

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Interurban Trail Extension from N 109th Street to N 128th Street
2. Name of applicant:
Seattle Department of Transportation, Capital Projects Division
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
Stuart Goldsmith Project Manager, (206) 615-0860
4. Date checklist prepared:
February 04, 2004
5. Agency requesting checklist:
Seattle Department of Transportation
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Anticipate construction beginning in late 2004 or early 2005.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal?
There are other sections of the regional Interurban multi-use trail system that will connect with this section in the future. Those include the Shoreline segment, North of 145th Street, the City of Shoreline plans to construct that segment in 2004. The regional multi-use trail will go from Seattle to Everett when completed. SDOT is looking at potential plans to improve Linden Avenue from 130th to 145th so as to provide better linkage between Seattle's and Shoreline's Interurban Trail.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
**Biological Assessment – No Effects Letter prepared in November 2003 by Herrera Environmental Consultants.
Section 106 review (Historical properties) conducted in January 2004.**
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
None known.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
Approvals
The project is Categorical Excluded with documentation under NEPA. A WDOT ECS form was completed and is anticipated that it will be submitted to WDOT for approval in March 2004.

**This project will meet all stormwater requirements set by the City of Seattle.
City of Seattle -Clearing and Grading permit**

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11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the site of the project. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The City of Seattle proposes to construct a segment of the regional multi-use Interurban trail in the City Light right-of-way that is aligned along what would be Linden Avenue between N 109th Street to North 128th Street, roughly following an existing dirt footpath. The total length of the proposed trail is 5,110 foot. The legal description of the proposed project is Sections 19 and 30, T 26N and R 04E. The trail terminates at N 128th Street where it would transition to a singled bicycle route extending to N 145th Street. Only one street bisects the trail, N 125th Street, and at this location a marked crosswalk will be installed to facilitate street crossing. The project includes appropriate drainage improvements in accordance with relevant drainage ordinances and the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Minimal landscaping is proposed and limited to main access points at 110th and 128th Streets and possible landscape screening if it is requested by adjacent property owners (they have the option to request landscaping shrubs for their parcel for screening purposes).

Trail heads and trail cross section: The trail head at 128th would split into two lanes with a narrow path providing an exit into 128th and a wider path providing access onto the trail. This wider path will also serve as a vehicular entrance for occasional City Light access to the corridor. Similar design will be implemented at 109th Street. Most likely, the cross section of the trail will include 12-ft paved lane, and 2 -ft gravel-shoulders on both sides of the trail.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposed segment of the regional multi-use Interurban trail, in the City Light right-of-way, is aligned along what would be Linden Avenue between N 109th Street to North 128th Street, roughly following an existing dirt footpath. The legal description of the proposed project is Sections 19 and 30, T 26N and R 04E. The trail terminates at N 128th Street where it will transition to a bicycle route extending to N 145th Street (City of Shoreline plans to construct another segment this year).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other.
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
5-10% maximum.

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- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.
The soils are silt sand.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe:
None is known.
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.
Excavation activities will include, about 12,331 square yards of grading, trench digging for drainage, back filling and installation of pavement material.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.
Some erosion could occur during construction. Measures taken to reduce this possibility include the use of BMPs, and construction during the drier months. Refer to No Effect letter dated 11/19/03 for details.
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?
After project completion, the project would create a total of 61,320 square feet of new impervious surface for the paved trail. The percentage of the site (i.e., the City Light corridor) that will be covered by impervious surface is about 14%. A 2-foot gravel shoulders would be provided adjacent to the trail, under one of which will be an infiltration trench.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.
- **Grading activities will be limited to July through September, when precipitation is expected to be low.**
 - **All grading activities will implement best management practices (BMPs). The contractor will be required to provide a temporary erosion and sedimentation control plan.**
 - **Orange plastic fencing will be installed to mark the limits of clearing/grading area. Exposed soils will be covered during construction to control erosion during rain events.**
 - **Catch basin filters will be used in catch basins located downgradient of the project site.**
 - **The construction site and the trail will be swept after completion of the project.**
- Please refer to the No Effect letter for details.**

2. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during

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construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

There is the possibility of minor dust generated from grading and earth moving activities during construction. Diesel and gas emissions from the construction equipment will also be a source of air emission. After the project has been completed, it will not contribute any significant sources of air emissions.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:
N/A

3. Water

- a. Surface:
 - 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.
No water body is located within 200 feet of the project. The closest water body is Bitter Lake located about ¼ -mile north of the 128th Street proposed trail head. Another water body located in the vicinity of the project is Haller Lake, located approximately ½-mile east of 128th Street. The project area is part of the Greenlake and Lake Union drainage basin.
 - 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.
No.
 - 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.
N/A
 - 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
N/A
 - 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

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This project does not lie within a 100-year floodplain.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.
This proposal does not involve any discharges to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.
This project may involve dewatering if groundwater is encountered during construction.
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, agricultural, etc.). Describe the general size of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.
This project will not discharge any waste material from septic tanks or other sewage sources.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.
The storm drainage for this project is being designed by Seattle Public Utilities, and will meet all storm water requirements set by the City. The design includes creating infiltration trenches and gravel shoulder to manage stormwater and provide water quality treatment. The new infiltration trench system will provide water quality treatment by infiltrating stormwater from the project area to the ground. They will be sized to handle runoff from the entire project area. Stormwater from the project area, and the overflow from the infiltration trenches will be routed to the existing culverts that crosses Aurora Avenue, and then it flows south towards Green Lake and Lake Union. The trail will include infiltration trenches designed to capture 100% of stormwater run off.
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.
Because of the machinery necessary to complete this project, the possibility of machinery related waste materials (i.e. diesel, gasoline, oil, etc...) accidentally entering the water system is present. A spill response kit will be present at the construction site to deal with those accidents, should they occur. If hazardous

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materials are found to be in the soil during construction they will be handled according to standard City's specifications.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:
As stated above, an emergency spill containment kit will be present at the construction site to deal with those accidents, should they occur. WSDOT spill prevention and cleanup specifications will be included in the contract specification for this project. If hazardous materials are found to be in the soil during construction, they will be dealt with accordingly. A pollution prevention plan will be prepared by the contractor to address prevention and cleanup of accidental spills.
The existing stormwater catch basins and pipe system will remain in service until the new system is installed. Existing catch basins within that reach and immediately downgradient will be protected with inserts designed to capture oil and sediments.

4. **Plants**

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
 deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 shrubs
 grass
 pasture
 crop or grain
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other. (NOTE: wet soil plants are located in ditches).
 water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 other types of vegetation: Blackberries
- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?
The project will require some clearing of existing vegetation, including removal of blackberries bushes.
- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.
None.
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Necessary removal of existing blackberries bushes vegetation in the project area will be mitigated by installation of landscaping adjacent to the trail corridor, when requested by the adjacent property owner, and at the trail heads.

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5. **Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: **Bull Trout**

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site:

Bald Eagle, Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout and Coho Salmon.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
The project site may serve as a portion of a fly-through corridor for bald eagles moving east to west from nesting territories in Puget Sound.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
This project does not include any direct measures to preserve or enhance wildlife.

6 **Energy and Natural Resources**

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.
The completed project will not require any energy. It is a multi-use trail.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
No, the project would not affect the use of solar energy by any adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:
None.

7. **Environmental Health**

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe:

There is a small chance that hazardous materials could be found during construction. SDOT will include standard specifications in the construction contract that require proper management and disposal of hazardous materials if found.

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- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
None.
- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:
None.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?
The proposed project will occur mostly adjacent to the Aurora corridor, which has a high amount of traffic. The noise for the project area includes ambient urban noise (traffic, some machinery equipment).
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.
The short-term noise impacts are construction related, and construction will occur during normal business hours. There are no anticipated long term noise increases. Construction is anticipated to last about 10 months.
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:
None.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?
The project site is publicly owned right-of-way.
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
The project site has not been used for agriculture.
- c. Describe any structures on the site.
The project area will be adjacent to a cemetery, a residential street, and underneath the existing Seattle City Light corridor. The only existing structures are the power poles from Seattle City Light.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
There will not be any structures demolished.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
The project area is in Seattle City Light utility corridor right-of-way. Adjacent zoning is single family residential.

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- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
The comprehensive plan includes the urban trails system plan, which identifies this corridor for trail development.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
N/A.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
No part of the site has been classified as an environmentally sensitive area.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
N/A
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
N/A.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Project is compatible with existing land use described above.
9. **Housing**
- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
N/A
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
N/A
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
N/A
10. **Aesthetics**
- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
This project is a surface level multi-use trail.

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- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
This project could include enhancement plantings of trees, or ornamental shrubs, if requested by the adjacent property owners. Public art is also being considered at several locations in the project area.
11. **Light and Glare**
- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None.
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?
No.
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:
Additional street lighting would be installed at N 110th, N 125th St and N 128th Street to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety.
12. **Recreation**
- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
The proposed project is a recreational trail for bicyclists, pedestrians and other non-motorized users. Walkers or runners may also use the 3-ft gravel path to be provided adjacent to the trail.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:
The proposed project would increase the recreational opportunities in the neighborhood.
13. **Historic and Cultural Preservation**

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- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.
A Section 106 review was conducted by the City's Department of Neighbors in January 2004. The results indicate that the proposed trail alignment is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by SHPO.
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.
None.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:
None.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.
The trail will be located parallel to Fremont Avenue North and Aurora Avenue. Access to the existing street system would be provided at the trail heads with a clear-entrance or exit path to the street from the proposed trail.
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
Metro Bus services are available on Aurora Ave and N 105th Street.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
The project will not provide parking. Approximately six informal parking spaces on the unpaved shoulder abutting the roadway at the N.128th street end will be eliminated by the construction of the trail head at N.128th. It is not known who uses these spaces, though there are single family homes and one multi-family dwelling nearby.
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
Installation of mid-block crosswalk at 125th Street is included in the project.
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
No.

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- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
This project will not generate any vehicular trips per day. This project will be used for pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-motorized uses.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
There are no proposed measures to reduce or control vehicular transportation with this project. This project is intended to lessen vehicle use, by facilitating a means of alternate, non-motorized transportation. It will not be necessary to replace the parking spaces supplanted by the 128th trail head as there is sufficient on-street parking on 128th Street both east and west of the project, as well as on the north half of the west side of Linden Avenue between 128th and 130th, that should easily be able to absorb the displaced vehicles.

15. **Public Services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
There will be an increased demand on City forces to maintain the finished trail. There will not be any increased need for fire protection, police protection, health care or schools.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
None.

16. **Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
New storm conveyance system will be installed for this trail, including an infiltration trench.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.
 SEPA Checklist Interurban.doc

Signature: _____
 Stuart Goldsmith, Project Manager

Date: _____

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Signature: _____
Urania Pérez, Environmental Specialist

Date: