WELCOME!

The purpose of this online open house is to update you on the revised Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge design, get your feedback, and provide you with information on how to stay involved in the various transportation projects in the Northgate area.

Throughout this online open house, you will be asked questions and have the opportunity to provide your feedback. The site will be live through August 24.

HOW TO USE THIS ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

To advance through the open house, read a page and provide your feedback where prompted, then either click the "Go to Next Page" button at the bottom of the page or select the tab you want at the top.

The "Notes" boxes at the bottom of most pages are for making comments as you go along; on the last page of the open house you will be able to submit them, if you choose.

Sign up to receive email updates using the form in the footer of the page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT!

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Seattle Department of Transportation’s (SDOT) mission is to deliver a high-quality transportation system for Seattle. Through the Northgate Bridge project, we will improve connections between the east and west sides of the Northgate community, helping knit together a neighborhood historically divided by a 10-lane interstate and maximizing the use of transit facilities.

When complete, the bridge will help connect the neighborhood’s thriving job and retail centers with the rest of the city and region.

THE GOALS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

1. Connecting services and opportunities on the east and west sides of I-5.
2. Adding a new, accessible walking/biking route in Northgate that connects to the citywide network.
3. Providing better access to regional transit, including the existing transit center and future Link light rail station.

WHERE WE’VE BEEN

- Northgate Transit Center, as part of Sound Transit’s 2005 Sound Transit System Plan.
- Northgate Area Transportation Investment Plan - addressed safety and mobility for people walking, biking, and transit and incorporated the Northgate Urban Center and surrounding neighborhoods for the next 25 years.

NORTHGATE TODAY

Northgate is one of Seattle’s fastest growing areas. In addition to being a major residential and employment hub, Northgate is also:

- Located on a regional growth center in the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Vision 2040 regional growth management plan.
- Paced to become one of the region’s most active transit hubs with the completion of Sound Transit’s Link light rail station in 2021.

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USER EXPERIENCE

Click a label on the illustration to see a detail rendering of the user experience on that area of the bridge.

WATCH OUR VIDEO

Press play below to get a sense of what it will feel like to use the bridge.

THE REVISED DESIGN

After pausing in 2016 to conduct an independent cost validation, we found that the existing design exceeded the project budget. In response, we decided to form a new design team to get a fresh perspective and reduce project costs. The following design elements are included in the revision:

- New points of rest at overlooks, with added bridge width so you can pause and enjoy the view
- Improved sight lines
- Reduced conflicts at east landing
- Open structure with graceful design
- Simpler construction approach

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SAFETY

As we design the bridge, we’re using a multi-disciplinary approach called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED strategies aim to deter crime and are based on the idea that people’s behavior in an urban environment is influenced by the environment’s design.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

CPTED strategies include:
- Providing ample lighting to avoid blind spots
- Maximizing sight distance and visibility
- Using materials that promote easy maintenance of aesthetic and functional qualities

For example, you’ll find the Northgate Bridge has excellent lines of sight both across the bridge from end to end and from the bridge when you look down and around at your surroundings. The revised bridge design provides a more open, less enclosed space, as well as less surface area for vandalism. A 10-foot-wide cable net throw barrier will prevent people from climbing or throwing things over the parapet of the bridge above 1.5. Finally, lighting across the length of the bridge should make it comfortable if you’re crossing at night.

PROVIDING SPACE FOR ALL USERS

The bridge width is also an important safety consideration. The revised bridge is 16 feet wide, providing more than enough space for all modes in both directions. State code requirements 10 feet width, with 2 feet on each side as buffers.

To help you get a sense of the bridge width, here’s how it compares with a handful of other local pedestrian bridges.

We will encourage all users to “keep right.”

DIMENSIONS OF NEARBY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

- Boeing Museum of Flight Bridge
  - Width: 10 feet
  - Length: 340 feet

- University of Washington Husky Stadium Bridge
  - Width: 13 feet
  - Length: 234 feet

- W. Thomas Pedestrian Overpass
  - Width: 10 feet
  - Length: 1099 feet

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ENVIRONMENTAL

We’re examining the environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Northgate Bridge. Upon completion, we’ll submit National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to the Washington State Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration for approval. Once they’re approved, we’ll issue a Determination of Non-Significance to satisfy the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). We will then issue a SEPA checklist or adopt the NEPA document in lieu of a checklist, which we’ll make available for public review and comment.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

As we conduct our environmental review, we are looking at the following resources:

VISUAL
- View of neighborhood and Bartonwood from bridge and east approach
- View of bridge from 1st Ave, I-5 and North Seattle College

RECREATION/NATURAL AREAS

HISTORICAL/CULTURAL

TRANSPORTATION

NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

This graphic shows the steps to complete the environmental review process. Click on the tabs below to learn more about each phase:

Define Existing Conditions
Identify Environmental Impacts
Document Findings
Obtain Permits and Approvals

Collect current information to set an environmental baseline

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OTHER WALKING AND BIKING INVESTMENTS

1ST AVE NE BIKE/WALK TRAIL

As part of the Northgate Bridge project, we’re also building a bike/walk trail on 1st Ave NE between NE Northgate Way and NE 92nd St. In most places, the trail will be 10 feet wide, with 2-4 feet of buffer due to space constraints.

A MORE WALKABLE AND BIKEABLE NORTHGATE

The Northgate Bridge is one of many improvements we’re planning for the area. We’ll create a more walkable and bikeable Northgate through investments that benefit all ages and abilities. This map highlights bike and pedestrian improvements in the area.

RELATED PROJECTS

Projects we’re coordinating with include:
- Northgate Neighborhood Greenway
- North Seattle Neighborhood Greenway & School Safety Project
- Northgate Street Concept Plan
- Sound Transit Northgate Link Light Rail
- King County Metro’s Northgate Transit-Oriented Development project

We’re looking at improvements through a “multi-modal lens” to make sure we coordinate outreach to the community and streamline information. We’re also coordinating closely with our partners at Sound Transit, King County Metro, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

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MORE WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

In the year ahead, as we finalize design of the bridge project, you’ll have opportunities to learn more about it. Our team will be in the community making presentations, sending information to project neighbors, and hosting pop-up tables at busy public spaces.

FOLLOW ALONG

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning and design</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Bridge construction</td>
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<td>Bridge open!</td>
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<td>Sound Transit Link light rail station open</td>
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THANK YOU!

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED:

- Attend an interest group roundtable. In September we plan to hold a few roundtables focused on bike connectivity and accessibility. If you are interested, email us to let us know. Please remember to note whether your interest is Bike Connectivity or Accessibility.

- Sign up for email updates below

- Send us your questions and comments. You can do this today through this open house, or if you have questions later on, feel free to email us: NorthgateBridge@seattle.gov

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