

Aurora Corridor Improvement Project

N. 165th Street–N. 205th Street

Public Scoping Meeting

Meridian Park Elementary School

November 30, 2006

Shorewood High School

December 6, 2006

Objectives of Scoping Meeting

- Understand the project and the three alternatives
- Understand the environmental process
- Provide feedback on alternatives and/or process

Presentation Outline

- Scoping process
- Project background
- Alternatives
- Environmental process
- Community involvement

Scoping Process



Scoping Process

Purpose of Scoping

- Inform the community and interested agencies of the project
- Clarify the project and project alternatives
- Describe the environmental process
- Identify issues

Scoping Process

Scoping Period

- November 30, 2006 – January 2, 2007
- All public and agency comments received during this period will be included in scoping report
- Comments submitted
 - During public meeting - written; verbal to court reporter
 - After public meeting – written via mail or email

Scoping Process

Scoping Report

- Administrative record of comments and responses
- Summarizes all comments provided during the scoping period
- Provides responses to comments:
 - Explain how issue raised will be addressed in the environmental analysis, or
 - Explain why issue raised is outside the scope of the environmental evaluation
- Prepared in January after close of scoping period

Project Background



Project Background

Vision for Aurora Corridor

- Safe for pedestrians and vehicles
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Accommodate all modes of travel
- Economic development and support existing commerce
- Handle congestion
- Balance local and regional travel
- Fundable project

Project Background

Public Outreach Pre-Environmental (POP) Process

- Held public open house – August 17, 2005 – kickoff for the next two miles
 - Interested in creative stormwater solutions
 - Concerns about economic impacts
- Created and met with Aurora Business Team
 - Issues tracking matrix
 - Feedback contributed to development of Alternative A

Project Background

Public Outreach Pre-Environmental (POP) Process

- City staff had held individual meetings with every property owner along the project segment
- Result of POP:
 - Development of three Build Alternatives
 - Stronger focus on economic impacts
 - Stormwater options included in environmental scope

Alternatives



Alternatives

- No-Build Alternative
- Three Build Alternatives

Alternatives

No-Build Alternative

- Aurora Avenue remains as it is today
- Also used as the “baseline” by which to compare the Build Alternatives

Alternatives

Three Build Alternatives

- Alternatives A, B and C
- Bookends for the range of alternatives

Alternatives

All three Build Alternatives have:

- Two general-purpose lanes in each direction
- Business Access and Transit (BAT) lane in each direction
- Sidewalk
- Underground utilities
- Vegetation

Alternatives

All three Build Alternatives have:

- Access management, left-turn and u-turn pocket
- Proposed new signals at N 182nd St and N 195th St
- Widening at N 175th St intersection for double left turns
- Improvements to Echo Lake Place (north of N 195th St)
- Improvements to Midvale Ave N (N 175th St - N 183rd St)

Alternatives

Business Access and Transit (BAT) Lane

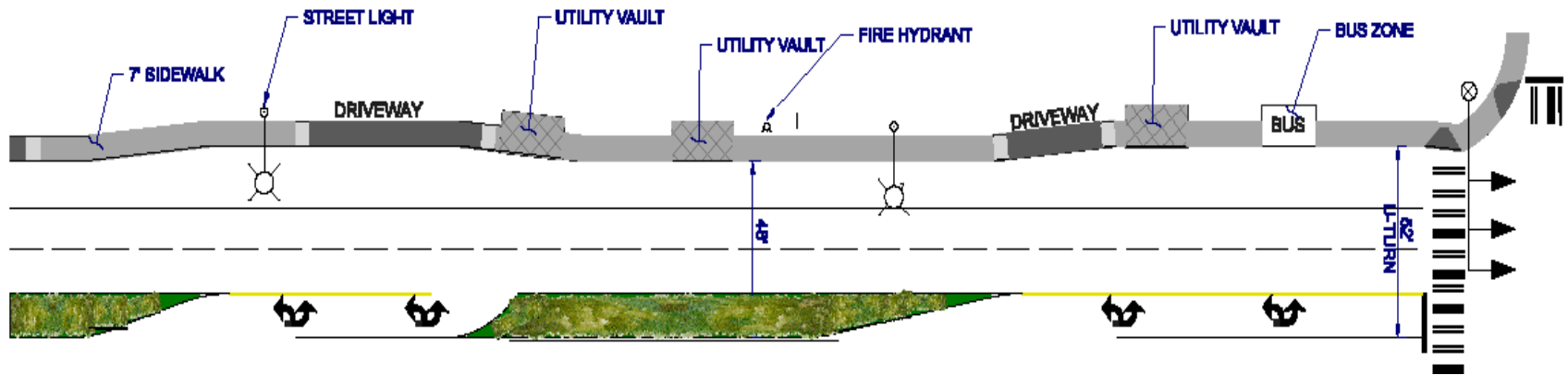
- Bus lane
- Additionally used as a right-turn lane for vehicles accessing businesses and residences along Aurora Avenue

Access Management

- Use medians, left-turn pockets, u-turn pockets, and driveways to improve safety and traffic flow

Alternatives

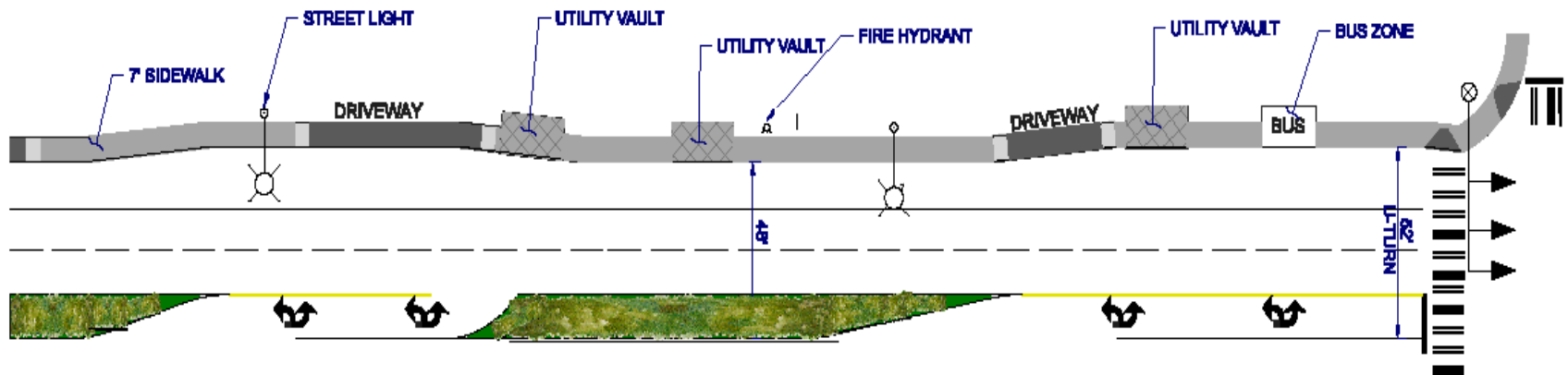
Alternative A



- 98-foot cross section
- Shift east in the vicinity of N 175th Street
- 7-foot sidewalk
- No amenity/utility zone

Alternatives

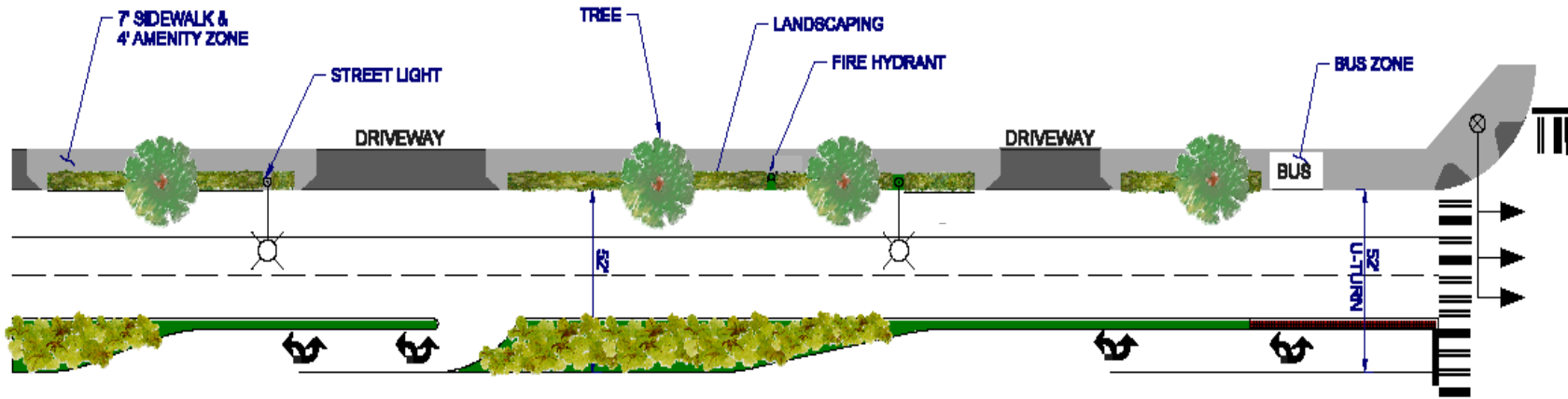
Alternative A



- Utility vaults and light/signal poles behind sidewalks
- C-curb access management/median (narrower than Alts B and C)
- Bulb outs at U-turn and left turn locations to achieve needed turning radius
- Limited vegetation in median

Alternatives

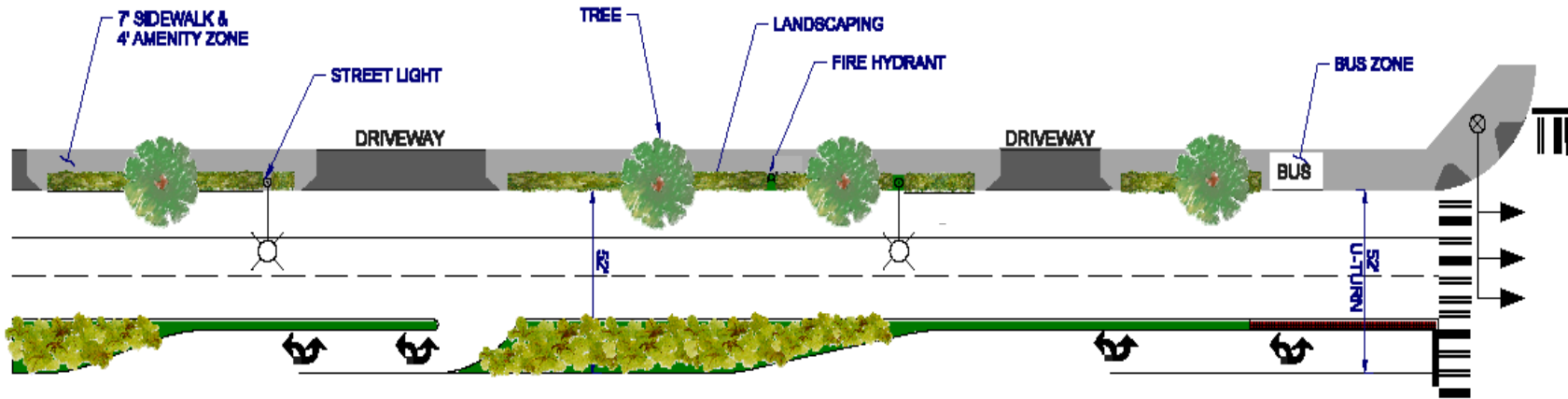
Alternatives B and C



- 110-foot cross section
- 4-foot vegetated amenity/utility zone between curb and sidewalk
- 7-foot sidewalk
- Landscaped medians for access management
- Light poles in the amenity zone
- Signal poles in the sidewalk

Alternatives

Alternatives B and C



- **Difference** between Alternatives B and C is between N 175th St and N 200th St
 - Alternative B shifted to the east
 - Alternative C shifted to the west

Alternatives

Stormwater Concepts

Conventional systems

- Curb and gutter
- Catch basins and conveyance pipes for flow control
- Underground detention pipes
- Stormwater treatment vaults, where stormwater is held and pollutants settle out and are collected.

Natural systems

- Vegetation used to slow down water to collect pollutants
- Reduction of impervious surfaces
- Aesthetics
- Potential reduction of large stormwater management systems
- Potential use of pervious asphalt and concrete

Environmental Process



Environmental Process

Purpose

- Objective analysis of potential environmental effects
- Identification of mitigation measures to avoid or minimize effects
- Public disclosure of impacts and mitigation
- Transparency in process
- Used by City and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to make decisions about the project

Environmental Process

NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act

- Federal law
- Why NEPA?
 - Federal funding of project
 - Possible need for federal permits
- Lead Agency - FHWA

Environmental Process

SEPA = State Environmental Policy Act

- Washington State law
- Why SEPA?
 - Required for any state or local agency decision that meets the definition of an “action” and is not categorically exempt
- Lead agency – City of Shoreline

Environmental Process

- Environmental Discipline Reports
- Public Review / Comment
- Selection of Recommended Alternative (~May/June 2007)
- Lead Agencies Determine Level of Environmental Report
- NEPA and SEPA Environmental Reports
- Public Review / Comment
- Finalize NEPA and SEPA Environmental Reports
- Lead Agency Determination (~December 2007)

Environmental Process

Discipline Report – What is it?

- Technical report that assesses environmental impacts and mitigation
- For this project, procedures are set by FHWA and implemented through WSDOT
- Evaluates project impacts and mitigation, and describes the analysis methods used

Environmental Process

Environmental Disciplines

Natural Environment

- Earth (Geology and Soils)
- Air
- Water Quality/Surface Water
- Floodplain
- Groundwater
- Wildlife, Fish, and Vegetation
- Wetlands
- Public Lands

Built Environment

- Hazardous Materials
- Land Use, Plans and Policies
- Historic, Cultural, and Archeological Resources
- Social, Economic, and Relocation
- Environmental Justice
- Visual Impacts
- Transportation
- Noise
- Public Services and Utilities

Environmental Process

Discipline Report

- Will cover No Build + three Build Alternatives
- Finalized upon review / approval by WSDOT and FHWA
- Available for public review after finalization
- Public meeting will be held to review results prior to City selection of Recommended Alternative
- Results of analysis determine necessary level of NEPA and SEPA review

Environmental Process

NEPA / SEPA Documents

- Will be prepared for the **Recommended Alternative**
- Draft documents will be made available for public review
- Up to 45-day public review / comment period
- Public hearing will be held prior to finalization of documents

Environmental Process

Final NEPA / SEPA Documents

Finalized after

- Public review period is complete
- Lead agencies have reviewed and approved

Environmental Process

Environmental Determination

If no significant impacts are identified for project:

- NEPA – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- SEPA – Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

If significant impacts are identified for project:

- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for both NEPA and SEPA.

Community Involvement



Community Involvement

- Public Scoping
- Two additional public meetings
- Scheduled public review/comment on environmental documents
- Regular briefings to City Council
- Continue outreach/coordinate with local organizations and community groups
- Aurora Business and Community Team
- Project website – project information and feedback form
- Aurora Business Team
- Comments / Questions welcome at any time!

For Remainder of Meeting...

- Visit stations
- Discuss alternatives / environmental process
- Ask questions
- Provide written or verbal comments on alternatives, process

After meeting, comments may be provided via mail or email

All comments received by 5:00pm, January 2, 2007, will be included in the Scoping Report