

Aurora Ave Project

Community Design Workshop Findings Summary



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

September 2023

What's going on

We are working on a [project to make Aurora Ave N](#) safer and easier for everyone to use. We want to listen to the people who live here, run businesses, and use the sidewalks and street. We'll also look at where crashes happen and how we can make those spots safer, especially for people who walk or bike. We'll also think about making the bus service better and connecting it to the nearby light rail stations. Our goal is to make these improvements when we have the money to do so.

What do you need to do

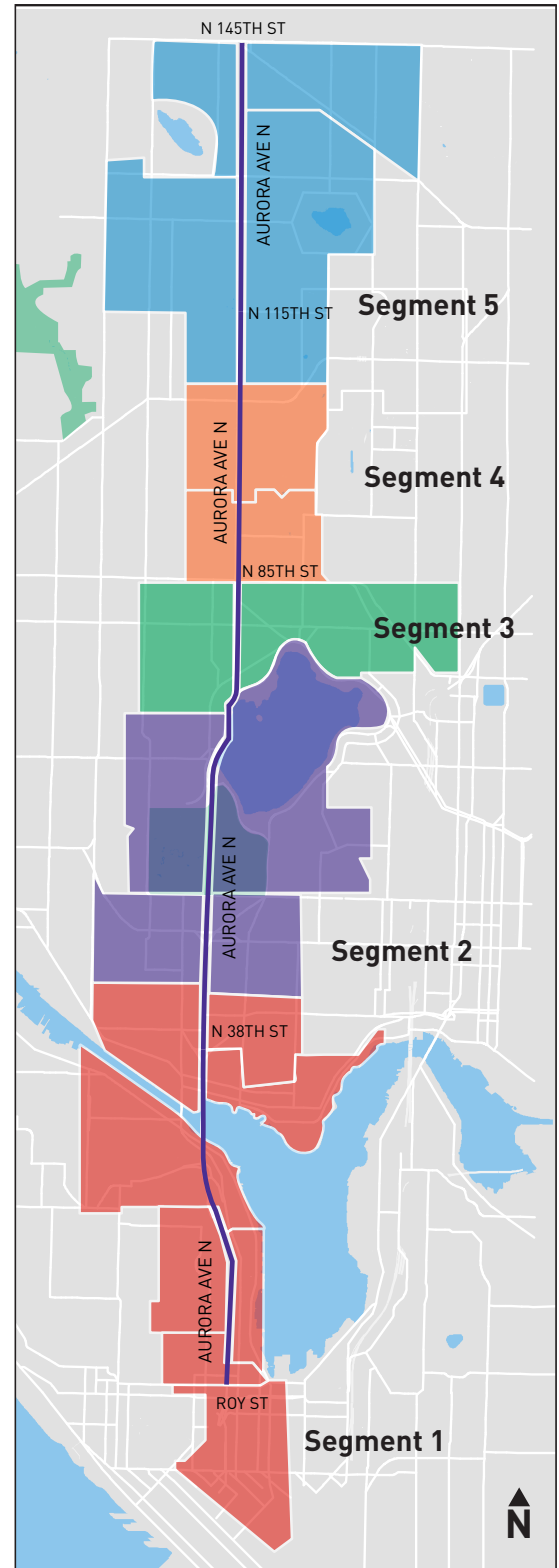
Right now, you don't have to do anything. We're just telling you what we've learned from the people who live and work in this area. We also want you to know what we're going to do next, so you can join in on the next planning steps if you want.

What are the reasons for the Aurora Avenue Project

Aurora Ave N/State Route 99 is one of the busiest streets in Seattle. It goes through neighborhoods with different types of people and businesses. Many buses use it, and it's important for moving freight. It connects to lots of homes, stores, services, and jobs. But there have been many crashes, problems with sidewalks, and it's not easy for people with mobility issues to get around.

Who is involved in the Aurora Avenue Project

The Aurora Ave Project is a team effort by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and King County Metro. We are working together to develop a new design vision for the Aurora Ave N corridor that enhances safety, mobility, and accessibility for all travelers come up with new ideas for Aurora Ave. We are using money from a Washington State Department of Transportation Pedestrian and Bicycle Program grant we received in 2021. We also have funding support from the Levy to Move Seattle and King County Metro.



Aurora Corridor segment map.

Project timeline



What we've heard so far

In Phase 2, we've gathered feedback from people online and in-person. Here's a quick summary, but you can find more details in our *Community Design Workshops Findings Report* on our website.

Vision for the next 20 years:

- Most of you picture a future where people can spend time together, with more trees and green spaces, plus more businesses and things to do along Aurora Ave.
- Many of you feel that right now, Aurora Ave. doesn't match the lively and exciting community you imagine for the nearby neighborhoods.
- Not as many of you see Aurora Ave as a highway that mainly helps you get to the neighborhoods north of Seattle.



Conflicts:

- The main differences in how people view ideas for improving Aurora Avenue are between those who think of it as part of their neighborhood and those who see it as a highway.



- The biggest area of disagreement is about reducing speed and controlling traffic.
- People who walk, bike, drive, use the bus, or have businesses sometimes want different things because they value safety and convenience differently. Here are some arguments that we heard.

- About crosswalks with signals:



- *“Mobility impaired people have a lot of trouble crossing; lack of signalized intersections makes it worse.”*
- *“No signals please, it would slow traffic and buses.”*

- About restrictions on left turns:



- *“No left turn restriction, add left turn lights with green and red arrows... need I-99 as an arterial corridor.”*
- *“Also left lane with its own left turn light, every wreck I’ve seen and heard about was left turn yields; they make a lot of people nervous from what I’ve heard.”*

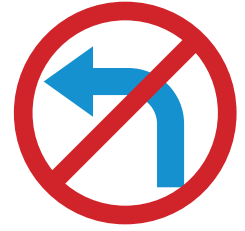
- About adding bike lanes:



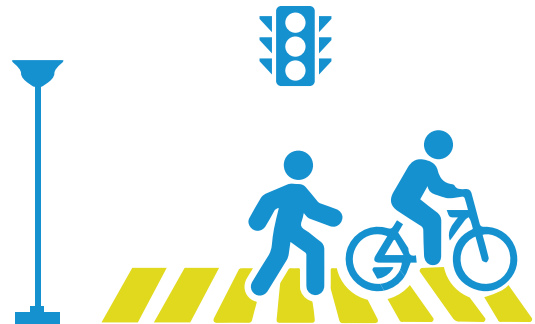
- *“No bike lanes, people often not watching out for pedestrians when riding bikes.”*
- *“Bike lanes need to be widened for [safety]...”*

Road improvements:

- Most people agree on changes that make being on Aurora better.
- People don't agree as much on transportation changes for going through Aurora, like bus and bike lanes, no left turns, and using the middle of the road differently.



- Many workshop and survey participants think wider sidewalks, new crosswalks with signals, and better lighting for walking and buses are the most important improvements.



In summary

Many ideas from the workshops and survey show that people want us to use their suggestions to create plans that make the neighborhood livelier and more exciting.



How did we get these ideas

Between March and July 2023, we began Phase 2 of our community engagement for the Aurora Ave Project. In this phase, our goal was to work together with community members and important partners to create a vision and design plans for the future of Aurora Avenue and transit services in our project area. To do this, we started the **Community Design Workshops Series** and asked residents, community leaders, local businesses, service providers, and community groups to work with us.

We had nearly 450 people join our workshops, either in-person or online. We also gave token compensation to over 250 participants. We spread the word about the **Community Design Workshop Series** by talking to people in the community, working with community organizations and leaders, sending emails, updating our website, and writing blog posts to make sure everyone along Aurora Ave knew about the workshops.



What's next

Through the fall of 2023, we'll work on creating a vision for Aurora Avenue's future and transit services together. We'll use data about Aurora Ave, technical suggestions, and the community's ideas that we collected during Phases 1 and 2 of our community engagement. By the end of this year, we plan to show you the concept designs.



Don't miss out!

- You can find a detailed report about what we learned from the *Community Design Workshops Series* on [our website](#).
- You can find this summary of what we learned in the *Community Design Workshops Series* also in Tagalog, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese (traditional), and Tigrinya.

To stay up to date on this project, [sign up for email updates](#) and visit [our website](#). If you have questions or comments, please contact us at (206) 905-3620 or aurorastudy@seattle.gov.

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