Sidewalk Prioritization Plan and funding options

ON JUNE 4, City Council gave its final approval for a new Sidewalk Prioritization Plan. The Plan, developed over the past year by City staff and a sidewalk advisory committee made up of Shoreline residents, prioritizes new sidewalk improvements. The advisory committee based their prioritization on four criteria – safety, equity, proximity, and connectivity. Using data and the criteria, they were able to determine priority levels for future sidewalk projects that are part of our Pedestrian Plan.

In addition to developing the prioritization plan, the sidewalk advisory committee also looked at how to fund repair and maintenance of our existing sidewalks and the construction of new sidewalks. Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of sidewalk needs in Shoreline, a complete build out of our Pedestrian Plan includes approximately 153 miles of sidewalks. A little more than 53 miles existed when we became a city. Since incorporation, the City has constructed a little more than 17 miles of sidewalks and private development has paid for the construction of just over 6 miles. That leaves approximately 76 miles of sidewalks that we still need to construct to complete our Pedestrian Plan.

Our estimates show that to construct the additional 76 miles will cost more than $414 million. This does not include the cost to maintain and bring existing sidewalks into Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. We estimate it will cost approximately $110 million to maintain and repair existing sidewalks.

Funding options considered by the Sidewalk Advisory Committee included increasing the vehicle license fee, increasing the sales and use tax, and increasing property taxes. On June 4, Council passed an ordinance increasing the vehicle license fee an additional $20 to pay for sidewalk repair and maintenance.

Council is currently considering placing a measure on the November ballot asking Shoreline voters to adopt a 0.2% increase in the sales and use tax to pay for the construction of new sidewalks. A 0.2% increase in the sales and use tax would generate approximately $24.4 million over ten years and $59 million over 20 years. While this amount would not provide funding to complete the Pedestrian Plan, it would fund construction of some of the high priority sidewalks.
Vehicle license fee increased to help pay for sidewalk maintenance and repair

IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS our growing need for sidewalk repair and maintenance, Council approved increasing the vehicle license fee (VLF) by $20. Collection of the new fee will begin March 1, 2019.

The Shoreline Transportation Benefit District, established in 2009, currently levies a $20 per vehicle fee to help fund the City’s road pavement maintenance program. With the $20 increase, the total collected will be $40. The additional $20 fee will go towards our Curb Ramp, Gutter, and Sidewalk Maintenance Program, allowing us to increase sidewalk maintenance funds from approximately $152,000 per year to $730,000 per year.

We have approximately 77 miles of existing sidewalks throughout Shoreline. Built at different times under different standards, many are in need of significant repair. Preliminary estimates indicate that we need over $110 million for repairs, including replacement and retrofitting existing sidewalks and curb ramps to meet ADA standards.

State law provides limited ways for cities to address transportation needs. The VLF is one of those ways.

N 195th Street Complete Streets Project

AS PART OF THE CITY’S ongoing effort to provide safe, east-west pedestrian and cycling connections, we are preparing for construction of a new sidewalk along the south side of North 195th Street between the Interurban Trail and Ashworth Avenue North.

Included in the project are pedestrian safety enhancements at the intersection of N 195th Street and Ashworth Avenue N, and curb and gutter, and storm drain improvements. The Washington State Transportation Improvements Board’s “Complete Streets” program provided a $250,000 grant to partly fund the project. We received the grant in large part due to nominations from Futurewise and the Transportation Choices Coalition.

Other projects along the 195th Street corridor in recent years have filled gaps in the corridor one by one:

- 2017 – Echo Lake Safe Routes to School; Sidewalk construction between Ashworth and Meridian, signalized pedestrian crossing at Meridian Avenue N
- 2014 – 15-foot wide pathway, 1st Avenue NE to 5th Avenue NE
- 2011 – pathway in undeveloped right of way, Meridian Avenue N to 1st Avenue N

Completion of this project, scheduled for late 2018, will fill one of the last remaining gaps in this important east-west corridor. Learn more at shorelinewa.gov/projects.
ON JUNE 25, City Traffic Engineer Kendra Dedinsky presented the Annual Traffic Report to Council. This report provides an annual review and analysis of data collected by Traffic Services staff and the Shoreline Police Department. It summarizes collision, speed, volume, transit, pedestrian, and bike data, highlighting noteworthy trends. The data in the report guides our prioritization of traffic related capital improvement projects and identifies target enforcement areas for Police.

Engineering, enforcement, education, and policy related improvement strategies generated by the report will help Shoreline do its part to achieve zero fatal and serious injury collisions by the year 2030 as part of Washington State’s Target Zero Plan.

Our data shows that average daily traffic volumes in Shoreline are up 1.1% from 2016, with evening peak hour volumes increasing over 2.2%. Unfortunately, total collisions are up from 2016 by 3.6%. Fatal and serious injury collisions remain relatively flat; however, both the total number of injury collisions, as well as the percentage of injury collisions as part of total collisions, are trending slightly down.

The King County region as a whole is experiencing a similar total collision trend. This year’s report also provides expanded comparison to other cities of similar size in King County. Comparative collision data showed that Shoreline’s rate of serious and fatal injury collisions per capita is relatively low as is the rate of pedestrian collisions.

This year, WSDOT’s collision data included additional information on Target Zero priorities. This helped to better identify potential focus areas for the City. While distraction remains an important factor, impairment related collisions were much lower in 2017. This is possibly the result of significant emphasis patrols over the year, which will continue in 2018. The Target Zero priorities also indicate that a focus on pedestrian safety, especially at intersections, could be beneficial in terms of mitigating the risk of serious or fatal injury collisions. Notably, pedestrian and bicyclist injury collisions accounted for 41% of injury collisions in 2017, up from 30% in 2016.

Get more information and read the full report at shorelinewa.gov/traffic.
LOOK AROUND THE REGION and it is hard to miss the number of homeless individuals and families we see. In 2015, King County and the City of Seattle declared a state of emergency regarding homelessness. Soon after, Shoreline City Council passed a resolution in support of the declaration of emergency. Since then, as rents have continued to climb and the number of affordable housing units continues to decrease, the problem has only gotten worse.

Regional governments and non-profit agencies are doing a lot to address the issue. In fact, the number of individuals exiting homelessness in King County increased by 35% between 2016 and 2017. Unfortunately, it is hard to notice this significant increase because the need has continued to grow.

There are many different reasons why people experience homelessness. Many are struggling with mental health issues that make maintaining housing difficult. Others are dealing with alcohol and drug addictions or issues of domestic violence. Many homeless youth are members of the LGBTQ community whose families have thrown them out of their homes. These are all issues that have contributed to homelessness for decades. What has happened recently that has exacerbated the homelessness crisis in our region is the increase in rents and the decrease in affordable housing.

A recent report conducted by McKinsey & Company (King County and Seattle Homelessness -- Some Facts, December 15, 2017) showed that the strongest correlation with the increase in homelessness over the past ten years has been the increase in rents over the same period leading to an affordability crisis.

“[H]omelessness has risen in line with the fair-market rent (FMR), which in turn has increased in line with the county’s strong economic growth. During the financial crisis of 2008, when poverty and unemployment rose, homelessness was relatively stable. But when the economy took off in 2014, so did rents. Since then, the FMR has risen by more than 12 percent a year on average.

“The result is a dearth of affordable housing and hence rising homelessness.” McKinsey & Company, pg. 2-3.

The homelessness crisis is a regional crisis and Shoreline is not immune to it. When individuals or families seek housing assistance due to being homeless or being at the risk of being homeless, they are asked to provide their last permanent address. Between May of 2017 and April of 2018, 537 households reported a Shoreline zip code as the location of their final permanent address. Of those households, 34% were families with children.

Over the next several issues of Currents, we will look at issues of affordable housing and homelessness and learn about what Shoreline is doing to help address the crisis.

New business hours for Planning & Community Development/ Permits Office

BEGINNING AUGUST 27, the Planning & Community Development (PCD) department will adjust their hours of operation to provide more predictability for customers and allow for dedicated staff time to focus on permit processing. On Wednesdays the department will be closed to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Current business and permit processing hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be maintained on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

More info: (206) 801-2500 or pcd@shorelinewa.gov.

PCD Business Hours
M, T, Th, F: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
W: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Permit Acceptance Hours:
M, T, Th, F: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
W: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Current art exhibits

Second Floor

Amy Pleasant: "Lessons Learned;" on view through July 20, 2018; Shoreline artist Amy Pleasant presents new work focusing on her years in the classroom and by extension the ongoing issue of education in America. "Lessons Learned" documents the rise of a younger generation more engaged in social activism as evinced by the recent emergence of the “March for Our Lives” movement.

Third & fourth floors

"Centers of Gravity: Portable Works Exhibition;" 30 Artists from around the region; on display through September 17, 2018. From this exhibition of 44 artworks by 30 artists in the Puget Sound area, the City’s Public Art Program is seeking to choose two to five artworks for permanent display at City facilities.

Gallery information

Shoreline City Hall
17500 Midvale Avenue N
1st through 4th floors
Mon - Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
and by appointment

More information

David Francis
Public Art Coordinator
(206) 801-2661
dfrancis@shorelinewa.gov
shorelinewa.gov/art

Top: Megan Reisinger,
Yeti, 2017

Bottom: Amy Pleasant,
The Politics of Middle School,
2017

Richmond Beach Road Rechannelization – How to Merge

THE ROADWAY STRIPING on Richmond Beach Road recently changed from four lanes to three lanes as part of the Richmond Beach Road Rechannelization Project. Now people traveling west on N 185th Street just west of Dayton Avenue N have to merge from two lanes down to one westbound lane.

In order to safely merge and to keep traffic flowing, please keep the following tips in mind:

Let people know what you are doing.

Use your turn signal at least 100 feet before you make your move.

When it is busy, use both lanes and zipper merge

When traffic volumes are higher like during the evening commute you can help keep traffic moving by cooperating with your fellow drivers. If vehicles use both lanes, then merge alternating back and forth, you help create a safer, more predictable roadway environment.

When traffic is light, merge whenever it is safe to do so.

For more information on the rechannelization project, visit shorelinewa.gov/RBRechannelization.

ZIPPER MERGE

shorelinewa.gov
Free programs for middle & high school students on early release school days

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, the Shoreline School District will implement an early release schedule for all Shoreline School District schools on Wednesdays. To support families and youth with this early release, we will expand free recreation opportunities for youth at the Shoreline Pool, Spartan Recreation Center, Shoreline Teen Center, and at middle school “Hang Time” programs.

Hang Time is an after school program sponsored by the City, School District, and YMCA at Kellogg and Einstein Middle Schools. Hang Time will begin when the school day ends on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to ensure all students have the option of supervised, organized activities during this time.

At the Spartan Recreation Center, we have eliminated youth drop-in fees to allow youth to participate in drop-in gym/weight room time for free, not only during the early release hours, but also during all open gym times.

The Shoreline Teen Center that traditionally opens at the end of the high school day will expand to include the new early release time on Wednesdays.

Lastly, the Shoreline Pool will offer a free lifeguard certification class in the fall and winter/spring quarters, allowing all interested youth equal opportunity to become eligible for entry-level lifeguard positions in the community and region at no cost.

Look for details on these programs, along with our regular activities, in the Fall 2018 Recreation Guide, which will be delivered to homes in August.

Ronald Wastewater payment box

WE HAVE RELOCATED the Wastewater Utility payment drop box on the second floor of the City Hall parking garage (17500 Midvale Avenue N). It is now located on the east end of the parking area, just past the center rows. You can access the payment box from the driver’s side window of your vehicle.
**CELEBRATE SHORELINE**

**Something for everyone in our full week of fun!**

## CITYWIDE EVENTS

### LUNCHTIME CONCERT
Caspar Babypants - Children’s music
Tuesday, Aug. 14, 12:00 p.m.
Cromwell Park
18030 Meridian Avenue N

### NORTH CITY JAZZ WALK
Tuesday, Aug. 14, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
North City Business District
Tickets: northcityjazzwalk.org

### EVENING CONCERT
Crumac - Traditional Irish music
Wednesday, Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Kruckeberg Botanic Garden
20312 15th Avenue NW
Info: shorelinearts.net

### SKATE COMPETITION
Friday, Aug. 17, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Paramount Skate Park
15300 8th Avenue NE

### CAR SHOW
Saturday, Aug. 18
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Shoreline Place
15711 Aurora Avenue N

### SANDCASTLE CONTEST
Sunday, Aug. 19
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Richmond Beach Saltwater Park,
2021 NW 190th Street
Info: richmondbeachwa.org

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## FESTIVAL & MAIN STAGE CONCERT

Saturday, Aug. 18, Noon - 9:00 p.m.
Cromwell Park, 18030 Meridian Avenue N

**FESTIVAL AND CONCERT SCHEDULE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY STAGE</th>
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<td>ERIC HERMAN &amp; THE PUPPY DOGS 4:15 - 5:00</td>
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**CELEBRATE SHORELINE**

**2018 CELEBRATE SHORELINE**

shorelinewa.gov | 7
Celebrate Shoreline 2018

Main Stage Concert

August 18 ★ 4pm to 9pm ★ Cromwell Park

Luc & The Lovingtons

D’Vonne Lewis Limited Edition
Tekla Waterfield Band
Spencer Glenn Band

shorelinewa.gov/mainstageconcert