

Project Information

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

Updated: May 2011

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Project Description

How will SDOT improve N/NW 85th St?

This project will reconstruct N/NW 85th St from I-5 to 15th Ave NW with new concrete pavement in the most heavily traveled areas, and resurface the remaining lanes with asphalt.

Other improvements include:

- New and upgraded curb ramps to meet current accessibility standards
- Bus stop improvements including new shelters in some locations
- Sidewalk repair and replacement in some areas
- Environmentally friendly stormwater facilities
- New underground drainage infrastructure
- Bicycle sharrows on NW 85th St between 15th Ave NW and Greenwood Ave N

How will SDOT improve Greenwood Ave N?

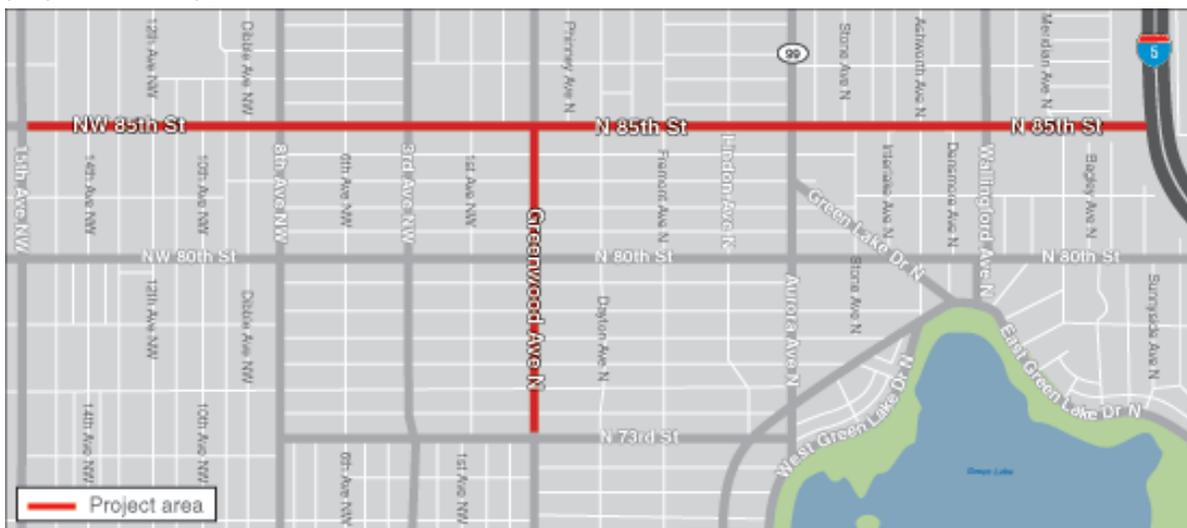
This project will resurface Greenwood Ave N from N 85th St to N 73rd St with new asphalt, and improve sidewalks on the north and south sides of the intersection at Greenwood Ave N and N 85th St.

Other improvements include:

- New and upgraded curb ramps to meet current accessibility standards
- Complete reconstruction of the N 80th St intersection with concrete pavement

Where are the projects located?

N/NW 85th St from I-5 to 15th Ave NW; and Greenwood Ave N from N 85th St to N 73rd St (see following project area map)



Why do N/NW 85th St and Greenwood Ave N need to be repaved?

N/NW 85th St alone currently carries more than 30,000 vehicles a day. The roadways are in poor condition due to age and use and need repairs to maintain efficient and safe travel corridors for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, and transit.

Will there be any other improvements to infrastructure as a result of this project?

Some infrastructure upgrades will be made as part of the projects including new bus shelters and improved transit lighting in some locations, and bicycle and pedestrian accessibility improvements. In addition, SDOT will be installing new stormwater facilities in several areas along the corridor. These facilities are designed to capture, store, convey, and in some cases filter stormwater runoff collected from the roadway.

Why is SDOT completing two projects at the same time?

As a part of the N/NW 85th St Project, SDOT was able to take advantage of a competitive bidding climate by including the Greenwood Ave N Paving Project in the same bidding package as the N/NW 85th St Project. The Greenwood Ave N Paving Project was originally scheduled for a later year and now will be completed by the same contractor, and will occur concurrently with the N/NW 85th St Paving Project.

Project Schedule

What is the anticipated project schedule?

The project is currently in the final design phase and will be advertised for bids from contractors in summer 2011. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2011, with completion estimated in fall 2012.

Will the project be done in sections or all at once?

SDOT is planning to conduct construction activities in phases to better manage traffic and minimize impacts to residents, businesses, and commuters.

The preliminary phasing plan for N/NW 85th St is:

- Phase 1 (October – April): 15th Ave NW to 8th Ave NW
- Phase 2 (January – April): 8th Ave NW to Greenwood Ave N
- Phase 3 (April – July): Greenwood Ave N to Aurora Ave N
- Phase 4 (May – September): Aurora Ave N to Wallingford Ave N
- Phase 5 (July – August): Wallingford Ave N to I-5

Work on Greenwood Ave N (N 85th St to N 73rd St) will be completed in two separate construction phases. The work is split into two phases because the reconstruction of the intersection at Greenwood Ave N and N 80th St is planned before the detours of eastbound traffic on N/NW 85th St begin. Therefore, the intersection work will happen in the fall 2011. The remainder of the work on Greenwood will be completed in the spring/early summer of 2012 before the Greenwood Car Show and the Greenwood Seafair Parade.

Note: This phasing plan is preliminary and subject to change by the contractor. Construction schedules are also subject to change due to inclement weather.



Project Funding

How are the projects being funded?

These projects are brought to you by the Bridging the Gap levy passed by Seattle voters in 2006. The levy enables much-needed work by SDOT, such as roadway paving, sidewalk development and repair, bridge maintenance, and tree pruning and planting.

Construction Impacts

How noisy will it be during construction?

The construction work will be noisy at times. Noisier types of work activities include concrete breaking when removing old sections of the roadway, asphalt grinding, backup alarms required for safety, and heavier truck traffic the area. A noise ordinance will restrict the type of construction work that can be done at different times of the day.

Will this project require weekend and/or night work?

Yes, in addition to daytime work, SDOT is anticipating night and weekend work in order to complete activities in busy areas. Specifically, work near major intersections will require weekend work so sections of the roadway can be closed to traffic. As much as possible, noisier types of work (i.e. concrete breaking) will be done during the daytime hours.

SDOT understands that night work can be disruptive to nearby residents and will carefully consider all requests from the contractor to conduct activities at night.

Will access to residences or businesses be affected during construction?

Pedestrian access to residences and businesses will be maintained at all times during construction. Occasionally, sidewalk closures may be required, and pedestrians may be rerouted to approach a building from a different direction.

Vehicle access to parking lots and parking garages will be affected, but would be limited to short periods of time. SDOT will communicate with properties owners, building managers, and tenants to make sure they have advanced notification before work begins that could impact access.

Will any construction work take place on my private property?

Some sidewalk improvements between Aurora Ave N and Densmore Ave N will require access to private property. SDOT will work directly with property owners to obtain the required temporary construction easements (TCEs) to permit this work.

Will access to or from I-5 be affected by this project?

Yes. In order to create a sufficient amount of work space for construction activities and keep drivers and workers safe, SDOT is planning to temporarily close the ramps to I-5 from N 85th St. Ramp closures are expected to occur during Phase 5 which is planned for summer/fall 2012.

SDOT will work closely with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to coordinate necessary ramp closures. WSDOT and SDOT will work together to notify the traveling public in advance of any closures.



Traffic and Parking Changes

What temporary traffic impacts are associated with construction of the project?

Due to the narrow width of the roadway, SDOT will have to implement partial and full closures the roadway at certain times, including:

- Eastbound N/NW 85th St will be closed for extended periods of time during each phase of the project.
- Single lane closures in the westbound direction will be required at times.
- Occasional full roadway closures at night.
- Temporary closures of the following intersections multiple weekends for reconstruction activities: 8th Ave NW, Greenwood Ave N, Aurora Ave N; and Greenwood Ave N & N 80th St.

Roadway and intersection closures will be specific to each phase. SDOT will try to avoid detouring traffic eastbound in more than one phase at one time. Drivers should expect increased vehicle and truck traffic in the project vicinity and on nearby streets.

What do “directional closures” mean?

Directional closures are when all lanes in a single direction are closed to traffic. During directional closures, cars will be rerouted around the construction area to nearby streets.

Where will drivers be detoured during directional closures?

Drivers will likely be detoured to N 80th St; however, detour routes have not yet been finalized. Detour routes will be determined prior to the start of construction. SDOT will conduct pre-construction speed and volume studies on neighborhood streets, and will monitor traffic during construction. If safety issues arise due to the detour, SDOT will work to minimize impacts to local neighborhoods from cut through traffic on side streets.

Will there be any impacts to parking during construction?

During each construction phase, all parking and loading zones will be removed within the project corridor on N/NW 85th St and Greenwood Ave N. Parking and loading zones along side streets may also be impacted at times. Access to parking areas will be interrupted intermittently based upon the construction schedule. You will be notified in advance if access to your typical parking areas will be affected.

Bicycles and Transit

Will the paving work have any effect on bus schedules and bus stops?

Metro bus service will be maintained during construction; however, some transit adjustment will need to be made to accommodate construction activities. SDOT will coordinate with King County Metro to address any transit service changes during construction, including temporary relocation of bus stops or bus route changes. Metro will communicate any stop or route changes to their customers directly. Transit riders should expect some travel delays during construction.

SDOT is also working with Metro to permanently consolidate bus stops along N/NW 85th St as a part of this project. Along Greenwood Ave N, SDOT is working with Metro on improving access and reliability to the Route #5 at bus stops near N 85th St. Improvements being considered include peak hour parking restrictions and signal queue jumps.

Are you adding a bike lane on N/NW 85th St?

As a part of Phases 1 and 2, bicycle sharrows will be added to NW 85th St between 15th Ave NW and Greenwood Ave N. Sharrows are the only bicycle improvement planned as part of the projects. The City of Seattle's bicycle map identifies N/NW 77th St and N/NW 90th St as east/west connector arterials, and 8th Ave NW, 3rd Ave NW, Greenwood Ave N, and Fremont Ave N as north/south connector arterials for bicycles in this area.

Public Outreach

What project materials and resources have been developed and are available publicly?

- Project website (www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave_85th.htm)
- Fact sheet
- FAQ
- Informational handouts and displays

What type of outreach will be used to inform and involve local residents and businesses affected by the project?

SDOT is currently conducting briefings with neighborhood groups and business organizations near the project area in an effort to share project information with those who will be affected by construction. SDOT is also conducting individual interviews with business and property owners to identify their operational needs. The project team will use this information to help inform the construction phasing when possible.

What types of notification methods will be used during construction?

During construction, notification methods will include website updates, construction notices, fliering, and regular emails. SDOT will inform nearby residents and businesses regularly throughout construction, and will notify the traveling public of major changes to traffic during construction.

Was there an environmental review process conducted for this project?

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit are already complete for the project. A public comment period is currently being held until May 31, 2011.

Contact Information

Where can I find out more information about this project?

If you have specific questions or would like to schedule a briefing for your neighborhood or community group, please contact:

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Or visit the project website at: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave_85th.htm

