



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2003

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Shoreline gets go ahead on Aurora Corridor Project

King County Superior Court Judge James Doerty rejected the Shoreline Merchants Association appeal of the Aurora Corridor project environmental review, effectively clearing the way for the redesign and redevelopment Aurora Avenue from N. 145th to 165th Streets. In written Findings issued September 23, the judge dismissed the Shoreline Merchants Association's claims in their entirety.

"We are pleased that the court has affirmed our environmental review process and given the green light to this important project," said Shoreline Mayor Scott Jepsen. "The redevelopment of Aurora Avenue is something our community has advocated for a long, long time. We are firmly committed to moving forward with this project to bring much needed safety improvements to this road that runs through the center of our city."

The Aurora Corridor Project is the City of Shoreline's plan to redesign and redevelop Aurora Avenue from N. 145th to 165th Streets. While improving safety for pedestrians and motorists is one of the driving forces behind the project, it also includes improvements in pedestrian and disabled access, vehicular capacity, traffic flow, transit speed and reliability, night time visibility and safety, storm water quality, economic investment potential and streetscape amenities and aesthetics.

"Aurora carries 40,000 cars and 5,000 bus riders through the center of town daily," says Mayor Scott Jepsen. "Improving it will have a positive impact on the entire city."

Following the environmental review that included an Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the City Council adopted a design in December 2002.

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The adopted design includes seven-foot sidewalks, a four-foot landscape and amenity zone, Business Access/Transit (BAT) lanes, street and pedestrian level lighting, underground utilities, landscaping, improved storm water facilities, spacing for left-turn and U-turns at frequent intervals placed to serve multiple businesses within raised medians, new traffic signals/pedestrian crossings at 152nd and 165th and bus zone enhancements. The plan also includes interim reduced sidewalk widths at three locations to avoid impacts to buildings.

The design was based on the concept developed during the Aurora Corridor Multi-modal Pre-design Study. The Pre-design Study was an extensive public process that included three community-wide public meetings plus participation from a Citizen Advisory Task Force (CATF) made up of representatives from the business community, neighborhoods and transit users. There was also an interagency team that included public sector stakeholders. The final recommendation included a set of implementation principles called the “32 Points” established to provide flexibility and address issues and concerns raised during the pre-design study.

“The plan for Aurora came about from exhaustive public process. The city listened to everyone,” said Paulette Gust, a Shoreline resident who served on the CATF. “The result is a plan that creates a public amenity and a sense of place, while improving safety and mobility for both pedestrians and motorists,” Gust added.

Work on final design drawings is underway and is expected to reach the 90 percent point next spring. Construction is expected to begin in late 2004 or early 2005.

“Nearly 90 percent of this project is being funded by state and federal money returning to Shoreline to improve the quality of life in our community,” says Mayor Scott Jepsen. “While we’re looking forward to seeing construction begin, we’re even more anxious to see the completed project show us an improved Aurora in terms of safety, traffic flow and appearance.”

For more information about the Aurora Corridor Project, visit the city’s Web site at www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/projects/aurora/index.cfm or contact Aurora Project Manager Kirk McKinley at (206) 546-3901.

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