Update on 35th Avenue SE and 180th Street SE Corridor Projects

This newsletter provides a summary of several transportation improvement projects planned for south county. Exact dates for construction will be identified when contractors have been hired. Construction schedules are subject to change.

**A Grannis Road Realignment (summer 2012)**

Grannis Road is south of 180th Street SE on the west side of 35th Avenue SE. It currently intersects 35th Avenue SE at a skewed angle making it difficult to travel to or from 35th Avenue SE.

Construction will begin in late May on the county’s project to realign Grannis Road to connect to 35th Avenue SE at a right angle. The new intersection will be 270 feet south of the current 35th Avenue SE/Grannis Road intersection to improve traffic safety and access to and from the neighborhood. New traffic signals will be added on 35th Avenue SE at 188th Street SE and the new Grannis Road Intersection.

The new intersection will be wider than the current one for improved sight distance and will include left turn pockets on 35th Avenue SE and on Grannis Road. Bike lanes are also planned on 35th Ave SE, along with sidewalks, curbs, gutters and planter strips. Sidewalk ramps will be ADA compliant. Bio-infiltration ponds will be installed on both sides of the new alignment to receive and handle stormwater runoff.

**During construction**

this summer there are likely to be periodic single lane closures along 35th Avenue SE and on Grannis Road, Mondays through Fridays. The project is expected to be finished by the end of 2012, although final paving may have to wait until warmer weather the following spring.

**B 35th/180th Intersection Revision (2012 – 2013)**

Right-turn and left-turn lanes are planned for all approaches to the 35th Avenue SE/180th Street SE intersection, along with curbs, gutters and sidewalks. Storm drainage features will be constructed to handle water runoff from the road. The traffic signal will also be upgraded to include left-turn arrows.

Planter strips will be added on the north and south sides of 180th Street SE, from 32nd Avenue SE to 35th Avenue SE. and east of 35th near the intersection. When the project is complete, each approach to the intersection will have one left-turn lane, one right-turn lane and one through lane.

Construction is scheduled to begin during August of this year and be completed during summer 2013. For the most current information, subscribe to the project Web page: www.smoco.org, type “35th Ave SE” in the search box, choose 35th from the list, and follow the e-subscribe link on the project page.

**C 51st Ave SE will be closed (summer 2012)**

In continuation of a Surface Water Management project that started during the summer of 2011, excavation to install a second fish passable culvert will require a full road closure of up to four weeks on 51st Ave SE.

Work is scheduled to begin the second week in July 2012, and be completed before the start of the school year in September. Signs will be posted in advance of the work. Replacement of the two culverts is funded by King County and managed by Snohomish County as part of an agreement related to construction of the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**D 180th Street SE / Interurban Boulevard (2012 – 2013)**

This project has been designed to improve traffic safety and circulation along the 180th Street SE corridor. Currently two adjacent branches of Interurban Boulevard intersect the north side of 180th Street SE a short 125 feet from each other. The close proximity of the two roadways causes traffic conflicts which this project proposes to address.

The proposed improvements will close West Interurban Boulevard at 180th Street SE, and a new north/south road will be constructed on the north side of 180th Street SE from the 59th Ave SE intersection.

A $500,000 Federal “Rural Town Centers and Corridors” grant through the Puget Sound Regional Council will help pay for the project.

**During excavation and grading** for the new roadway there are likely to be single lane closures and heavy truck traffic in the area. Construction is planned to begin in 2012 and be completed during 2013.
180th / Sunset (2015)
The county is planning to make improvements to the 180th Street SE and Sunset Road intersection. The proposal currently includes adding a traffic signal on 180th Street SE and widening the intersection to include turn lanes on 180th Street SE. Construction is tentatively planned for 2015.

198th Place SE/Jewell Road
The county had been considering extending 198th Place SE east from 35th Avenue SE to Jewell Road, but put plans on hold after a developer with plans to build homes purchased land north of the county’s proposed 198th Place SE east-west alignment. The developer submitted plans for an alternate east-west alignment from 35th Avenue SE to the 39th Avenue SE/Jewell Road intersection.

Before building new homes on the property, the developer will be responsible for constructing a new road system to serve the development, installing a traffic signal at the intersection of the new road at 35th Avenue SE, and making the York Road/Jewell Road intersection a right-in and right-out only intersection.

Snohomish County Planning and Development Services reviewed the plan submitted by the developer and requested revisions. The applicant is in the process of revising the plan and will resubmit it for approval. Construction of the road is expected to begin in early summer of this year, pending final approval of the development plan. If you have questions about the project, contact Bob Pemberton, Snohomish County Planning and Development Services, 425-388-3311 or send an e-mail to robert.pemberton@snoco.org.

35th Ave SE: corridor study—possible future improvements
During 2011 Snohomish County began work on the very early stages of a Design Study for improvements to the 35th Avenue SE corridor between SR 524 and Seattle Hill Road. The corridor is a significant north-south route for Snohomish County residents, and has received intermittent improvements as development has occurred.

A Web page has been set up and will be updated over time as information is gathered and proposals are drafted.

Seattle Hill Road
Snohomish County has begun a Design Study for improvements to Seattle Hill Road between 132nd Street SE and 35th Avenue SE. The preliminary plan is to widen the roadway to three lanes to accommodate a center turn lane. Bike lanes, curb, and sidewalk are also included in the plan. The corridor is a significant route for Snohomish County residents, and has received several intermittent improvements as development has occurred.

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

Tamark Creek Park
Tambark Creek Park is located along 35th Avenue SE just north of 180th Street SE. For information about the county’s plans for the park visit www.snoco.org and type “Tambark Creek Park” in the search box.