

February 22, 2019

Dear Neighbor,

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is preparing to make seismic improvements to the Cowen Park Bridge to reduce the bridge's seismic vulnerability. We are currently designing these improvements. Construction will begin as soon as summer 2019.

Project description

Seismic events, like earthquakes, could have a significant detrimental effect on Seattle's infrastructure. To address seismic risks to city infrastructure, the City of Seattle established a bridge seismic retrofit program to assess the seismic vulnerability of the City's bridges and to prioritize limited funding to reduce this vulnerability.

As part of the Levy to Move Seattle (www.seattle.gov/LevytoMoveSeattle), 16 bridges were selected for seismic retrofits, including the Cowen Park Bridge. The Cowen Park Bridge is an older bridge built in 1936 prior to the modernization of the seismic design code and connects the Roosevelt/Ravenna neighborhood with the University District via 15th Ave NE across a ravine in Cowen Park. The planned seismic retrofits include several modifications to strengthen existing bridge components and reduce overall vulnerability during a seismic event. See figure on reverse for construction elements.

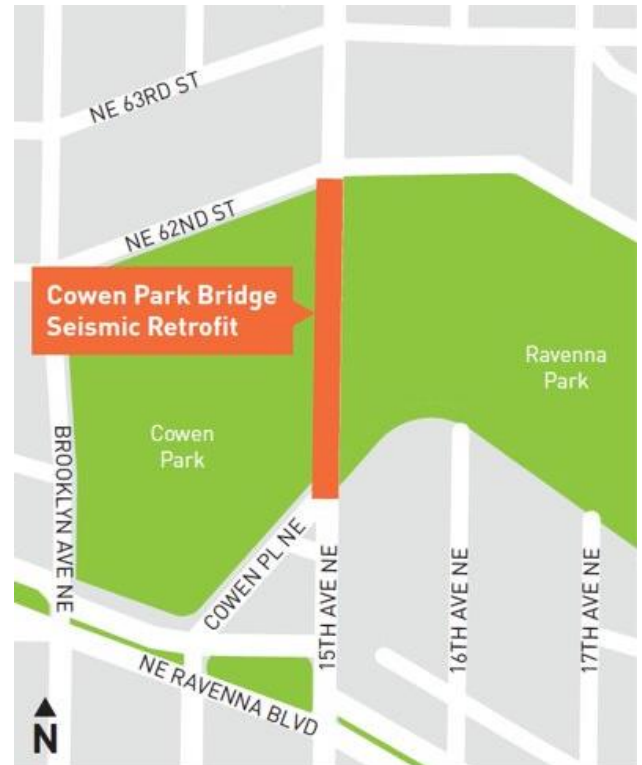
What you can expect during construction

When a contractor is selected later this year, we will determine details about the construction schedule and sequence. At that point, we will be in touch with the nearby community to make sure everyone knows what to expect during construction. However, we currently anticipate:

- Redirects for people walking and biking
 - People walking across the bridge will be directed to one side of the bridge while we work on the other side of the bridge
 - People biking will merge with traffic for the duration of construction
- Partial closures of walking routes within Cowen/Ravenna Parks underneath the bridge
- 2-3 full-bridge weekend closures
- Noise, dust, and vibrations. We will be monitoring bridge vibrations throughout construction.
- Stockpiled equipment and construction materials at the site, including trucks using the access road to the west from Brooklyn Ave NE, to move materials and equipment in and out of the work zone

Nearby projects

The Cowen Park Bridge is located over a ravine in Cowen Park along 15th Ave NE. We are aware that this project's location is near other projects in the community like the NE 65th St Vision Zero Project (www.seattle.gov/visionzero/projects/ne-65th-st) and the upcoming 15th Ave NE Paving Project (www.seattle.gov/transportation/15th-ave-ne-paving-and-safety-project). We are working closely with these project



Cowen Park Bridge Seismic Retrofit Map

teams to coordinate outreach efforts and help us minimize impacts as much as possible as we prepare to work on the bridge. We will do our best to minimize traffic delays, detours, and construction impacts for the Cowen Park Bridge seismic retrofit.

Stay informed

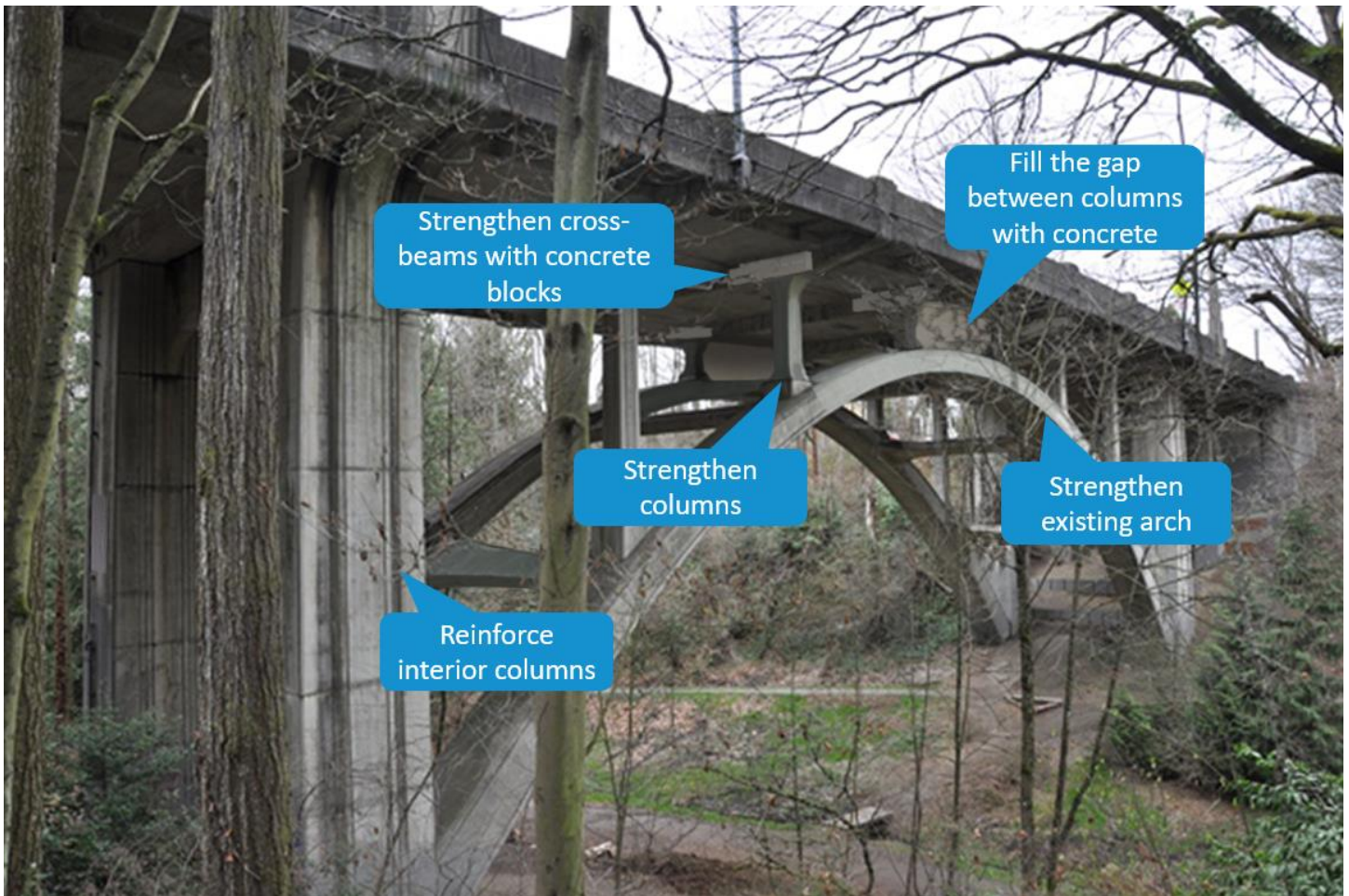
- **Visit our webpage and sign up for the project email list:** www.seattle.gov/transportation/cowen-park-bridge
- **Email us:** CowenParkBridge@seattle.gov
- **Call us:** (206) 775-8734

We are looking forward to working with your community throughout this project. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions or concerns anytime.

Sincerely,



Emily Reardon
SDOT Communications Lead



Key Construction Elements

(image is for illustration purposes only)