# Project Information

## N/NW 85th St & Greenwood Ave N Paving Projects

Winter 2011 Publication

### SDOT brings needed roadway improvements to your neighborhood this fall

If you have driven, walked or biked along N/NW 85th St recently, you are likely familiar with the ever-increasing number and size of potholes in the roadway. With N/NW 85th St carrying over 30,000 cars and trucks each day, this busy arterial has deteriorated over time and needs major repairs.

Beginning in October 2011, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will reconstruct N/NW 85th St from 15th Ave NW to I-5 with new concrete pavement in the most heavily traveled areas, and repave the remaining lanes with asphalt. SDOT will also repave Greenwood Ave N from N 85th St to N 73rd St with new asphalt.

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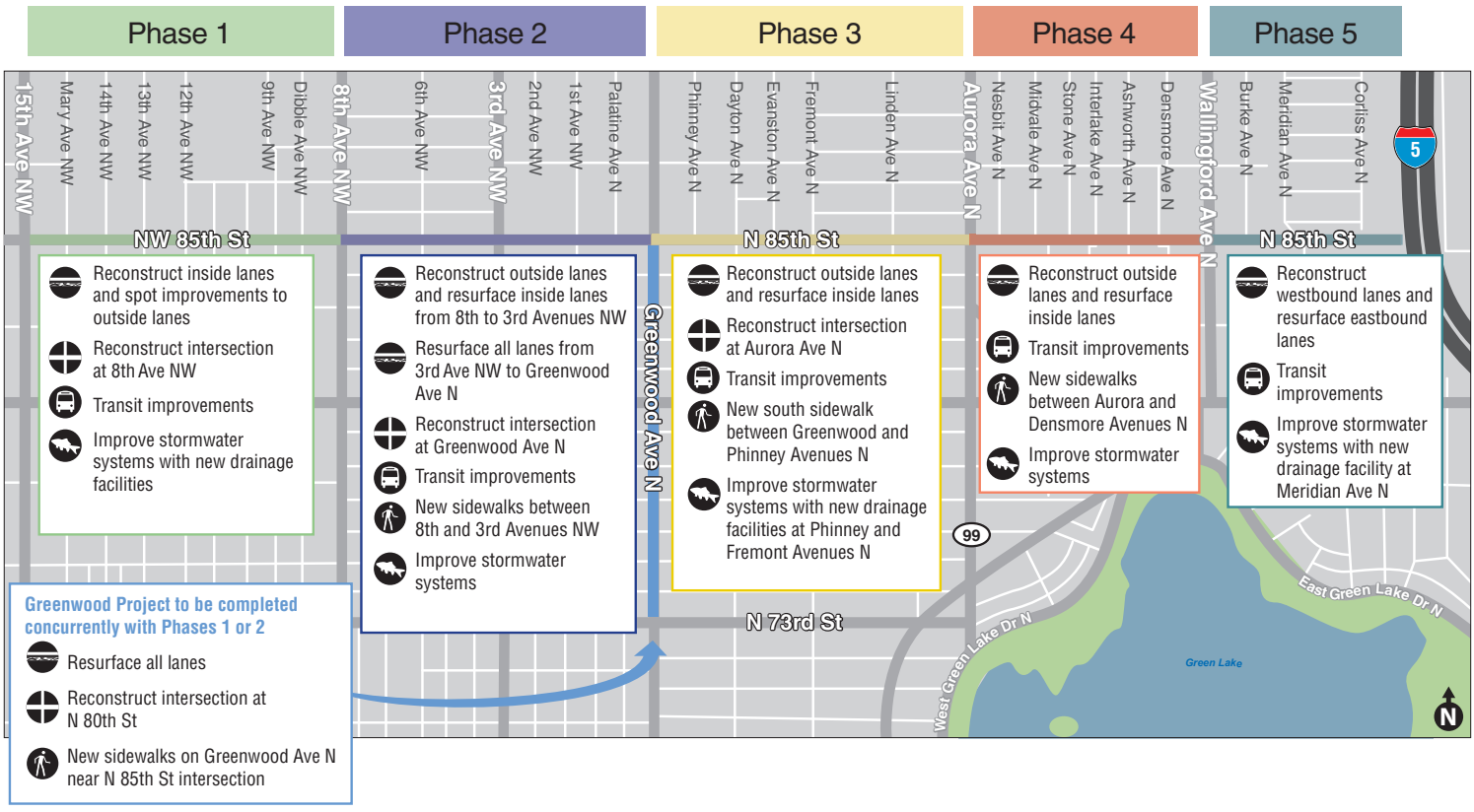
### Project improvements

While SDOT's primary purpose is to repair and replace the roadways, we will also complete other improvements along the corridors. The graphic below highlights our plans for each phase of construction. Construction will start with Phase 1 and advance east, toward I-5.




SDOT Seattle Department of Transportation

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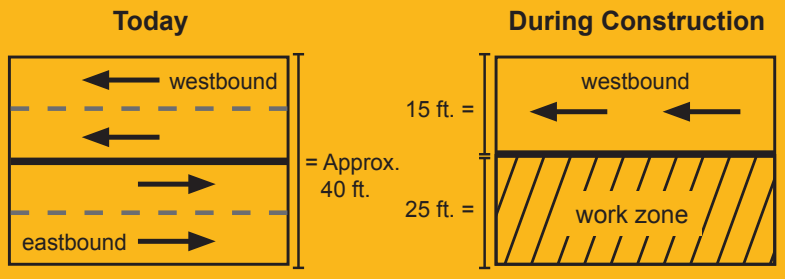
## Traffic during construction

To minimize impacts, we will complete the project in phases. Neighbors should anticipate the following traffic impacts during construction of each phase:

- Eastbound closures and detours
- Reduced lanes for westbound traffic
- Occasional full roadway closures at night or on weekends
- Multiple weekend closures of intersections at 8th Ave NW, Greenwood Ave N and Aurora Ave N
- Extended side street closures
- Short-term driveway closures and sidewalk detours
- I-5 on- and off-ramp closures in summer/fall 2012
- Parking restrictions and modified travel lanes during work on Greenwood Ave N

## Why eastbound detours?

N/NW 85th St is approximately 40 feet wide. To ensure the safety of drivers and pedestrians, and allow enough space for crews to complete their work, the work zone needs to occupy about 25 feet of the existing roadway. Allowing space for the work zone leaves only about 15 feet for travel lanes. As a result, eastbound traffic will need to be detoured, and westbound traffic will be reduced to one lane.

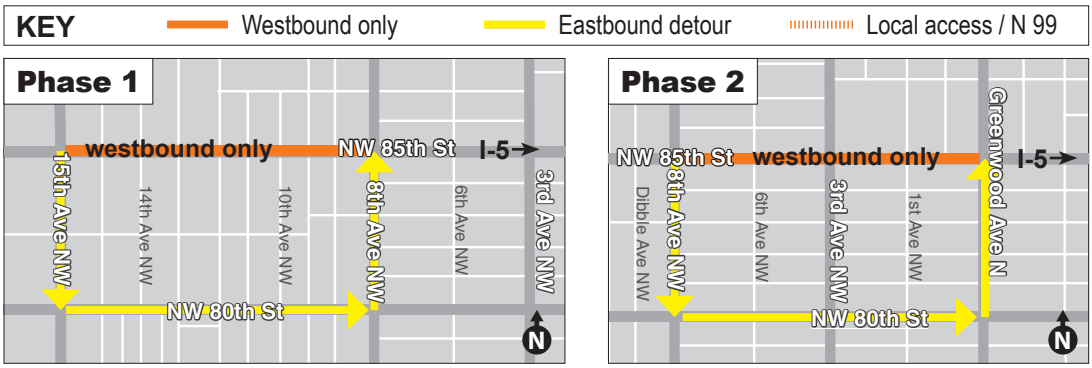



*Note: A minimum of 22 feet would be needed to maintain two-way traffic.*

We expect the first few weeks of detours for each phase will be difficult as drivers adapt to new routes. We appreciate your patience as we make adjustments to keep traffic moving.

## Preliminary eastbound detour routes

During eastbound closures on N/NW 85th St, drivers will need to plan ahead and use alternate routes. We have identified these preliminary detour routes to keep people safe and traffic moving during construction. Detour routes are subject to change.



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## Keeping your neighborhood safe and moving during construction

While N/NW 80th St will be the primary signed detour route, it cannot accommodate all of the traffic that N/NW 85th St carries each day. As a result, traffic volumes may increase on neighborhood streets. We are attempting to balance the various needs of the community – maintaining east/west travel for commuters, allowing access to local businesses, as well as keeping streets safe for all who live and play near the project area.

As drivers adjust to the detour in each phase of work, we expect increased congestion and other issues to arise. We will monitor traffic closely and make adjustments as needed. If a safety issue arises during the detours, we will promptly identify and implement the appropriate tool. Below are some examples of tools we can use during construction to better manage traffic and keep people safe on neighborhood streets.

### Mobility

***Signal timing modifications:*** Signals will be adjusted along N/NW 85th St and N/NW 80th St to maximize movements through major intersections.

***Left turn restrictions:*** Left turn restrictions will be enforced at major intersections in the area to minimize traffic backups and improve east/west travel.

***Parking restrictions:*** Parking changes on N/NW 80th St will help increase capacity along the detour route and improve traffic flow.

***Signage:*** Directional signage will be used to inform the traveling public of ongoing construction activities and detours. Temporary wayfinding signs may also be used throughout the area to direct regional commuters to alternate routes for accessing I-5 and Aurora Ave N (99).

### Safety

***Traffic speed and volume studies:*** Conducting these studies prior to construction will help document existing conditions and identify safety issues that may arise during eastbound detours.

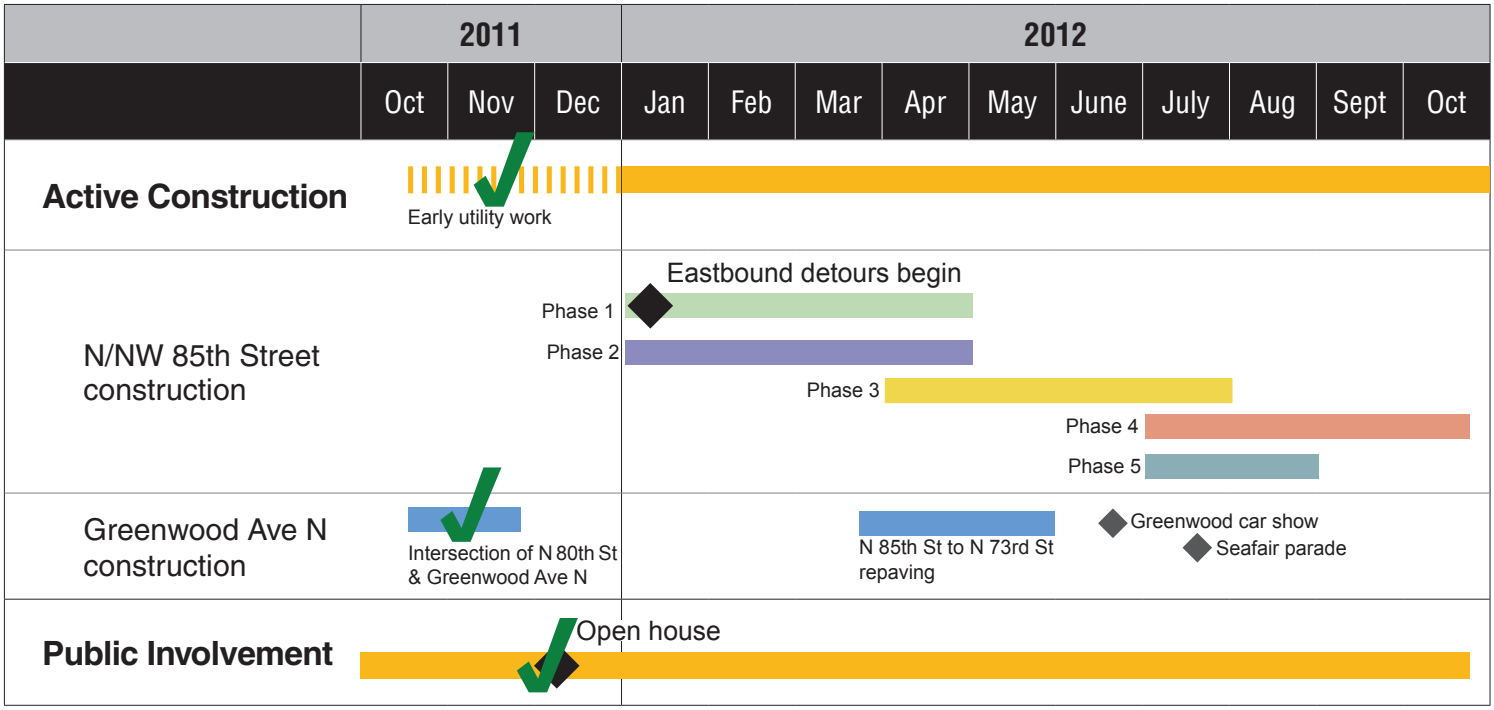
***Uniformed police officers (UPOs) and flaggers:*** UPOs stationed at key intersections will assist with traffic management in construction areas. UPOs and flaggers may also be used throughout the area to ensure public safety.

***Parking:*** Adding parking on neighborhood streets may help decrease and slow down cut-through traffic.

**During construction, you can help everyone stay safe by:**

- Following the directions of signs and flaggers.
- Adhering to posted speed limits.
- Using pedestrian crosswalks and avoiding entering designated work zones.
- Always yielding to pedestrians and other vehicles inside traffic circles.
- Using arterial streets to avoid cutting through neighborhoods.

## Construction schedule



*Intersection of N 85th St and Aurora Ave N.*

**Get involved**

To follow the project's progress, visit our website:
**www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave_85th.htm**

Sign up for email updates by sending an email to:
**pave_85th@seattle.gov**

**If you have questions or concerns, please contact our 24-hour project line at (206) 496-9993**

These projects are funded by the Bridging the Gap tax levy passed in 2006.

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