



43rd Ave SE/Sunset Rd (178th St SE – Maltby Rd/SR 524) Improvement Project FAQ

August 2020

1. Why is 43rd Ave SE being expanded to the east from Jewell Rd to 188th St SE?

Currently, on this stretch of 43rd Ave SE the road is not centered within the county's right of way, with the county currently owning more property to the east of the current road. We are proposing that the new road be centered on the right of way the county owns so that the impacts of the road are equal to property owners on both sides of the road. In addition, if the road was shifted to the west, the county would have to acquire more land which could be costly.

2. Will the county be replacing trees that are removed along 43rd Ave SE for this road improvement project?

We do the best we can to save as many trees as possible. In this instance several trees will need to be removed to make way for the road improvements on 43rd Ave SE. Private land owners that sell a portion of their property to the county for this project will be compensated for trees that are located in the acquisition area and/or temporary easement area. Compensation is based on the contribution value of the trees and landscaping to the property's overall market value. The appraisers will determine what that is when they do the appraisals. Snohomish County Code (SCC) does not have a general tree retention policy. If trees are within the buffer of a stream or wetland and need to be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements, then SCC 30.62A Wetlands and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas would apply and mitigation would be required for impacting the buffer.

3. How do pedestrians and cyclists navigate the roundabouts?

Currently, there are two roundabouts proposed within the project limits. One at 43rd Ave SE and SR 524 and one at 43rd Ave SE and 196th St SE. At 187th Pl SE the county is considering adding a pushbutton for pedestrians to cross and will improve access to students walking to school. The roundabouts will include sidewalks and crosswalks. Much like cars, pedestrians will need to go around the roundabout, to access other intersecting roads. Pedestrians will not be able to enter the center of the roundabout to cross. You can see [in this diagram](#) how pedestrians and cyclists can navigate a typical roundabout. This is a general diagram and does not represent the specifications of the roundabouts the county is designing for these locations.

4. How will pedestrians access this route?

The county is proposing to add a pedestrian walkway or sidewalk on 43rd Ave SE / Sunset Rd from 178th St SE to Maltby Rd/SR 524. From 178th St SE to 188th St SE the county is proposing to add a bike lane on each side and sidewalks on both sides where they do not already exist. Further south, from 188th St SE to Maltby Rd/SR 524, the county is proposing to add a 6-foot shoulder on each side, a 10-foot bio-retention ditch on each side, and a walkway on the east side. You can view a visual of the road section [here](#). The bio-retention ditch and shoulder will provide a 16-foot buffer between traveling cars and pedestrians/cyclists. All current road crossings will be maintained with the county considering adding a flashing beacon pushbutton, at 43rd Ave SE and 187th Pl SE, making the crossing easier. You can learn about all of the design features of this project and more, on the project webpage: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/3669>.

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5. Where will mailboxes be relocated to?

We will work with the post office to determine the new locations of mailboxes and ensure that the locations are accessible to the residents. There will be a shoulder on both sides of the road from 188th St SE to SR 524, giving people access to their mailboxes.

6. I am concerned about traffic enforcement in this area, what can I do?

The Snohomish County Sheriff Department provides traffic enforcement for the unincorporated areas of Snohomish County. Please reach out to them to express concerns and request additional patrol within this area. You can submit a complaint here: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/FormCenter/Sheriff-4/Parking-and-Traffic-Complaints-543>.

7. How are ADA requirements being met for this road improvement project?

We are meeting all ADA requirements for this project. You can learn more about the design standards for pedestrian facilities constructed in the public right of way here: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1818/Design-Inspection-Resources>.