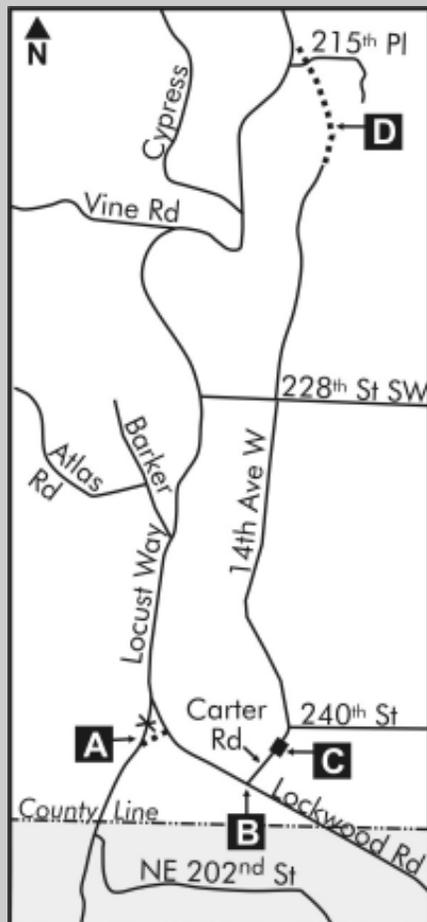


# Locust Way - Lockwood Road Area Proposed Transportation Improvements

November 2006



New roundabout near Lake Stevens

## A Roundabout Option

One of the options being considered for the Lockwood/Carter intersection is a roundabout. Roundabouts are often confused with traffic circles, when in fact they are quite different. A modern roundabout has a larger center island than a traffic circle; and vehicles can only enter, leave and travel in one direction around them.

A roundabout reduces the number of possible conflict points (8 instead of 32) when compared with a 4-way stop intersection and reduces the severity of accidents (76% less severe). In addition, there is a reduction in wait times at a roundabout intersection, which means less gas wasted idling at a traffic light and less air pollution.

Washington State currently has more than 90 operating roundabouts and many more are planned for construction. Snohomish County recently completed a new roundabout near Lake Stevens at Lundeen Park Way and Callow Road that is similar in size to the proposed roundabout for the Carter/Lockwood intersection.

## Public Meeting/Open House Follow-up

In early summer Snohomish County Public Works staff, working with Councilman Dave Gossett, held a public meeting/open house at Lockwood Elementary School to discuss four transportation projects that are being considered for your area. Newsletters announcing the meeting were mailed to 728 residences. Approximately 90 residents attended the meeting.

## What was Presented at the Meeting?

Four projects are proposed for this area. These are:

- A Lockwood Road and Locust Way Intersection realignment** – The proposal is to realign Locust Way to create a new “T” intersection with Lockwood Road about 300 feet south of the existing intersection.
- B Lockwood Road and Carter Road Intersection Improvement** – The proposal is to install a traffic signal with turn-lanes or a roundabout.
- C Swamp Creek Bridge Replacement** – The proposal is to replace the existing bridge with a wider, longer bridge.
- D Extension of 14th Avenue West** – A future extension of 14th Ave West is proposed, from its northern end near 220th St SW to Locust Way in the vicinity of 213th Place SW.

## Comments from Area Residents

During the meeting staff heard many comments, questions and concerns from residents regarding the proposals. Following the meeting Public Works received 59 additional comments.

Some comments were in support of the proposed realignment of the Locust Way/Lockwood intersection, although other comments favored keeping Locust Way in its current alignment and exploring realigning Lockwood to “T” into Locust.

Residents agreed that sidewalks need to be extended to join up to sidewalks constructed by new developments.

Many people who commented are not opposed to changes at the Carter Road/Lockwood Road intersection, but there are many ideas including: install a traffic signal, build more sidewalks and add crossing guards. A majority of residents who responded prefer a roundabout while a few believe the intersection should remain as a 4-way stop.

The most comments received expressed concern for the safety of school children and other pedestrians, especially in front of Lockwood Elementary School, and at the Lockwood Road/Carter Road intersection. Residents commented about the lack of school parking, vehicles speeding past the school, lack of sight distance due to the curves and dip in the road and the desire to not funnel more traffic past the school.

Residents offered many ideas including: create more sidewalks, install speed bumps, raise the road, install flashing lights, reduce the speed limit, have crossing guards, and widen the road to increase parking.

## Changes Since the Meeting

In order to respond to concerns about safety at the Lockwood/Carter intersection, County staff installed crosswalks on the east and south sides of the intersection. This is a short-term improvement while more permanent changes for the intersection are being designed.

In May, County staff submitted a grant application for money to improve safety around several elementary schools in unincorporated Snohomish County. Lockwood Elementary was among them. The Washington State Safety Commission approved the grant and added to it to provide for the installation of flashing beacons at all of the county elementary schools. Two beacons were installed at Lockwood Elementary School on September 22. These lights are solar-powered and timed to flash before and after school to alert drivers. They can also be

programmed to flash for specific after-school events.

Also since the meeting, a developer has received approval to build 17 homes on the north side of Lockwood Road opposite the school. The County will coordinate with the developer to ensure that sidewalks and frontage improvements match the County's ultimate design. Coordination will save the County money by eliminating the need to remove and reconfigure concrete when it corrects the dip.

## What's Next?

County staff members are considering all comments from residents, reviewing the proposals, and determining what funding is available. The County hired a consultant to review the practicality of a roundabout at the Carter/Lockwood intersection (see sidebar on page 1). Their report is being reviewed and will be used, along with previous public input, to determine a plan for this intersection.

**"The Dip"** Engineers are evaluating the dip on Lockwood Road, just east of the elementary school. Several steps need to be taken before the dip can be corrected. These include completing: engineering and design, construction drawings and documents, the permitting process, purchase of needed road right-of-way (property).

A thorough geotechnical investigation of the underlying soil in this area is also required. The road at the dip was originally constructed on top of a base of logs. Historically, this was a common way to stabilize soft wetland soils. If funding is identified, the dip could be corrected during 2008. Funding approved for a

walkway on Locust could be shifted to fix the dip. If that is proposed, staff will ask for comments from area residents. The County's preference is to be able to find funding for both the walkway and the dip repair.

**14th Avenue West** Extending 14th Ave West was first proposed by traffic planners in the mid 1980s. As development has occurred, right-of-way has been dedicated to the County for this extension. Several residents expressed the fear that their neighborhood will be negatively impacted if 14th Ave West is extended. One resident said many people take walks around the neighborhood and was concerned about the added traffic through the neighborhood. Another resident worries that the neighborhood will lose much of the remaining forested area and wildlife habitat. However, some comments were in support of extending the road. The first step is a preliminary design process to determine cost and feasibility of extending this road. No funding is available at this time for construction.

**Locust Way and Lockwood Road Intersection** The realignment of this intersection will coincide with the 14th Ave West extension design and construction should it be decided to move forward with that extension. Public Works engineers are looking at several options for the realignment, but recognize that most residents voiced a preference for extending Lockwood Road to "T" into Locust Way. The intersection has design challenges that include steep grades, a wetland which flows through, and several existing and proposed driveways which must match the road grade. Any new upgrades to the road must conform to the current County road standards. The proposed options will be evaluated by the County Engineer.

**Swamp Creek Bridge** The bridge was originally built in 1966 and the wood pilings underneath are deteriorating. It was identified for replacement sometime within the next three years. Staff received suggestions to widen it, make it narrower, replace it with the same width lanes and sidewalk, and to coordinate with King County. Before a decision can be made, designers will come up with options for width, length and configuration. Construction is planned to begin in 2008.

**Before Final Design** Each of the proposed improvement projects must undergo an environmental review process which includes public notices and the opportunity for the public to provide written comments before final design.

## For More Information

Please contact staff members listed if you have questions or additional concerns.

### Locust Way–Lockwood Road–Carter Road Intersections and 14th Avenue West extension:

- Project Manager, Sam Filetti, 425-388-6698
- Project Engineer, Eric Nordstrom, 425-388-3488, x4649
- Environmental Planner, Mary Auld, 425-388-3488, x4510
- Communications Specialist: Tina Hokanson, 425-388-3789

### Swamp Creek Bridge:

- Project Manager, Larry Brewer, 425-388-3488, x4219
- Environmental Planner, Crilly Ritz, 425-388-3488, x4586
- Communications Specialist: Tina Hokanson, 425-388-3789

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Public Meeting Recap

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Everett, WA 98201  
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