

LAKE CITY WAY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Outreach Summary



SEPTEMBER 2018



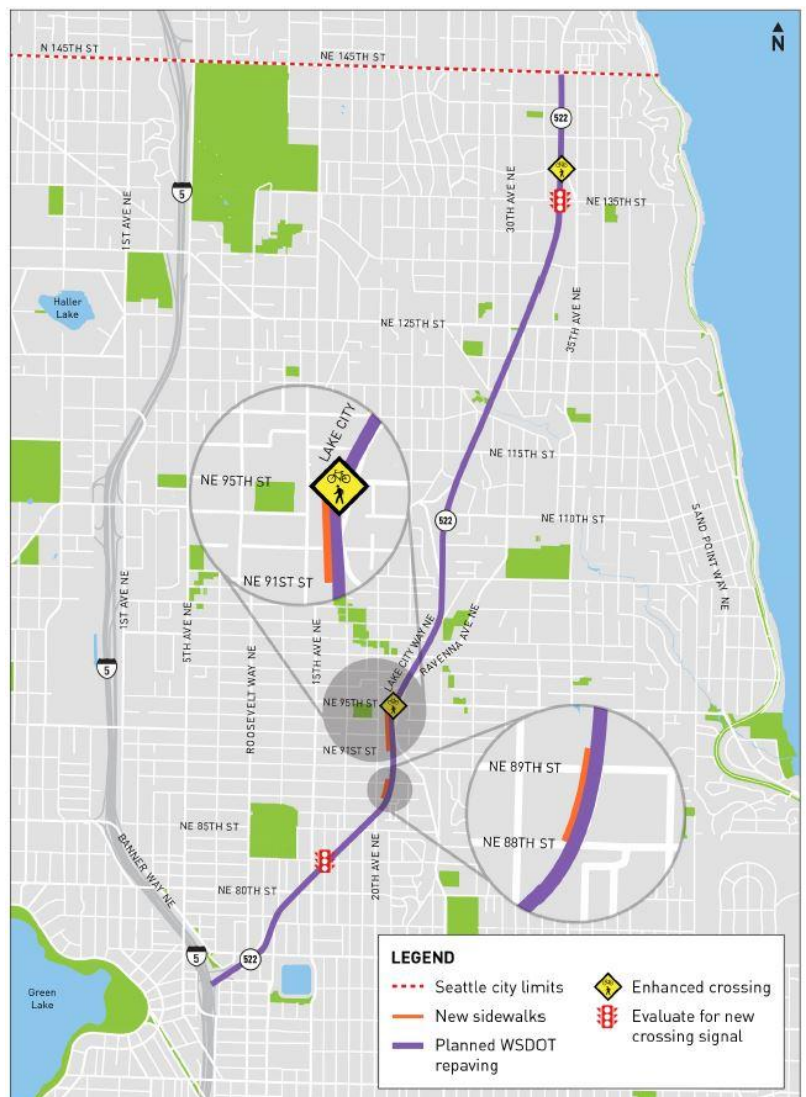
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Lake City Way NE (State Route 522) is one of the busiest arterial routes in Northeast Seattle. The 3.67-mile-long corridor (from I-5 to the city limits at NE 145th St) has seen a high volume of collisions over the years. The roadway facilitates travel to and from the city, supports thriving businesses, hosts frequent transit routes, and functions as “Main Street” for residents in this part of the city.

This project is a joint effort between the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and SDOT. We’re working closely with WSDOT to enhance safety, accessibility, and travel on Lake City Way NE. WSDOT plans to repave the corridor and upgrade ADA curb ramps, and we will construct spot and intersection improvements to enhance walkability and safety for all travelers.

In 2013 we launched a collaborative process with residents, community groups, Seattle Police, State Patrol, Liquor Control Board, Public Health, WSDOT, and the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC), to review street conditions on Lake City Way NE. The collaboration was known as the Lake City Way Traffic Safety Project. As part of this work, we hosted public events, went door-to-door to local businesses, spoke with neighbors, gathered community input, and discussed strategies to improve safety and mobility along the corridor. In September 2018, we held two outreach events to inform and re-engage key stakeholders, community groups, and all members of the public.

We’re in the project design phase and project elements will be designed through 2019. Construction is expected to begin with the WSDOT-led repaving as soon as 2020. Our primary goals are to improve safety and mobility along the corridor so people who live, work, and play along Lake City Way NE can have a more comfortable, enjoyable experience doing so.



Outreach Overview

Our outreach strategy combined both online and in-person activities. Online, we created a web page which provided project information and hosted project updates, ran a social media campaign and sent email notifications to key stakeholders. We also mailed ~19,000 postcard notifications to nearby Seattle residents to raise project awareness, direct them to our web material and notify them of in-person engagement opportunities.

We held two public drop-in events in September 2018. The events were small informal events where all members of the public were invited to participate. At these events, the Lake City Way project team, comprised of SDOT and WSDOT staff members, built project awareness and engaged members of the public by sharing information and answering questions about the early project design phase and outreach completed to date. Seven interpreters, representing different languages, were present at both events to engage those with limited English proficiency, and remove any potential language barriers.

Feedback gathered from our online and in-person activities, along with previous information from the Lake City Way Traffic Safety Project will inform the project's design.

Translation Needs

Approximately 83% of residents within the project area speak a language other than English. Languages include Spanish, Chinese (Traditional), Russian, Somali, Amharic, Tigrinya and Oromo. Historically, we have observed that those who speak a language other than English (as their primary language) may be less likely to participate in public projects. This can result in an underrepresentation of community members as part of public engagement processes. To help increase public participation among those who prefer another language to English, we provided the following:

- Translated mailer invitations to residential and commercial properties.
- Seven interpreters – one for each language – present at each drop-in session.

By the numbers

- **~19,000 postcard mailers sent** to nearby Seattle residents
- **27 people attended** the drop-in session at Faith Lutheran Church on September 17, 2018
- **32 people attended** the drop-in session at The Lake City Community Center on September 25, 2018
- **25 comments received** from September 1 – October 1, 2018

What we heard

The following comments represent common themes gathered during the two drop-in sessions. Comments are not ordered by frequency:

- The proposed NE 82nd St crossing looks great

- Response: Thanks for this comment. We think this will be an improvement for those who bike and walk in the area.
- Ensure new sidewalks are compliant with ADA requirements
 - Response: The new sidewalks and curb ramps that are part of this project will meet ADA requirements.
- Sidewalks needed on both sides of the street
 - Response: The sidewalk projects included in the package help to fill the sidewalk gaps along the corridor where they're most needed. In most areas of Lake City Way, sidewalks exist on one side of the street and we are adding sidewalks on the west side of the street to help complete the network.
- Please create a safer crossing near the senior residence on Ericksen St
 - Response: This project addresses safety for people who are crossing at Lake City Way and Ericksen St with a new signal and curb bulbs.
- Examine the stormwater capacity and subsoil water on west side of Lake City Way NE between NE 95th St and NE 98th St – there are regular storm water surges, flooding, and drainage issues
 - Response: We are evaluating stormwater capacity and impacts with our project and adding new drainage infrastructure at NE 95th St to help manage stormwater.
- Close 30th Ave NE at the bottom of the hill where residential and commercial zones meet (at end of sidewalk by the Toyota dealership)
 - Response: We are planning to make NE 135th St right-in, right-out access from Lake City Way NE, but we are not planning any changes at 30th Ave NE.
- Ensure improvements include safety features for people riding bicycles
 - Response: Our proposed crossings of Lake City Way NE are intended to be future neighborhood greenways, which will accommodate both people who walk and bike.
- Consider adding a crosswalk from NE 92nd St across Ravenna (East-West)
- Please add pedestrian-activated flashing lights at: (1) Ravenna and NE 91st for northbound traffic, (2) at the "off ramp" from Lake City Way NE for southbound traffic (ie onto Ravenna), (3) For southbound traffic on Ravenna Ave
 - Response: We are planning to reconfigure the intersection of NE 92nd St/Ravenna Ave NE/Lake City Way NE to simplify traffic patterns and improve crossings and access for pedestrians.
- Please shorten the signal phase length on southbound Lake City Way NE and Erickson Pl
 - Response: We are re-evaluating signal timing with our proposed improvements at NE 137th St/Erickson Pl NE/Lake City Way NE and will be optimizing signal timing for all modes of travel.
- Add speed bumps (similar to 25th Ave NE between Ravenna Ave NE or NE 90th St.) between NE

- Response: Lake City Way NE is a principal arterial. Speed humps are only allowed on non-arterials
- Do not add bike lanes
 - Response: We are not adding bike lanes as a part of this project.
- Do not make roads narrower
 - Response: The improvements planned will not be making the road narrower.
- Update the signal timing to allow enough time for pedestrian and bicycles to cross safely
- Please activate left turn signals from eastbound Lake City Way to NE 80th St and 15th Ave NE on weekends – currently these only operate during weekdays
 - Response: Signal Operations team will be optimizing signal timing on the Lake City Way NE corridor separate from this project and will be looking at ways to improve mobility for pedestrians, bicycles, cars, freight, and transit.
- Consider adding a left turn signal at the intersection of NE 115th and Lake City Way NE
- 95th St and Ravenna Ave NE - there is a blind curve and no shoulders, and drivers routinely speed
- Consider adding speed bumps to 33rd Ave NE near the Lake City House
- Improve the difficult crossing for cyclists at 20th Ave NE and Lake City Way NE
 - Response: Unfortunately, these areas are out of the scope and exceed the budget of this project. We will, however, continue to seek ways to improve the safety of the Lake City Way corridor as future funding and partnership opportunities arise.