

mercercorridorproject

A SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



“After years of talk, we are fixing the Mercer Mess.”
— Mayor Nickels



Making Mercer work for South Lake Union and the region
The Mercer Corridor Project will determine improvements from I-5 to Aurora Avenue and Seattle Center for vehicles, transit, pedestrians and bicycles.

Improving Mercer to support a changing South Lake Union

It's no secret that improving the Mercer Corridor is vital to meeting the full potential of South Lake Union. The Mercer Corridor is central to:

- Improving and simplifying the connection between I-5 and Aurora Avenue
- Increasing access and circulation for all transportation modes within the South Lake Union neighborhood
- Supporting the 20,000 new jobs and 10,000 new households projected for this area.
- Enhancing other neighborhood projects, such as South Lake Union Park.

Why is this project needed?

The Mercer Corridor Project is needed to meet both current and future demand for travel and access within the Mercer Corridor. Its purpose is to identify improvements that will accommodate vehicles and transit, and increase bicycle and pedestrian access and safety in the area between Dexter Avenue North (or 5th Avenue North in the case of the Valley/Roy alternative) and Fairview Avenue North, and between North Republican Street and Lake Union.

What's being considered?

Two alternatives currently are being considered.

- 1 **The Two-Way Mercer** would widen Mercer Street between Dexter Avenue North and Fairview Avenue North to allow traffic in both directions. Valley Street would be narrowed to a two-lane street to improve the pedestrian environment around South Lake Union Park.
- 2 **The Fairview/Valley Realignment** would make improvements to Valley and Roy Streets, realigning the intersection of Fairview Avenue and Valley Street and creating a new westbound Roy Street underpass at Aurora Avenue North.

What are the issues?

As SDOT reviews the alternatives, various issues will be considered, including:

- Cultural and historic resources
- The possibility of contaminated soils
- Traffic flow and circulation

What's next?

The environmental process will take about 18 months.

- The first part of this environmental review process is called "scoping." This identifies the appropriate alternatives to be examined and determines the issues to be addressed in the environmental review, potential impacts, and ways of mitigating the impacts of constructing the proposed alternatives.
- The alternatives and their impacts, and potential mitigation measures, are then closely analyzed in the environmental review process.
- The public, most importantly those who could be affected by the proposed alternatives, are critical to identifying all issues, and weighing in as the alternatives are analyzed.

How can you get involved?

Now is a great time to get involved because we are at the beginning of the project. The March 18 Public Open House is being held to provide more information about the project, the alternatives being considered, and the opportunity to comment on the alternatives – your

concerns or ideas for alternatives, and what environmental elements should be analyzed. At the open house, you can:

- Talk with project staff about the project
- View displays about the Project
- Provide written comments

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Public Open House

Thursday, March 18, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

South Lake Union Armory, 860 Terry Ave. N., Seattle, Washington.

In addition, formal scoping comments can be sent to SDOT by mail, email or fax, but must be received (or postmarked) by **March 25, 2004**.

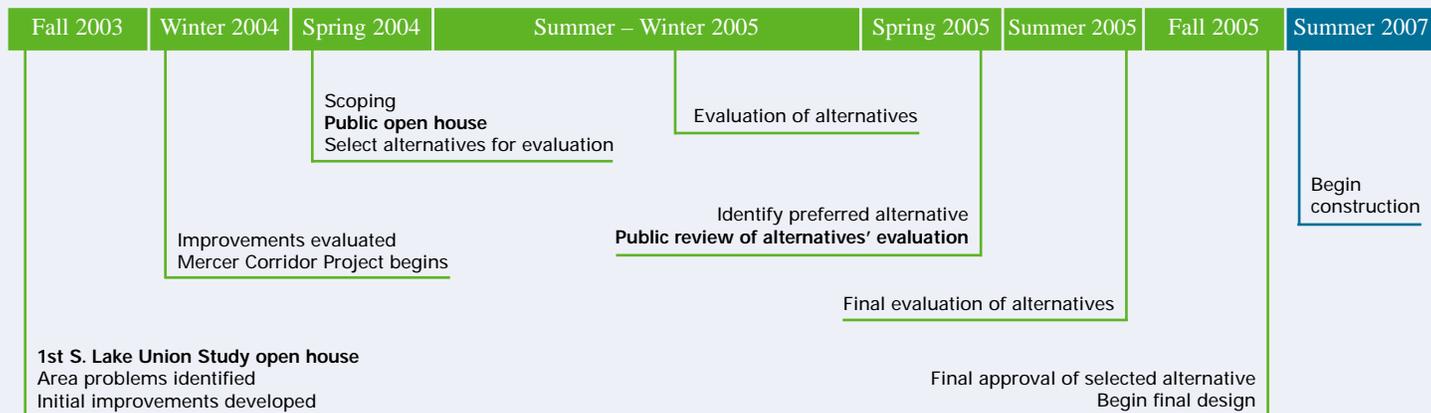
There will be additional opportunities to provide input throughout the project.

For more information on the project...

Please contact or send written comments to Eric Tweit, SDOT project manager: **Phone:** (206) 684-8834; **Fax:** (206) 615-0899; **Email:** eric.tweit@seattle.gov.; **Mail:** Key Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue, PO Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124-4996

More information about the project is available at: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/ppmp_mercer.htm

Mercer Corridor Project timeline



Proposed Mercer Corridor alternatives

The **Fairview/ Valley Realignment** makes improvements to Valley and Roy streets, between Fairview Avenue and 5th Avenue by realigning the intersection of Fairview Street and creating a new westbound Roy Street underpass at Aurora Avenue North.

The **Two-Way Mercer to Dexter Alignment** widens Mercer Street to 7 lanes between Dexter Avenue and Fairview North allowing two-way traffic with 4 lanes eastbound, 3 lanes westbound and a center median with left turn pockets. Under this alternative Valley Street is narrowed to a 2 or 3 lane street and provides access to businesses and South Lake Union Park.



South Lake Union Transportation Study

The Mercer Corridor Project will implement some of the recommendations in the South Lake Union Transportation Study. The goal of the Study is to create transportation strategies to support development of the South Lake Union Urban Village. The March 18 open house will provide opportunities to comment on both the South Lake Union Transportation Study and the Mercer Corridor Project.

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