Aurora Avenue North

N 110th Street to N 145th Street

SDOT
Seattle Department of Transportation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Aurora Avenue North N 110th Street to N 145th Street Project?

This project builds upon the recent SR 99 Corridor Study completed by the Washington State Department of Transportation, SDOT and King County Metro Transit. The team completed the study in 2003 and published a list of recommended improvements along the SR 99/Aurora Avenue corridor from the north end of the Battery Street Tunnel to North 145th Street in Shoreline.

SDOT is now taking the lead in implementing the recommended improvements for the "North Focus Area" from North 110th Street to North 145th Street.

What kinds of improvements are SDOT considering?

Recommendations from the corridor study include:

- Widening existing lanes.
- Adding a southbound business access and transit (BAT) lane. BAT lanes are designated lanes for transit and right-turning vehicles only.
- Adding a raised median, series of medians, or central lane with clearly defined left-turns and u-turns.
- Constructing continuous sidewalks and landscaping on both sides of Aurora Avenue North.
- Improving pedestrian crossings at intersections.

These improvements will help fulfill Mayor Greg Nickels' priority of "getting Seattle moving" and the project team's goals of improving safety for drivers and pedestrians.

How will these improvements help make Aurora safer and easier to get around?

- Improved safety - Wider lanes, clearly defined left turns and u-turns, sidewalks and improved intersection crossings will help reduce the number of crashes and injuries in the project area.
- More efficient transit service and reliable commute - A new southbound BAT lane will result in more reliable transit service and paves the way for future implementation of bus rapid transit (BRT) which would enable bus service every ten minutes along Aurora. Transit improvements on Aurora Avenue are one of Mayor Nickels' top transportation priorities.
- A more enjoyable pedestrian environment - Sidewalks, landscaping and improved pedestrian crossings will make Aurora a safer, more enjoyable place to walk and shop.

Why are medians or other ways of defining left-turns and u-turns included in the list of recommendations?

The volume of traffic through the corridor is increasing and this means pedestrians and drivers crossing Aurora Avenue have more lanes and greater distance to cross. Controlled turning movements can help keep pedestrians and drivers safer by reducing the risk of accidents.

Will on-street parking be affected by any of the proposed improvements?

Yes. The southbound BAT lane will improve access to businesses along Aurora by making it easier and safer for drivers to turn, but it will affect on-street parking. During this first phase of the project, SDOT is meeting with business owners along Aurora Avenue to discuss how the City can best address local parking needs and concerns.

When will SDOT finish designing the improvements?

Spring 2005 | Solicit community input on design issues
SDOT is soliciting input from business owners, neighbors, commuters and other interested community members on design issues for the development of a preliminary preferred alignment.

Summer 2005 | Develop preliminary preferred alignment
SDOT will develop a preliminary preferred alignment that supports community input for presentation to business owners, neighbors and other interested community members for comment.

Fall 2005 | Refine preliminary preferred alignment
SDOT will use community feedback to refine the preliminary preferred alignment and create a new draft for public review.

Winter - Summer 2006 | Develop final design
SDOT will consider community feedback in developing a preferred alignment for the project.

How will the public be involved in the project?

Community feedback is essential to making sure improvements to Aurora meet the needs of those who work, live, shop and commute here. SDOT will host several open house events during the project and will also be meeting with businesses and neighbors for feedback on parking and access issues.

During the next several months, the project team will be developing an improved roadway alignment and seeking public input on a variety of issues including:

- Pedestrian crossing types and location
- Left-turn and u-turn locations
- Landscaping and aesthetic improvements for medians and sidewalks
- Bus stop locations and design

Community members are encouraged to attend public events, respond to our project newsletters and mailings, and visit our project website at www.seattle.gov/transportation/aurora110.htm regularly for updated information. All public comments will be considered for incorporation into the design.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the project website at www.seattle.gov/transportation/aurora110.htm for regularly updated information.

You can also contact:

SDOT Project Manager Diana Holloway
(206) 684-3970
diana.holloway@seattle.gov

or

SDOT Communications Manager Liz Rankin
(206) 684-8540
liz.rankin@seattle.gov