



City of Seattle  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

**Department of Transportation**  
Scott Kubly, Director

January 9, 2015

**RE: BICYCLE SAFETY AND TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ROOSEVELT WAY NE**

Greetings!

I am writing to let you know about improvements along Roosevelt Way NE to create a multimodal corridor, specifically about bicycle safety and predictability and transit improvements. As you know, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is repaving Roosevelt Way NE between Fuhrman Ave NE and NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street and adding safety improvements starting this fall. Along with meeting Seattle's basic maintenance needs, we're adding transit reliability and pedestrian improvements, as well as a protected one-way bike lane (PBL) on the west side of Roosevelt Way NE.

**Background**

Last fall we mailed project fliers, letters and held an open house to talk about the paving project. At that time we were only planning on installing the PBL from the University Bridge to NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street. At the open house, staff shared that there were a few project components we hoped to add should funding become available. These included in-lane transit stops for better bus reliability and sidewalk repairs for easier pedestrian movement.

Since the open house, some funding for these improvements has been identified. This triggered another evaluation of how well we were meeting our Complete Streets Ordinance and transportation modal plan recommendations. Shifting the transit stops in-lane provided us with an opportunity to add the PBL recommended in the Bicycle Master Plan. There have been nine collisions involving bikes to the north of NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street from October 2010 to October 2014, so the PBL would be a safety improvement and create better connections to Seattle's citywide bike network and multimodal system. We can leverage the Roosevelt Way NE Paving Project to make bicycling safer and more comfortable along the corridor. And we can do it in a way that minimizes construction disruptions and helps meet our goal of providing people with more travel options.

**What is the goal of adding a PBL?**

Safety for all travelers

- People **biking** – separate bicyclists from travel lanes and parking maneuvers
- People **walking** – separate bicycles from pedestrians
- People **driving** – provide predictability within the street

## What are the benefits of adding a PBL and transit islands?

- Improve safety, as people are no longer riding bikes in the “door zone” or being blocked by buses
- Add connections to a citywide bicycle network and multimodal system at:
  - NE 47th Street, which connects to the University Neighborhood Greenway on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE
  - Ravenna Boulevard where SDOT is upgrading the buffered bike lane to a PBL this year
  - NE 65th Street, where the new Link Light Rail Station is under construction
- Improve transit reliability by adding in-lane bus stops (transit islands)
- Create more space for people waiting for the bus by adding transit islands

## Description of changes

The two existing general purpose lanes will remain and we'll continue to prioritize bus service. However, on-street parking and loading zones would be removed on the west side of the street. We know that businesses and residents can come to rely on public parking and do not take this lightly. Before implementing a project, we review city policies and goals, and in this case the bicycle and transit master plans, as well as collect parking data. Parking utilization data collection is currently underway.

We also work with the residents, businesses and others to understand their access needs, and determine how we can continue to address those needs with the addition of these new facilities. We'd like to invite you to attend one of three drop-in sessions to meet with project staff, ask questions and share your thoughts.

Tuesday, **January 20** | 2 – 3:30 PM: University Heights, 5031 University Way NE

Wednesday, **January 21** | 8 – 9:30 AM: Wayward Coffeehouse, 6417 Roosevelt Way NE

Thursday, **January 22** | 5:30 – 7 PM: University Heights, 5031 University Way NE

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. You can find a map and graphics of the proposed street configuration, as well as a comprehensive Questions and Answers document at [www.Seattle.gov/transportation/rooseveltpbl.htm](http://www.Seattle.gov/transportation/rooseveltpbl.htm). For more information about the Roosevelt Way NE Paving Project visit [www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave\\_roosevelt.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave_roosevelt.htm).

Feel free to email me at [Dawn.Schellenberg@Seattle.gov](mailto:Dawn.Schellenberg@Seattle.gov), or call 206.684.5189 if you have questions, and I hope to see you at one of our drop-in sessions.

Sincerely,

Dawn Schellenberg  
Community Engagement Liaison, Traffic Management Division