

FAUNTLEROY WAY SW BOULEVARD PROJECT



PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON LEFT-TURN MEDIAN BREAK

Comment period: April 24, 2017 to May 31, 2017

Summary of public feedback received

Total comments: 121

- 118 comments submitted through website comment form
- 3 emails sent to project inbox

Because comments could address multiple topics, numbers listed by topic may add up to more than the total number of comments.

In favor of left-turn break in the median at 37th Ave SW: 54

- 30 people cited business access
- 22 people did not give a reason other than general left-turn access
- 4 people cited access to residences
- 1 person said that it would reduce congestion at other intersections
- 1 person said that it was necessary to have access to the Admiral area
- 1 person said that it would reduce risk of conflicts from people making illegal U-turns

Opposed to left-turn break in median at 37th Ave SW: 56

- 28 people cited the need to minimize conflicts between people who drive, walk, and bike
- 21 people did not give a reason for opposing the median break
- 9 people said a left-turn break would cause more congestion
- 8 people cited beautification or the desire to keep the "boulevard" feeling
- 3 people said that a left-turn break would reduce the traffic-calming effect

General comments – not related to left-turn break: 22

- 11 people did not comment on a potential left-turn break in the median
- 7 people opposed the project in its entirety
- 5 people commented on pedestrian infrastructure, including potential crosswalks at 35th Ave SW and 37th Ave SW
- 3 people requested 2-way routing during construction
- 3 people commented on the design of the protected bike lanes
- 2 people commented on right-turn pockets from Fauntleroy Way SW onto SW Oregon St
- 2 people commented on landscaping and greenery
- 1 person commented on channelization at 37th Ave and Fauntleroy Way
- 1 person commented on street parking on Fauntleroy Way

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Full text of comments received

We want to hear from you! What do you think about revising the design to include a two-way left-turn break in the center median at 37th Ave SW?

no left turns, it's fine as it is and please do this project! the business owners don't realize how much more business they will get when all the new apartment dwellers can walk and bike along a pleasant space to their businesses!

Please don't add a left turn lane here. It feels like that would defeat the purpose of this project. It's really not that hard to drive around the block and many of the businesses that would benefit are local and pedestrian-oriented (e.g., Rudy's RealFine), and don't really need left turn access.

What about the street parking on Fauntleroy? It is more important to have street parking than a middle lane with trees. We park street side to get morning coffee at RealFine. How will this business survive with no street parking?

Do not break the median, this would be a compromise that would defeat the purpose of this project all together.

I prefer the complete landscaped median for safety and aesthetic reasons. Fast left turns across 2 lanes of traffic are dangerous for drivers and especially pedestrians and bicyclists. The complete median provides a less chaotic, more predictable, and more attractive street overall.

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As a driver and pedestrian who frequently uses this corridor and who often patronizes the businesses on both sides of the street, I think the potential drawbacks of the median are vastly outweighed by the benefits. I vote median!!

no two way left turn lane. I think it would be a safety an congestion issue. if there is already concern with congestion having vehicles turning across traffic at un signaled locaions would seem to make that worse.

Please include the turn lane. People in cars need to go east - west sometimes; we can't just drive in a straight line forever. Not only are their businesses to access but homes like mine as well. I promise not to run over a pedestrian whether I turn left there or a mile down the street. I'll produce less emissions if I can turn and get home right away instead of having to drive around a couple of blocks.

I agree with this change. I live on 37th and often turn in/out from Fauntleroy.

I prefer the complete landscaped median. I live in the area and except for the occasional left turn onto 37th Ave SW I rarely see left turns.

No break, leave as complete landscaped median

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prefer the complete landscape median, businesses along this stretch do not generally have adequate parking lots to turn left into, it would create backup if the left turn lane fills up. Additionally, the landscape median islands will make visibility difficult for traffic turning left, and traffic approaching around a curve. Create dedicated left turn arrow lights, or figure out how to loop around the back of the business from an intersection.

No left turn break please, especially without a traffic light or access for pedestrians to cross Fauntleroy. If anything, add a pedestrian crossing at 37th!

Do NOT include two way left turn lane.

No. Keep original design.

No left turn break

no turn break!

I prefer the completed landscaped median.

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I support the original design to bring a more human-centered scale to the neighborhood. The left turn movements are not particularly safe or wise under current conditions. There are good alternatives. It's too bad that the current businesses cannot imagine how their businesses will thrive if they make them inviting to the thousands more people who are moving into the neighborhood and would like nearby destinations that are pleasant to walk to.

adding left turn is an improvement. Better still, leave it alone

The 2 way left turn break is a must to keep the neighborhood access and community involvement along this street. Without it, this will be a freeway on ramp only.

Leave the median, no break at 37th. I think it would help with traffic flow maybe?

I think anything that adds flexibility is good.

We need median break. Coming off the West Seattle bridge, as is often the case when coming home after work, how is one supposed to access these business? I like plants as much as the next person, but the primary job of roads is transportation and mobility.

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No way, left turners there already cause tons of congestion coming both ways. Having them share a median as a turn lane is going to cause slowdowns and accidents. They can go around the block.

No break please.

Yes, please don't lose access to 37th. Otherwise there is no way to turn South to access daycare, healthcare and businesses.

Keep the no break design, turning autos disrupt too much.

Keep the complete landscaped median

Abandon the entire project.

I would prefer there not be a break in the median with two way left turns. Turning there slows down the traffic coming into west Seattle and creates the potential for more accidents.

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Yes, include the break. Those are important.

Good idea. Fauntleroy is a commercial thoroughfare, not a scenic parkway!

The median break will cause more dangerous situations. I would leave median in.

No break!

#1 - Do no harm. Don't create more traffic problems in an area that already bears the brunt of ferry/Peninsula, Port of Seattle and the industrial area traffic with limited egress. Some division is OK, but please, please do not block left turn access and sufficient space for cars in line waiting to turn into Trader Joes.

Yes, I agree with breaking the median to provide the turning lane. I would also support the idea of a pedestrian cross walk at 37th that has been discussed as an option. If they are not compatible together, I would rather see the pedestrian crosswalk.

We need the break at 37th Ave SW. This is the only access point to the lower Admiral area from the south side of Fauntleroy.

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Looks great! I like how the bike lane at that intersection jogs toward the street to bring cyclists into view of drivers attempting to make that left turn to 37th

Yes! please have provisions for left turns!

Totally logical! I can't believe anyone considered not having this turn lane. Also, I hope you will keep plantings low to the ground. Good visibility for drivers and pedestrians is important for safety!

I like the complete landscaped median otion

Yes it is imperative to have the turn lane, otherwise businesses would be greatly affected. It would be very difficult to reach the YMCA and other locations on 37th if no turn lane.

Please just leave the road the way it is now.

I think it is a smart idea to include a two-way left-turn break at 37th.

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Please do not include this turn lane. The design with the full median would make for a great entry/exit for West Seattle for people on bikes. With the full median, this would be a triple A route and I'd be happy to have my elementary school aged kids ride there. Without the median the potential for conflicts will be higher, especially as people try to make quick maneuvers with cars to avoid waiting longer. Please opt for the safest option for the most vulnerable users.

Adding a center turn lane reduces traffic calming and invites crashes the complete median would prevent. The turn lane would significantly degrade the project's safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists at the street and driveway crossings, Thanks.

No way!! I use the turn lane quite right there quite often, and will miss the convenience of being able to take a left from Fauntleroy to 37th. But the tradeoffs for pedestrian safety are not worth it. Adding the turn lane would basically keep existing conditions the same, and it's a mess. In fact, every time I turn there I tell myself I should not be doing it - it feels unsafe from a car and is definitely unsafe for people and bikes crossing 37th. We all need a push to get out of our cars. Please do keep the median in the design. As a side note - I am very disappointed a crosswalk is not being provided at this location. Adding a crosswalk to the design would help businesses, as it would allow people to park on the opposite side of the street and cross safely to a business on the other side. I also can guarantee that people walking will cross at the location even without a crosswalk, particularly if there's a median there. This will introduce safety conflicts for pedestrians outside of unprotected crossings.

Adding a center turn lane reduces traffic calming and invites crashes the complete median would prevent. The turn lane would significantly degrade the project's safety improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists at the street and driveway crossings.

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Allowing a left turn onto 37th would create access to the businesses in the triangle area as well as parking for the businesses located on Fauntleroy and the Triangle. It would be a nice compromise and show a commitment to compromise with the businesses. If there is no turn lane, access to the Triangle business area is very difficult and will have a negative impact for the neighborhood.

Include a two-way left-turn break.

I support the complete landscaped median! Left turns from Fauntleroy will disrupt traffic flow, are more dangerous to pedestrians.

I vote for a complete landscaped median as anything short of this will defeat the whole purpose of creating a Blvd. In addition, opening up the center will create unnecessary turning conflicts and delays on Fauntleroy Blvd. No TWLT pocket!

I vote for no break (complete landscape median). this street is so dangerous and busy when you add turning elements.

please include the 35th Ave crosswalks on all corners in the design. Also, please work with Seattle city Light and neighborhood to include design of the former substation, as a gateway to West Seattle.

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Yes, In favor of of maintaining access to businesses. Also offers better access to residents living N side of Fauntleroy.

Having a turn lane at 37th defeats the purpose of the safety factor for pedestrians and bicycles. I live on 37th and I never turn there as it highly likely that I would be invovled in a rear end collision. I also believe that have a turn there would greatly reduce the traffic time through the area.

Due to population increases, the entire project is outdated. Please abandon the project.

No median break - traffic will flow better.

Yes, a left turn break is a good idea if it will help drivers reach the businesses in that area. One important topic I'm not sure has been addressed: will there be a right-turn green arrow to Westbound Oregon St.? It is essential to keep the flow of vehicles smoothly moving to avoid major backups and help them reach the Junction and points west. This would require stopping that bike lane for safety.

better to have the two way left turn lane. does it continue east (people seel to want to turn from westbound towards the YMCA and block traffic lanes because there isn't a turning lane there) and ditto further west to where Eastbound folk want to turn into Trader Joes. in that case currently there is a turning lane. I am for left turn breaks if there is a two way left turn lane. I think it should not be allowed if there is no space to pull out of traffic

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I think that the break in the boulevard is a good idea to protect the local businesses but I would prefer to see less of a break. In other words, can you extend the median plantings up to 37th ave SW?

I have lived in West Seattle for 30 years and I think the turn lane is a great idea

I prefer a complete landscaped median.

Yes, this is much needed.

There should be no two-way left-turn break in the center median. Its presence would continue to endanger the traffic situation in that area and embolden reckless drivers to attempt dangerous behaviors.

This seems like a better option because it provides access to local businesses while getting the turning traffic out of the way for through traffic. I am curious about the design on 37th Ave., Southwest. It looks as though the street will become one way at the front and the Fauntleroy intersection rather than 2-way, as it is now. That somewhat limits rerouting options when Alaska is congested, but I suppose that's not a huge deal.

I think there a two-way left-turn break.

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Yes. There should be a two-way left-turn break.

I prefer the option with the complete landscaped median. I place the safety of the people walking and biking along this corridor above the ability of cars to easily access businesses from all directions.

I live a couple miles down the way on 35th and want the original plan with no left turn lanes. Please do not add this as it diminishes the safety and traffic calming measures. Let's keep pedestrians and bikers safe.

No left turn

No! It needs a crossing for people walking, but don't destroy the median for car turns. They can go around.

A break in the center lane is allowing patrons of businesses to access those merchants and in no way appears to block nor interfere with either pedestrian or bicycle flow or safety.

Don't do it. Prioritize people who walk and bike!

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I strongly prefer the plan without the left turn break to keep pedestrians and cyclists safer.

Please add a two-way left-turn break in the center median at 37th. This will help with access to Triangle businesses, benefiting those businesses and their patrons, as well as reduce congestion at the nearest intersections for people re-routing to the YMCA, etc.

I prefer a two-way turn lane at 37th.

I definitely think there needs to be a 2-way turn lane at 37th. Seems minor but I want to be able to turn in to these businesses without making a u-turn...

there should be a 2-way turn lane at 37th

I think there should be a two-way turn lane at 37th Ave

I do think the design should include a two-way left-turn break. The traffic that is looking to turn left onto the cross street and/or into the businesses would end up turning left at some point to turn around or make potentially illegal/unsafe u-turns, so I think that the tradeoff is void at that point.

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I think it is a great idea. Love it!

I definitely think there should be a 2-way turn lane at 37th.

Would love it if a two-way left-turn break was included in the design! I live at the Junction, and this plan seems WAY better and far less restrictive than the median design, especially during low traffic hours. The increased convenience to access local businesses is incredibly important to their success as well.

YES, I think there should be a 2-way left-turn turn break in the center median at 37th Ave. This project greatly impacts the local small businesses and a turn lane is most definitely needed.

No, there is no need for the revision if you don't have the boulevard. You might as well just pave it and save the money.

there absolutely should be a 2-way turn lane at 37th please!!!

Not in favor

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I think there should be a 2-way left turn lane at 37th Ave. Making it easier to turn into the businesses that are over by that way. I also get my hair done over at Rudy's and it takes me over 2 hours sometimes. Will there be any parking in front like there is now? If not where do I park? Or will there be enough side parking for all the businesses around, like the ymca, dog city, alki lumber, Realfine coffee, etc.

Will there be yield to bike signs at the driveways crossing the bike lanes?

Keep trees!

I think the left turn break makes for the same dangerous conditions that already exist on Fauntleroy. Left turns will interrupt traffic where it needs to be flowing, and introduce more complications that lead to accidents.

Yes, please!

Whatever plan is select please be certain to make safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclist. Thanks!

Please keep the median with no left turn

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The highway-style slip lane at Oregon must be changed to an urban intersection, to make the whole route actually safe for walking and riding a bike. Please make the bike and pedestrian safety improvements in the Fauntleroy Boulevard Project. Safety is more important than saving 10 seconds while driving in a traffic jam on Fauntleroy.

My business is situated 1/2 a block off Fauntleroy on 37th Ave SW. Currently, I have several employees that turn left off Fauntleroy onto 37th Ave. Please modify the plans to allow center turn lanes instead of fixed planters to allow us to continue this use. Thank you

I hate it. It is contrary to the goal of the project to create a safe walking, biking neighborhood. Apartments are popping up fast around here. More and more people are trying to walk and bike in this neighborhood. Adding the left turn makes it less safe and less walkable. Your own numbers tell you car ownership is decreasing, It doesn't make sense to change a design for a shrinking demographic.

Yes, please include the left turn lane at 37th. Additionally eliminate the bike lanes to nowhere but the WS upper bridge. My cyclist friends say it is a total waste of money. Also no plants, especially trees in a center median. No one wants to hang out in the middle of Fauntleroy in all of the traffic! We desperately need real PARK/GREEN SPACE for all of the apartment dwellers. The golf course already drastically reduces our green space. We need real parks and not a treed boulevard to burden the traffic lanes with debris. We need real outdoor space to sit, play and renew ourselves in and this project with the trees decreases our state requirements for human needed green space. It looks pretty in the drawings but does not help the community members to have real livability!

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No cut in the median!

I would have to disagree with your study on the impact of the left turn lane, the impact to people walking and biking will be next to nothing since this form of traffic is very minimal. When this project was proposed we were told that the impact to business would be minimal and long term affects would not exist. Now we see that a possible elimination of a left turn lane may, which would be a MAJOR impact on businesses in the area to include tougher access to the YMCA. Again I believe you really need to study how much actual walking traffic is in this area, and bike traffic is next to nothing.

I think this is necessary for the project and will provide the needed access for surrounding businesses.

Seems like a good idea, though making a left turn from the center lane on Fauntleroy is always kind of crazy due to traffic. I'm concerned about pedestrian access--we're a couple with a young child who live on 38th and Charlestown, and we walk many places. We consider the businesses south of Fauntleroy to be really hard to get to on foot, and thus rarely go there. I don't think the addition of a single crosswalk will be enough to resolve this. Incidentally, yesterday we walked to the Realtime/YMCA/Chaco Canyon areas, and the pedestrian route is so roundabout and full of traffic (crossing Fauntleroy on foot is always hairy due to heavy traffic and cars rolling through crosswalks when taking free rights, etc.) that it was a stressful experience and further discouraged us from patronizing businesses in the area. We commented that even one pedestrian overpass on 37th or 39th, similar to the one further east over Fauntleroy on Andover, would solve this issue and open up businesses in the developing area south of Fauntleroy to the homes north of the arterial. Thanks for your efforts!

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I think the compromised median allowing left turns will negate some of the point in doing this project. This strip would be a boulevard by name, and to me, a boulevard isn't a road you would do left turns from. Perhaps containing all those business visitors to the left turns before or after the boulevard would help? Also, is it feasible to have the bicycle lane configured as a two-way on one side of the road, similar to the bicycle lanes on 3rd Ave?

I think the complete landscaped median beautifies the street far better. As a Midwesterner (who has lived in big cities like SF and Chicago) moving to West Seattle this summer, I found Fauntleroy to be a busy/confusing street. Adding a large two-way left-turn break, in my opinion, creates more opportunities for confusion and puts bicyclists/pedestrians at risk as drivers may not notice them in the crosswalks/driveways before they accelerate to avoid oncoming traffic. I think the larger median, while inconveniencing drivers a bit, simplifies traffic and would create a safer/more enjoyable experience for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

This is a great idea! We want to keep our small businesses alive and well. If there is no turn, the triangle is virtually dead. Not only during construction but for years to follow. If the small businesses close their doors, good luck getting those properties filled with new ones!

I am also advocating for 2 way traffic during construction! Lets keep things as normal as possible for businesses and commuters even if it takes a little longer. Thanks for listening

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Keep it two way. And DONT EVEN WASTE TAX DOLLARS ON CONSTRUCTION. You'll ruin traffic flow, like you ALWAYS DO. It'll cause business around there to lose clients, and no one needs a side walk for a couple car repair shops, a gym, a grocery store, and a barbershop. This is such a horrible idea and I hope your phones are flooded with complaints about this everyday until it's either stopped, or until the day you die or quit.

If you're going through with this horrible plan I hope you at least have the decency to keep a median so that maybe some of the businesses you're hoping to ruin survive

I support 2 way traffic during construction and a break in the median to help small businesses in the area.

I work at Rudy's and I of course think there should be a break in the median, the construction alone is going to affect our business enough, it shouldn't be hindered any more than it has to be

Thank you for your careful review of all the suggestions! I do not support the two-way left-turn break in the center median at 37th Ave. The negative effect on safety outweighs the convenience of being able to make turns at that location. Other options for accessing the businesses are much safer and consistent with overall project goals for improved safety and mobility for pedestrians and for bicyclists. Please proceed with the project to final design and construction as soon as possible. Thank you.

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Thank you for the continued outreach and support of this most needed project. I actually live on 37th and I am totally opposed to having a median break at 37th. It is far too dangerous to turn there and it will not affect whether those businesses attract more customers. I also think it would slow traffic, as it does currently and I would ask that you proceed to finish the design without the median break.

I much prefer the full median design. The center turn lane would make the road feel more like an urban highway and force people biking/walking to carefully watch car traffic.

I believe there absolutely SHOULD be a break in the center median to allow traffic to access the neighboring businesses in the Triangle. Although, I do NOT agree that it is necessary to have a median in the first place. Seems a waste of tax payers dollars, and is totally unnecessary for traffic flow. Why not re-pave and certainly maintain public safety, but making Fauntleroy, the BUSIEST arterial in and out of West Seattle, a boulevard none other to make it pretty is totally unnecessary.

I do not like it. Keep the planted median.

Horrible timing. There is already a huge construction mess in the area and this will affect local business owners in a very negative way. Don't do it at this time.

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Relevant emails received during public comment period

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to provide some input on the Fauntleroy Blvd project. I have concerns with regards to the businesses like mine that are inside the Triangle area not just on Fauntleroy. Have considerations been made about the effects this project will have on the inside area of the Triangle? It seems most of the outreach has been for businesses on Fauntleroy, I would like to ask that we inside be included as well. As a victim of a recent large project that happened at the YMCA I personally have felt the impacts of projects like this. The YMCA project cost us time and money as well as a lot of headaches due to our clients not being able to access our business, thinking they couldn't access our business or actually having to close down due to them breaking a gas main during their project. It was a very hard, trying time but we did our best to survive it and work with the contractor and the YMCA as best as possible.

My other concern is for access into the Triangle area. If there is no left turn on 37th it makes it very difficult for clients to get to all the businesses in our area. I would like to encourage a left turn on 37th as it would do two things: allow clients into the Triangle area and provide much needed parking for the businesses on Fauntleroy.

I do have a question with regards to the project and ST3. It has been said by the Government Relations Officer Chris Arkills that the proposed plan is to run up the South side of Fauntleroy. It seems the funds being allocated to this Fauntleroy Blvd project should be considering that the new sidewalks, bike lanes and plantings will be removed shortly after they are installed. Also, the ST3 project will cause a traffic issue as well. Is there a way the two projects can be combined to maximize the taxpayers money as well as traffic pain?

Thank you for your consideration.

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Great idea! The need to have access to the businesses is imperative!

Hi - I live at the West Seattle Junction. My preference is that you proceed with the Fauntleroy project, without a median break for 37th. Thank you.