

Dear,

Your cooperation and patience during the long N 105th/N Northgate Way Paving Project, completed late last year, was very much appreciated. Hopefully, you find the new roadway and sidewalks to have been worth the inconvenience.

As you would expect, SDOT repaves arterials on the basis of need and the availability of funding. We write today to let you know that SDOT hopes to repave Meridian Ave N from N 103rd to N 112th beginning next summer, with construction expected to last approximately three months (considerably shorter than the 105th/Northgate Way Project). While not as heavily traveled as Northgate Way, like Northgate Way, the existing roadbed has reached its life expectancy.

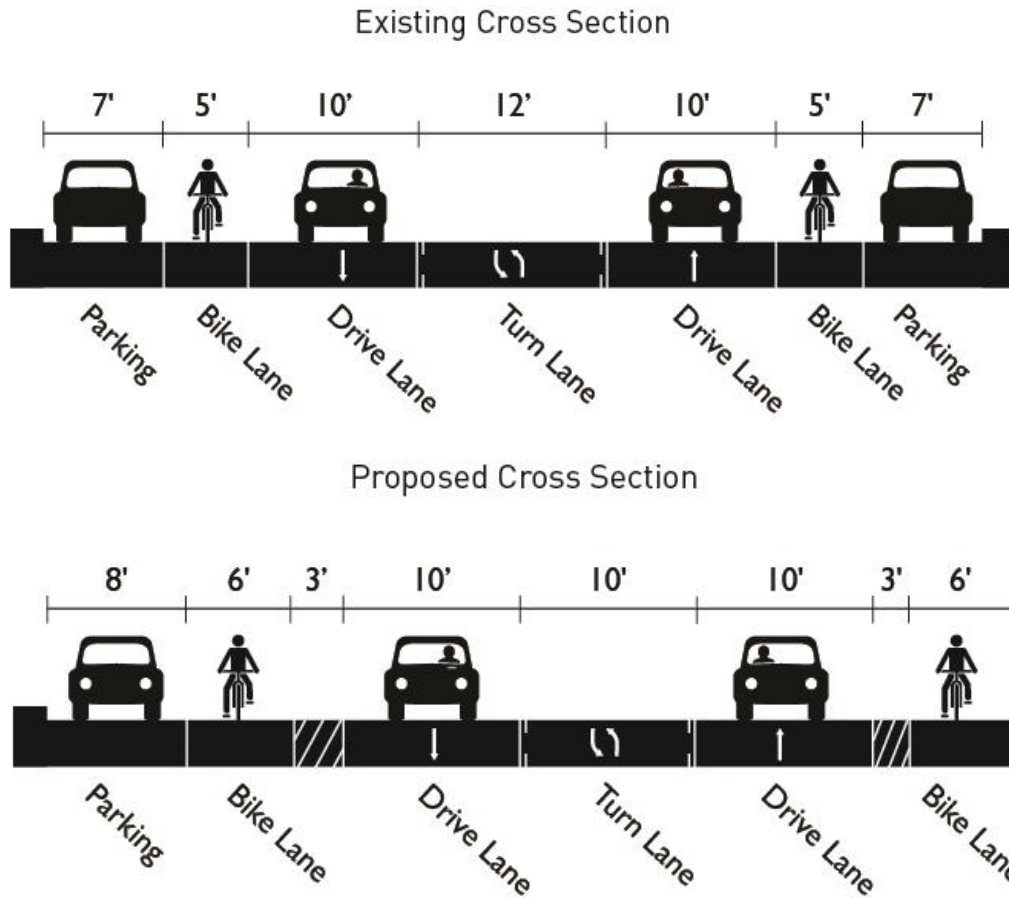
This construction on Meridian is contingent on funding not yet secured, but we thought it important to provide you with advance knowledge of the plan, giving you time to voice any concerns or questions before the design plans are finalized.

The process we plan to use for this project is referred to as a “mill and overlay,” which means that we will remove the top 2 inches of existing asphalt. We would then do spot repairs to the underlying base where needed, before repaving over that base. The new asphalt would be expected to extend the life of the road an additional ten to twelve years. Naturally, we will restripe all the pavement markings.

Where warranted, the project will replace curb ramps (which transition from the sidewalk to street level for those in wheelchairs or using walkers) to meet the federal mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project will also include some technology upgrades of traffic signals, and install a stormwater detention system to reduce the peak flows discharging into Thornton Creek during heavy rainfalls. Existing bus stop locations will not be moved, but concrete landing pads will be installed to make it easier to exit through the rear bus doors.

Finally, while both the existing north- and southbound bicycle lanes between N 103rd and N Northgate Way are being retained, a 3' buffer zone will be added on both sides of the street between the bike lane and the general purpose traffic lane. The buffer will provide a critical safety separation between the bikes and motorized traffic.

In order to accommodate the space for the two buffer zones, it will be necessary to permanently eliminate parking on the east side of Meridian between N 103rd and N Northgate Way. This will mean a loss of 34 on-street parking spots. Below are cross section drawings of the roadway, both the current configuration and how it would be with the buffers. (Both cross sections face north.)



Seattle is building a citywide network of bicycle facilities for commuting and everyday trips. The buffered bike lane improvements in this project are an element of this citywide project, and will connect directly to recent improvements made on College Way N. The Meridian Ave buffered bike lane, along with a planned bicycle/pedestrian bridge across I-5 at N 100th St, will provide an important link between destinations such as North Seattle College, the Northgate Light Rail Station and Northwest Hospital.

Again, funding has yet to be secured for this project, but assuming it is, construction would be expected to begin next summer. Naturally, we will be in contact before actual construction begins. Also, we will work directly with property owners/managers to maintain access throughout construction.

If you have any questions or concerns about these plans, please don't hesitate to email or call.

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