

# Framework GOALS

# Aurora Corridor Pre-Design STUDY GOALS

Through a series of more than 300 activities held in 1996–1998 (meetings, open houses, surveys and discussions), Shoreline’s citizens, the Planning Commission, and the City Council refined the City Council’s Vision Statements into the following Comprehensive Plan Framework Goals.

- FG1: Accommodate anticipated levels of growth and enhance the quality of life within the City of Shoreline.
- FG2: Promote quality building and development that is compatible with the surrounding environment.
- FG3: Support diverse and affordable housing opportunities which provide for Shoreline’s population growth.
- FG4: Pursue a strong and diverse economy and assure economic development that complements neighborhood character.
- FG5: Protect the natural environment and preserve environmentally critical areas.
- FG6: Promote improvements to human services.
- FG7: Assure effective and efficient public investment for quality public services, facilities, and utilities.
- FG8: Improve multi-modal transportation systems which provide for Shoreline’s present and future population.
- FG9: Provide for wide involvement in community planning decisions.

—Adopted in first Shoreline Comprehensive Plan, 1998; Carried through into current Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2005

After adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in 1998, the Aurora Corridor Multi-Modal Pre-Design Study Process and appointment of the Citizen’s Advisory Task were the next steps in implementing the Comprehensive Plan; and specifically the Aurora Corridor Sub-Area Plan that was completed in 1997.

Goals for the study adopted by the Citizen’s Advisory Task included the following:

- Improve the safety of all users along and across the corridor
- Involve the public and adjacent property owners in the decision process

Arrive at a preferred design concept that will:

- enhance the attractiveness of alternative modes
- optimize safe and efficient movement of people and goods
- meets short-term and long-term transportation needs of users
- maintains a balance between function as a regional arterial and as Shoreline’s “Main Street”
- supports local and regional economic development objectives
- improves street aesthetics, environment, and land use
- supports the Comprehensive Plan
- preserves the character of adjacent neighborhoods
- has flexibility to allow different characteristics along the corridor

—Aurora Corridor Multimodal Pre-Design Study 1999

# Project Background

## VISION

In 1996, the Shoreline City Council established the following set of “Vision Statements” as a set of overall preliminary principles to guide the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

- The City of Shoreline will capitalize on its unique physical strengths as well as its human assets.
- The City’s numerous parks and key buildings or other features (e.g., civic center, community college, waterways) shall be interconnected from Puget Sound to all points in Shoreline through natural and built trails, “Green Streets” and special pedestrian walkways. Significant stands of trees will be identified as parts of greenbelts and preserved where possible, to protect and enhance Shoreline’s natural environment.
- The Puget Sound shoreline is a unique aspect of the City and should be made more available to all citizens. Other water bodies within the City of Shoreline will be publicly owned and will be centers of public recreation.
- Each road and waterway into the City will have special treatment signaling entry into Shoreline. Gateways are defined by plantings, signage, three dimensional art, etc.
- Preservation of existing residential neighborhoods provides safe, affordable housing of all types for all segments of the community.
- The City’s several commercial areas are vital and active, including a variety of shops and services that are pedestrian oriented. Mixed uses, commercial, and light industrial establishments are permitted in selected areas. Centers exist along major arterials. For example, Aurora would have three major centers, each with a theme:
  - Aurora at N 145th Street to N 160th Street would be a retail area.
  - Aurora at N 175th Street to N 185th Street would serve as a civic hub.
  - Aurora at N 195th Street to N 205th Street would serve as an entertainment center.
- Sidewalks, street trees, pedestrian crossings and other pedestrian amenities are provided. Neighborhood business centers would serve surrounding residential areas.
- Regional and local linkages are made between homes, commercial areas, entertainment centers and employment areas.
- Community policing and community pride will serve and protect all segments of the community.

—Shoreline City Council 1996

The Implementation Principles were developed during the Aurora Corridor Multi-Modal Pre-Design Study. The public process for this study included three community-wide public meetings; participation of a Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) made up of representatives from the business community, neighborhoods and transit users; and an interagency team that included public sector stakeholders. The final recommendation included these Implementation Principles, called the 32 Points, established to provide flexibility and address issues and concerns raised during the pre-design study. These Principles were approved unanimously by the CATF on July 8, 1999, and adopted by the Shoreline City Council in Resolution #156 on August 23, 1999.

These Implementation Principles were used as guidelines in the development of the three project alternatives to ensure that concerns of the community and the vision of the City Council are fully addressed.

1. The maximum number of lanes on an intersection leg shall not exceed eight lanes including turning lanes. Seven lanes is the desired width.
2. Provide ability at intersections for all pedestrians to safely cross (and include median refuge at intersections with pedestrian pushbuttons). New mid-block pedestrian crossings should include pedestrian activated signals. Bus stops and pedestrian crossings will complement each other.
3. Twelve foot sidewalks will be provided on both sides of Aurora the entire length.

Consider reducing the initial sidewalk width to mitigate land impacts/acquisitions on existing businesses. Note: a minimum of four feet of a landscaping/street furnishing zone is included in the twelve foot width total above.

4. Utilize more landscaping or colored pavement in sidewalk areas to soften the look. The four foot landscaping/street furnishing strip behind the curb should utilize trees in tree grates/pits (consider a combination tree protector/bike rack), low growing ground cover/shrubs, and could utilize some special paving (or brick) between curb and sidewalk to strengthen the identity of an area.
5. Strive to design the project so that new sidewalks can link to existing recently constructed sidewalks (such as Seattle Restaurant Supply, Drift-on-Inn, Schucks, Hollywood Video, and Easley Cadillac).
6. Re-align the street where possible to avoid property takes.
7. As the final design is developed, work with WSDOT to obtain design approvals for lane width reductions, and look for opportunities to reduce (but not eliminate) the median width both to enable reduction of pavement widths, construction costs, and land impacts/acquisition on existing businesses.
8. Develop median breaks or intersections for business access and U-turns at least every 800-to-1000 feet (these details will be worked out during future design phases and will be based in part on the amount of traffic entering and exiting businesses).
9. Use low growing drought resistant ground-cover and space trees in the median to allow visibility across it.
10. Unify the corridor by adding art, special light fixtures, pavement patterns (and coloring at crosswalks), street furniture, banners, unique bus shelters, etc. to dramatically enhance image and uniqueness of the streetscape and develop it differently than the standard design that has been constructed for most streets.
11. Unify the entire corridor by the use of street trees, lighting, special paving, bus zone design, and other elements to visually connect the corridor along its length.
12. Provide elements in the Interurban/Aurora Junction area, between 175th and 185th that create a safe, pedestrian oriented streetscape. Elements can include special treatments of crossings, linkages to the Interurban Trail, etc.
13. Develop signature gateway designs at 145th and 205th with special interest landscaping, lighting, paving and public art to provide a visual cue to drivers that they have entered a special place.
14. Develop themes that reflect the character and uses of different

sections of the street (such as the 150th to 160th area which has a concentration of international businesses, recall the historic significance of the Interurban or other historic elements, and Echo Lake).

15. Utilize the Arts Council and neighborhoods to solicit and select art along the corridor.
16. Strengthen connections to the Interurban Trail through signing and other urban design techniques.
17. Develop a design for closure of Westminster Road between 158th and 155th by developing a southbound right turn lane at 155th Street and converting the existing road section to a driveway entrance to Aurora Square. Also, develop an elevated Interurban trail crossing through "the Triangle" that is integrated with future development of the Triangle (reserve the option to build above Westminster should we not be successful in closing the roadway).
18. Pursue modifying the access to Firlands at 185th, closing Firlands north of 195th, and developing a new signal at 195th.
19. The preferred design shall include:
  - Stormwater management improvements to accompany the project that follow the city's policies;
  - Traffic signal control and coordination technology (including coordination with Seattle and Edmonds SR 99 signal systems);
  - Traffic signal technology to enable transit priority operations;
  - Continuous illumination for traffic safety and pedestrian scale lighting;
  - Undergrounding of overhead utility distribution lines.
20. Traffic signals will include audible elements for the sight-impaired, and wheelchair detection loops for wheelchair users.
21. The City should establish a right-of-way policy to retain or relocate existing businesses along the corridor, including those that do not own the land on which they are located. Consideration should be given to providing financial incentives to those businesses.
22. Work with property and business owners during the preliminary engineering phase to consolidate driveways, share driveways, and potentially to share parking and inter business access across parcel lines. Be creative and sensitive to the parking needs of businesses, including consideration for some potential clustered/shared parking lots (especially if remnant parcels are available).
23. Provide improvements that will not generate an increase in

neighborhood spillover traffic.

24. Work with transit agencies to provide increased service and seek capital investments from them to support this project.
25. Develop partnerships with WSDOT and King County/Metro to jointly fund the project.
26. Provide curb bulbs where practical on side streets to reduce pedestrian crossing width and to discourage cut-through traffic.
27. Strengthen and preserve the heritage of the red brick road. If the design impacts the red brick road in its current configuration/location north of 175th, preserve its heritage by relocating it elsewhere.
28. Consider new signalized intersections at 152nd, 165th, 182nd, and 195th.
29. Consider new pedestrian only signalized crossings in the vicinity of 149th, 170th, 180th and 202nd.
30. Sign Ronald Place south of 175th as the route to I-5.
31. Pursue reducing the speed limit to 35 mph where appropriate recognizing the potential impacts of spillover traffic with a lower posted speed.
32. Seek funding to develop a program to assist and encourage businesses to improve their facades.