

SEPTEMBER 2009

**You're Invited
to a Public Open House
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 24**

Cathcart Elem. School
8201 - 188th St SE - Bothell

Please visit anytime between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. to view exhibits, visit with staff and share your comments. There will be no formal presentation.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please make arrangements in advance by calling 425-388-3789, TTY: 425-388-3700.

Interurban Boulevard | 180th Street SE Safety Improvements

Snohomish County is working on a project to improve traffic safety and circulation on 180th Street SE in the vicinity of Interurban Boulevard. Scheduled for construction in 2011, it is one portion of corridor improvements planned for 180th Street SE between SR 527 and Broadway Avenue. An intersection improvement project at the 180th Street SE/Snohomish Avenue intersection is now finished. The project planned for the Broadway Avenue intersection has just begun and will be finished in 2011.

Also identified for improvement are: 180th Street SE between SR 527 and Brook Boulevard, and the 180th Street SE intersections at 35th Avenue SE and 51st Avenue SE. For more information about these current and future transportation projects visit Snohomish County's web site: www.snoco.org, and type "Roads" in the search box.

Current conditions in the vicinity of Interurban Boulevard

The 180th Street SE corridor is a two-lane Major Collector. Two branches of Interurban Boulevard connect to the north side of 180th St SE with a short 125-foot separation between them. The close proximity of these branches to each other causes traffic conflicts and driver right-of-way issues.

Both the eastern branch and western branch of Interurban Boulevard intersect 180th Street SE at skewed angles, creating sight distance problems for drivers turning onto 180th Street SE. This portion of 180th Street SE lies within a vertical curve that further reduces sight distance for vehicles preparing to turn onto 180th Street SE or onto either branch of Interurban Boulevard.

There are also a number of wetlands along 180th Street SE in the vicinity of Interurban Boulevard. Polluted stormwater runoff from the road enters these wetlands and surrounding streams. The project team is looking at ways to improve the water quality and the downstream environment.

Ideas for improving conditions

Lowering rises in roads, straightening curves and adding lighting are all methods used to improve sight distance and safety along roadways. Adding turn pockets removes left-turning vehicles from the flow of

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For more information
on Snohomish County Road Projects,
visit www.snoco.org and type "Roads"
in the search box



through-traffic and has been shown to reduce the number of rear-end collisions. Widening the roadway for asphalt shoulders improves pedestrian safety and provides space for disabled vehicles to move out of the flow of traffic.

Seven alternatives have been discussed

1. No action alternative
2. Realign west Interurban to intersect east Interurban Boulevard at a 90 degree angle and add left turn lanes to 180th Street SE
3. Close east Interurban Boulevard and realign west Interurban to intersect 180th Street SE at a 90 degree angle
4. Construct a roundabout
5. Only add left turn lanes to 180th Street SE
6. Realign the west Interurban to intersect 180th St SE at a point further west to widen the distance between the two sections of Interurban Boulevard
7. Close Interurban Boulevard to through traffic, add left turn lanes to 180th Street SE and construct a new road at 59th Ave SE that extends north from 180th Street SE

A new road alternative

After considering the seven alternatives, County staff is looking more closely at the option of extending 59th Avenue SE due north from 180th Street SE to Interurban Boulevard. A portion of the land needed for a new section of road along that alignment is

currently unopened public right-of-way. Included in this alternative would be the closure of the south end of west Interurban Boulevard and creation of a cul-de-sac where it currently connects to 180th Street SE.

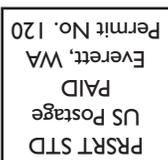
A sample of factors that must be considered

Many factors must be considered when designing roads. They include: location of homes; public right-of-way and wetlands; stormwater runoff, drainage and water quality; Critical Area Regulations (CAR), i.e. wider buffers; hilly terrain; sight distance; soil compaction; traffic volumes; accident history; location of utilities; and information that residents provide about the area.

Please share your comments

The project is currently in the early design phase and as a resident of the area, you may have information that the project team should consider on the way to a final plan. You are invited to an open house scheduled for 6-8 p.m., Thursday, September 24. Information "stations" will be staffed by environmental planners, engineers, right-of-way staff and others and you will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with any of them, provide comments and have your questions answered.

If you are unable to attend the open house, please visit the project Web site to learn more about the project, www.snoco.org, search "Interurban Boulevard." A comment form will be posted there for your convenience. You may send comments to transportation@snoco.org or Tina Hokanson, Snohomish County Public Works Communications, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett, WA 98201.



Snohomish County
Public Works
Communications
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607
Everett, WA 98201
Aron Reardon, County Executive

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