

Seattle Center to Waterfront WALKING AND BIKING CONNECTION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

We're building an important connection between Myrtle Edwards Park and Seattle Center to provide a safer, more comfortable way to walk and bike between some of Seattle's most popular destinations. This project is part of the North Downtown Mobility Action Program (NODO MAP) in coordination with the development of Climate Pledge Arena at Seattle Center.

The project goals include:

- Provide walking and biking connections between the waterfront and Seattle Center in conjunction with improvements around the new arena
- Meet commitments in Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) and North Downtown Mobility Action Plan (NODO MAP)

In coordination with the opening of Climate Pledge Arena at Seattle Center in 2021, this project will create an "all ages and abilities" walking and biking connection between Myrtle Edwards Park and Seattle Center via Harrison St, Queen Anne Ave N, Thomas St, and Republican St in the Uptown neighborhood. This project will also extend the bike improvements to connect with future protected bike lanes along Queen Anne Ave N and along Thomas St.

This report summarizes the outreach activities that SDOT conducted throughout the design phases and outlines how public input has informed the final design of the Seattle Center to Waterfront Walking and Biking Connection.



View of Thomas Street Overpass from 3rd Ave W looking southwest.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The **North Downtown Mobility Action Program (NODO MAP)** was developed in late 2019 to support access and livability in North Downtown, which includes the Uptown, Belltown, and South Lake Union neighborhoods. The program builds on existing community planning efforts, reviews existing community plans and planned projects, and is closely linked to the development of Climate Pledge Arena.

Thomas Street Redefined is a community-driven, visionary concept plan for a walking and biking corridor connecting the waterfront, Uptown, Seattle Center, South Lake Union, and Eastlake. Thomas Street Redefined consists of two parts: west of Seattle Center (**Seattle Center to Waterfront Walking and Biking Connection**) and east of Seattle Center (**Thomas St: 5th Ave N to Dexter Ave N**).

OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Throughout 2020, we engaged community members and stakeholder groups, including the Seattle Bike and Pedestrian advisory boards, at key milestones in the design process. The following goals guided the outreach process:

- Involve the community to ensure understanding of community needs and project goals, identify safety concerns, and discuss potential mobility improvements
- Share alternative design options based on data, modal plans, and community input at the 30% design milestone
- Ensure that stakeholders, including adjacent property owners and tenants, are aware of project plans (design changes, construction, etc.)
- Help identify and mitigate negative project impacts
- Provide project updates and respond quickly to public questions, concerns, and requests
- Include the business and freight community as we address changes to street layout, parking, and loading areas
- Partner with community organizations and stakeholders to notify the community about the project
- Cooperate with major community events to avoid construction conflicts

In February 2020, we engaged the community through a drop-in session and an online survey to provide project information and gather input on alternative designs for 3rd Ave W.

In August and September 2020, we did second round of outreach to share the latest concept with the community. Several specific design elements, including a change to the route, were informed by public input.

COMMUNITY-INFORMED DESIGN FEATURES

WHAT WE HEARD

Less steep route

67% of pedestrians and 80% of people biking said they would go out of their way for less steep slopes

More space for people walking and biking

Support for a larger buffer between moving vehicles and people biking and walking at the entrance to the Thomas St Overpass

Traffic calming and neighborhood improvements

Support for all-way stops throughout the neighborhood

WHAT WE DID

Route on W Harrison St

Relocated the route to W Harrison St between 3rd Ave W and Queen Anne Ave N

Separated, shared path at 3rd Ave W

Designed a widened path, with separated space for people walking and biking, on 3rd Ave W to connect to the Thomas Street Overpass

New all-way stops

4 new all-way stops along 2nd Ave W and W Thomas St

OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

30% design outreach:

February 2020

- 212 responses to the online survey
- 50 drop-in session attendees
- 3 briefings to advisory boards
- 1 mailer sent to residents and businesses
- 1 email update sent to project listserv

60% design outreach:

August/September 2020

- Individual meetings with Elliot Bay Office Park
- 2 email updates sent to 176 residents
- Socially distant door-to-door outreach to 4 blocks of impacted properties
- 1 recorded presentation posted to the project webpage
- 1 mailer sent to 13,000 addresses in Lower Queen Anne
- 1 SDOT Blog post about the project and related projects in the neighborhood



50 Drop-in session attendees



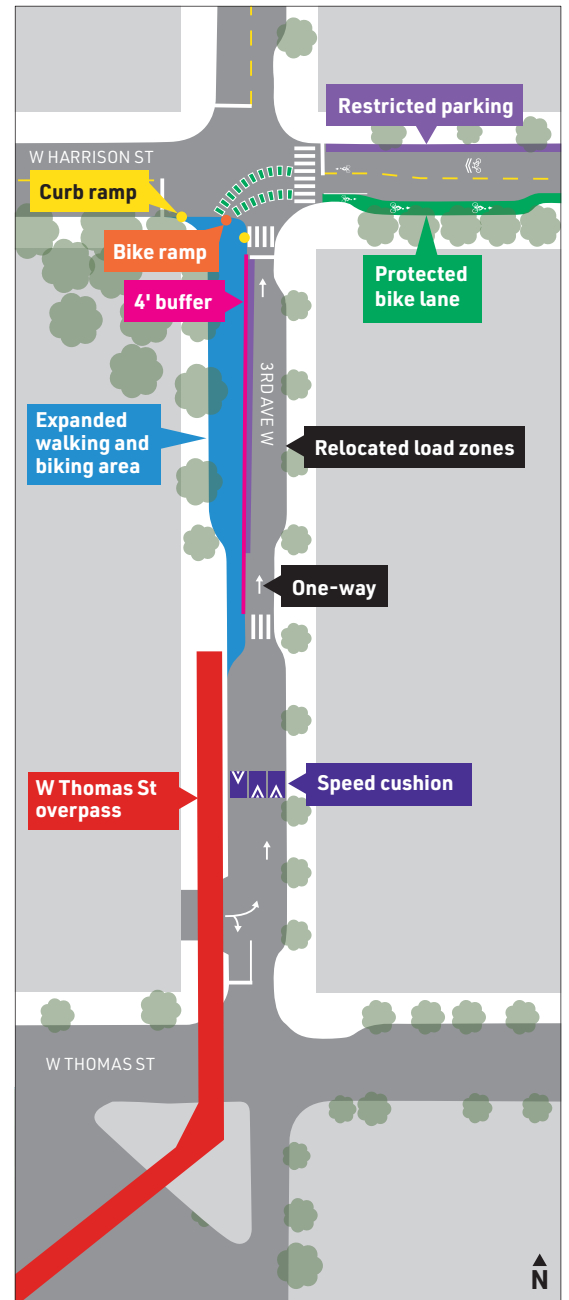
212 Online survey responses

FINAL DESIGN

We completed design in early 2021. The final design includes:

- New on-street bicycle facilities along W Harrison St between 3rd Ave W and Queen Anne Ave N:
 - Eastbound protected bike lane
 - Westbound shared lane
 - New speed cushions
 - New wayfinding signage
- A connection to the planned protected bike lanes along Queen Anne Ave N and along Thomas St
- Four new all-way stops
- Expanded walking/biking path connection to Thomas Street Overpass

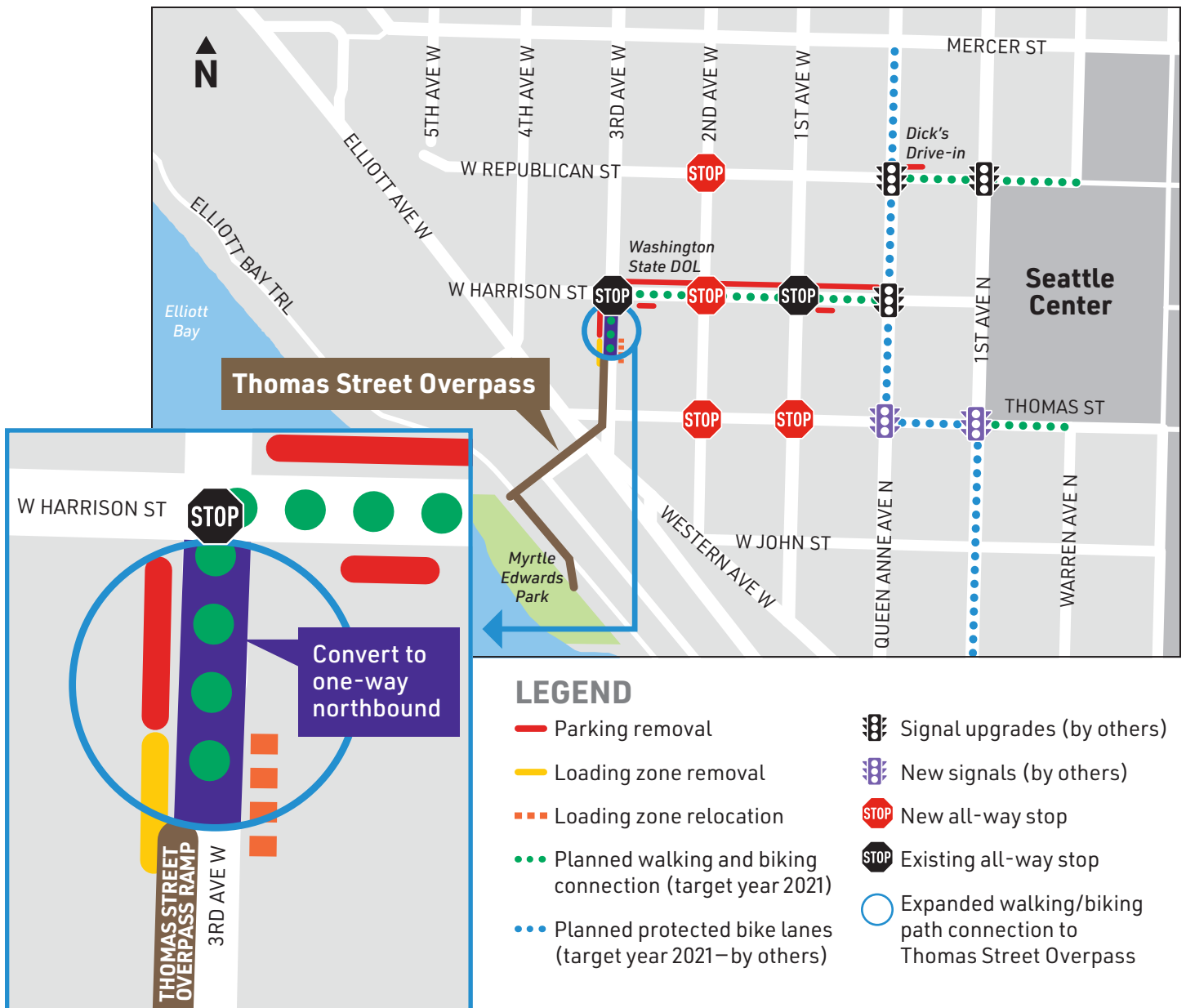
Planned improvements for people biking and walking through the Uptown neighborhood.



Bicycle and pedestrian improvements for 3rd Ave W, connecting to the Thomas Street Overpass.



Project rendering. Design subject to change.



WHAT'S NEXT

Schedule: We completed design in early 2021. We're expecting construction to start in early summer 2021 and continue through early fall 2021.



↩ We are here

PROJECT INFORMATION & CONTACT:

Visit the project webpage and sign up for email updates:
www.seattle.gov/transportation/SeattleCenterToWaterfrontConnection

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Seattle
 Department of
 Transportation