

## **3rd Ave Improvements – Transit Corridor Extension & Paving Frequently Asked Questions**

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is expanding the existing 3rd Ave transit corridor to help ensure faster and more reliable travel times for people riding the bus. In partnership with King County Metro, Seattle Public Utilities, and our downtown partners, we will extend the length of the transit corridor, make upgrades around bus stops, pave the street to give buses a smoother ride, and maintain utility systems.

### **1. Why is SDOT making these changes?**

We want to help make Belltown, Pioneer Square, and downtown more accessible and easier to navigate for commuters, residents, and visitors alike. These changes are just one part of the City of Seattle’s bigger plan to make downtown safer, easier to get around, and more welcoming. Extending the transit corridor to Blanchard St will help many high ridership buses with frequent service (such as RapidRide C, D, E, and Route 40) travel more efficiently and have more reliable travel times. Paving 3rd Ave in several areas will help preserve and maintain our street infrastructure, and make a smoother ride for people riding the bus or other vehicles.

### **2. When will these changes be happening?**

Starting as soon as summer 2024, we’ll begin construction on the transit corridor extension and paving 3rd Ave. Please [sign up for our email list](#) to stay up to date on our construction timeline.

### **3. Where will these changes be happening?**

The transit corridor currently stretches from Yesler Way to Stewart St. We plan to extend it three blocks further north to Blanchard St to help create a more efficient public transportation network.

Paving will happen in two locations on 3rd Ave: between Yesler Way and S Main St, as well as between Virginia St and Pine St. For the section between Virginia and Pine streets, we’re coordinating with Seattle Public Utilities to replace an aging water main during the paving project. You can read Frequently Asked Questions about the water main replacement [here](#).

#### **4. How will this project impact me?**

In early 2024, we did door-to-door outreach to talk with property managers and owners who will be impacted by construction. We want to hear from you in our [pre-construction survey](#) so we know important details about how you access your building. We will work with you to minimize disruption to impacted buildings on 3rd Ave. Before work begins this summer, we will share more information about our construction schedule and activities.

We may need to redirect people traveling by bus, biking, rolling and walking during construction. We will make sure there is access to businesses during construction and have taken steps to identify critical loading zones for these businesses.

During construction, you can expect:

- Temporary water shut offs while Seattle Public Utilities replaces the water main (notifications will be provided in advance by SPU)
- Noise, dust, vibration, and presence of large equipment
- Traffic lanes and sidewalks temporarily closed and detoured
- Driveways and doorways may be temporarily blocked but business access will be maintained
- Temporary intersection closures for vehicles
- Bus detours and bus stop closures/relocations. Bus service will be maintained during construction.

#### **5. What should people who use 3rd Ave downtown expect after the transit corridor is extended?**

Once construction is complete, the 3rd Ave transit corridor rules will be extended to include the entire new transit corridor from Yesler Way to Blanchard St. The rules apply 7 days per week.

- This corridor is only for buses or emergency vehicles between 6 AM and 7 PM (note: school buses, private work shuttles, and charter buses are not exempted from these rules)
- People driving vehicles with commercial load zone permits may use designated loading zones on 3rd Ave from 9 AM to 3 PM
- People driving can travel on 3rd Ave for up to one block to enter or exit driveways or garages (note: left turns are not allowed)

## **6. Who do I contact with questions or concerns?**

If you have questions or concerns about the changes coming to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, please contact Matthew Howard, Project Outreach Lead at [3rdAveImprovements@seattle.gov](mailto:3rdAveImprovements@seattle.gov) or [\(206\) 900-8729](tel:2069008729).