RAINIER IMPROVEMENTS - PHASE 2
Improving safety and keeping buses moving on Rainier Ave S

OVERVIEW
Rainier Ave S has great restaurants, retail, salons, community centers, libraries, and schools and some of the highest bus ridership in Seattle. Unfortunately it also leads the city in crashes.

We’re working to make it safer for everyone. In 2014, we launched a collaborative process to improve Rainier as part of Seattle’s Vision Zero program to reach zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2030. During Phase 1, we redesigned the street between S Alaska St and S Kenny St and successfully improved safety.

Building on that success, we launched Phase 2 of the project and last year we built improvements at intersections and added bus lanes in sections. This year (likely in mid-September), we will complete the new street layout from S Kenny St to S Henderson St and make additional improvements at intersections.

WHAT WILL THE STREET LOOK LIKE?
The new street layout typically includes a parking lane (either on the west or east side of the street), one driving lane in each direction, center turn lane, and bus lanes. We’re maintaining about two thirds of the parking, but some sections will include a bus lane in place of the parking lane. See map on back for details.

WHY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRAVEL LANES?
Reducing the number of travel lanes has been proven to reduce speeding – a key factor in the frequency and severity of crashes. The World Health Organization concluded that a 5% reduction in average speed can decrease traffic fatalities by 30%. Also, speeding causes collisions and collisions cause 25% of traffic congestion.

Adding a center turn lane and bus lanes will improve business and neighborhood access while keeping buses moving. We’ll closely monitor speeds and vehicle counts on and near the project area and make changes as needed.
What are these changes for?
We studied crash patterns and bus back-ups along Rainier. These improvements are designed to slow down drivers, keep buses moving, and make it easier to cross.

Why are you removing parking?
We understand parking removal is difficult, but these changes will improve safety and allow for significant bus travel time savings. Across the project area, we’re maintaining about two thirds of the parking. Feel free to contact us with questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!
Outreach included over 1,200 survey responses in multiple languages, dozens of meetings with residents and business groups, and attendance at many community events. We appreciate your help in making Rainier Ave S safer!

LEARN MORE
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