road closures and progress updates on snow plowing.

Be Storm Ready for winter

Be prepared for inclement weather. Wind, rain, and snow are all part of the season and with proper preparation we can minimize the impacts of bad weather on our community.

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Holiday foods are delicious, but foods with fats, oils, and grease can clog your sewer pipes and pollute our streams when poured down the sink. Be kind to your pipes and recycle used cooking oil at Shoreline’s Central Market where it will gain new life as biodiesel fuel. If you can’t recycle it, absorb the oil in a paper towel and put it in your food scraps container; or place in a lidded container, and put it in your garbage.

For more information on cooking oil recycling, contact Environmental Programs Assistant Tina Kendall at (206) 801-2455 or tkendall@shorelinewa.gov.

For sewer questions, call Ronald Wastewater at (206) 546-2494.
Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

During the holidays we all become busier and more distracted. Juggling multiple priorities and having our attention pulled in different directions presents criminals with an opportunity to take advantage of us.

Tips to avoid holiday crime:

**Package Delivery** – Consider your alternatives when having packages delivered. An unattended package sitting for hours on a front porch is an easy target. Do you have a secure location where your package could be placed by the delivery person? Can a neighbor, friend, or family member receive your package for you? Can you have your packages delivered to your workplace?

**Purses** – Stealing a purse from an unattended shopping cart while the owner is distracted is a recurring holiday crime. Keep your purse in your hand or strapped close to your body while shopping.

**Parking** – Purchases sitting in open view in an unattended vehicle provide an easy target. If possible, park in areas easily viewed from storefronts and by foot traffic. Lock your car, and make sure your valuables are either well hidden or stored in the trunk.

**Phone Calls** – You and your family are likely to be using your credit and bank accounts much more frequently during the holiday season. Scam artists know this and will take advantage of unsuspecting people by cold calling and requesting personal information. This criminal activity often takes the form of an unsolicited phone call allegedly from a bank or credit company looking for personal information to assist them in “correcting” financial irregularities within your account. DO NOT give out personal identification or account information unless you have made the phone call and there is no doubt with whom you are speaking.

For more crime prevention information, visit the Police webpage at shorelinewa.gov/police.

Sign up for news and public safety alerts

The City has launched a new electronic news and emergency alert system — Alert Shoreline. Through Alert Shoreline, you can elect to receive news about City topics important to you and emergency alerts associated with multiple locations in the City (for example, your home, your kids’ school, and your work locations). This service will take the place of the City’s current eNews subscription.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When signing up for Alert Shoreline, PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT THE CONTACT METHOD SECTION. Without your contact information, we are unable to send you any alerts. If you have signed up for alerts, but have not received any yet, please check your account to make sure you have provided your contact information.

Visit shorelinewa.gov/alert to register.

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**camp shoreline**

**HOLIDAY CAMP**

Ages 4-12

Spend your holiday break with us

Play games ~ Go swimming ~ Be creative ~ Make friends ~ And more!

**DATES:**
December 23, 26, 27, 30 & January 2, 3

**TIMES:**
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**COST:**
$40 per day (residents)
$45 per day (non-residents)

**LOCATION:**
Spartan Recreation Center
202 NE 185th Street

**REGISTER:** (206) 801-2600
shorelinewa.gov/registration
Urban Forest Strategic Plan Open House

Thursday, Jan. 23, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
17500 Midvale Avenue N

Join the Shoreline Tree Board (PRCS Board) to learn about the City’s efforts to develop an urban forest strategic plan for the City. Information on the current condition of the urban forest, such as canopy cover assessment and street tree inventory on major arterials, will be on display. An outline of the development of the strategic plan will be discussed. Guests are encouraged to ask questions, provide comments, and weigh in on the top priorities for the City’s urban forestry program. Board members, staff, and consultants will be available to discuss the project.

Winter in Kruckeberg Botanic Garden

Solstice Stroll
Friday and Saturday, Dec. 20 - 21
4:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Kruckeberg Botanic Garden
20312 15th Avenue NW

Join us in bringing light to the longest nights of the year! For one weekend only, we will be lighting up the garden. Enjoy warm beverages and cookies, holiday carols, glow sticks for the kids, and the company of friends and neighbors. Admission is free; however, donations to KBGF are encouraged.

Also, during the month of December, bring in canned goods to donate to Food Lifeline.

Annual KBGF Members’ Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 21
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Joshua Chenoweth, head botanist on the Elwha River Dam Removal Revegetation Project, will present about data collected and plans for the coming years on this groundbreaking project. All are welcome. Admission is free for KBGF members. There is a $5 suggested donation for non-members.

Winter Twig ID
Saturday, Feb. 1
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join renowned horticulturalist Walt Bubelis for the first of our Plant Geek series. Learn how to identify trees and shrubs by their winter twigs. Afterwards, warm up with hot beverages. Admission is free. Sign up via our website.

KBG and MsK Nursery are open year round, Friday through Sunday. Winter hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information visit kruckeberg.org or call (206) 546-1281.

Christmas Tree Recycling Event

Saturday, Jan. 4, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Meridian Park Elementary School Parking Lot
17077 Meridian Avenue N

The City will host its annual Christmas Tree Recycling Event on Saturday, Jan. 4 to help Shoreline residents recycle their Christmas trees. Please remove all hooks, ornaments, tinsel, and tree stands. Do not bring flocked, artificial or garden trees, branches, wreaths, or swags.

Trees will be recycled by CleanScapes, but they won’t be chipped on-site at the event.

If there is snow or ice on the road the day of the event, call (206) 801-2450 for a recorded message of the event’s status.

For more information and other options for disposing of your tree, visit shorelinewa.gov or call (206) 801-2700.

In past years, residents have biked, driven, carried, carted, and motorcycled their trees to the event. In 2013, we recycled 1,631 trees!
Sound Transit identifies preferred light rail route and stations

Light rail service in Shoreline recently took another major step toward becoming a reality. On November 21, the Sound Transit Board identified the preferred alternative for the Lynnwood Link light rail project. The preferred alternative will be described and evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project, along with the other alternatives considered.

The preferred alternative in Shoreline includes an alignment along the east side of Interstate 5, with light rail stations at NE 145th Street and NE 185th Street. It includes the following features:

- The rail line and station are elevated at NE 145th Street. At NE 185th Street, the rail line will go under the bridge and the station will be at approximately the same level as Interstate 5.
- Both stations include parking garages with 500 stalls
- The parking garage at NE 145th Street is located adjacent to the proposed station
- The parking garage at NE 185th Street is located on the west side of Interstate 5, adjacent to the existing bridge
- Pedestrian improvements on the NE 185th Street bridge over Interstate 5 to better connect the parking garage and station
- The majority of the rail line is at-grade through Shoreline.

The Board made their decision after considering the findings in the Draft EIS, public and agency comments, and other information. The Final EIS is scheduled to be issued in 2014.

For more information contact Senior Transportation Planner Alicia McIntire at amcintire@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2483, or visit the City’s webpage at shorelinewa.gov/lightrail or Sound Transit’s at soundtransit.org/Projects-and-Plans/Lynnwood-Link-Extension.

City Council seeks volunteers for Planning Commission

City Council is seeking three volunteers for the Planning Commission to serve four-year terms beginning in April 2014. No technical background or experience in land use is required.

Volunteers who serve on the Shoreline Planning Commission provide recommendations to the City Council on land use, growth, and development issues. They are charged with reviewing and providing recommendations regarding amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, development regulations, and major development proposals.

In 2014, the Commission will primarily be working on the 145th and 185th Street Light Rail Station Subarea Plans. The Commission will also be working on updates to the Development Code and the City’s Critical Area Ordinance.

Applications are available at shorelinewa.gov/plancom or at City Hall. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, to the City Clerk’s Office on the first floor of City Hall or can be emailed to lbasher@shorelinewa.gov.

For more information contact Planning Commission Clerk Lisa Basher at lbasher@shorelinewa.gov or (206) 801-2514.

Veterans Day Celebration

Shoreline veterans were honored at a Veteran’s Day Celebration held at City Hall on November 11. All veterans of any branch of service were invited to the event. Long-time resident, World War II Veteran, and co-founder of the Shoreline Veterans Association Dwight N. Stevens was given special recognition for his military service as a B-17 pilot in Europe in 1944. Stevens has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the highest award a flying officer can earn.

As part of the event, King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski presented the Shoreline Veterans Association with a check for $10,000 to go towards a Shoreline Veterans Memorial.

King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski and Shoreline Veteran Dwight N. Stevens