Northgate neighborhood is a major residential and employment destination that continues to grow. With the completion of Sound Transit’s Link light rail station in 2021, the neighborhood is poised to become one of the region’s most active transit hubs. Today, a 10-lane interstate divides the neighborhood, and to walk between North Seattle College and the existing transit center takes 25 minutes or more.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

We’re designing a new accessible, all ages and abilities pedestrian and bike bridge over Interstate 5 (I-5) in Northgate. The Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge will improve access to communities, services, and opportunities on the east and west sides of I-5 in Northgate and Licton Springs, helping knit together a historically divided area. It’ll also reduce travel time for people walking and biking between the east and west sides of I-5. When complete, the bridge will help connect the neighborhood’s thriving job and retail centers with the rest of the city and region.

The new bridge will span roughly 1,900 feet over I-5, landing at North Seattle College on the west side and at 1st Ave NE and NE 100th St, near the future light rail station, on the east side.

WHAT’S HAPPENING NOW?

- Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge
- Multi-use path
- Safe Routes to School Neighborhood Greenway
- Crossing improvements
- Protected bike lanes
- Sidewalk
- Pedestrian pathway
- North Seattle Neighborhood Greenway (west to Crown Hill)
- Northgate Neighborhood Greenway – Maple Leaf connection
- Northgate Neighborhood Greenway – Pinchurl connection
- Street concept plan (improvements to be built by private development)
- Existing protected bike lanes
Refining the west approach design

We’ve been working closely with our project partners at North Seattle College (NSC). The west side of the bridge touches down at NSC’s campus and will be a substantial amenity for several North Seattle neighborhoods and will directly serve the College’s students, faculty, and staff. NSC has invested significant time and effort in collaborating with us to ensure the success of the Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge project. The refined west-side design includes:

- Making the alignment as straight as possible to preserve valuable college land
- Reducing the bridge slope to improve accessibility
- Moving the landing away from the NSC parking lot

Of the alignments we’ve considered to date, the latest design will have the least impact on natural habitat on the west side of the bridge and will maintain direct public access to College Way N. It’s also the most feasible option, given the project’s budget and the need to complete construction in advance of Sound Transit’s Northgate light rail station opening in 2021.

Environmental review

In 2018, we’re examining the environmental impacts of building and operating the Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge. We’re conducting environmental review under the National and State Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA and SEPA). These important environmental review processes require agencies to consider environmental impacts during planning and decision making. This spring, we’ll hold a 14-day comment period for SEPA review.