

Script for Beacon Hill Bike Route Presentation

1. Beacon Hill Bike Route Drop-in Session for Segments 2 and 3

Hello, and thank you for watching the Beacon Hill Bike Route presentation for Segments 2 and 3. We will start this presentation with a land acknowledgment.

We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Coast Salish and Duwamish tribes, who since time immemorial have hunted, fished, gathered, and taken care of these lands. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water.

2. Presentation Overview

For today's presentation myself, Lisa Harrison, the communications and outreach lead, and Serena Lehman, the project developer will be providing a brief project overview and showing our proposed cross sections and we will discuss how the project plans to proceed forward and what feedback we'd like from you.

3. Our vision, mission and core values

At SDOT we want to deliver projects that contribute to a thriving, equitable community that is powered by dependable transportation.

We want the transportation system to provide people with safe and affordable access to places and opportunities, and we are guided in doing this by our values of equity, safety, mobility, sustainability, livability, and excellence. I will now turn the presentation over to Serena.

4. Project Purpose

Thanks, Lisa. In 2019, SDOT conducted outreach around the City to find out about the community's priorities to having places to bike in their community. We heard clearly that it was important to have more routes in Southeast Seattle to connect people to the neighborhood and job centers, specifically on Beacon Hill. The Beacon Hill Bike Route Project was created in response to what we heard. The purpose of this project is to create a safe and comfortable bike route that connects people to businesses and community destinations in Beacon Hill.

This bike project continues to build out the bike network connecting to the new bike lanes on S Columbian Way, S Myrtle St, and the Chief Sealth Trail.

5. Project needs

We're planning a bike route in Beacon Hill as we've identified the area as a high-priority corridor for meeting the following transportation and community needs:

- This project will contribute to the City's Vision Zero goal to end traffic deaths and serious injuries.
- Provide a better north/south bike connection in southeast Seattle.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and connections to transit.

Though there are other existing bike routes nearby, these other routes do not connect to the same vital community destinations.

6. Project highlights

Let's move onto the project overview. Because Beacon Hill is very long and each area is distinct in its needs and what we are evaluating for the project, we are splitting up the project into three segments along Beacon Ave S. Segment 1 extends from Dr. Jose Rizal Bridge to S Spokane St and connects the North Beacon Hill neighborhood. Segment 2 is located along Beacon Ave S from S Spokane St to S Myrtle St. It goes by Jefferson Park and connects along the center median trail through central Beacon Hill. Lastly, Segment 3 will be between S Myrtle St and S 39th St in South Beacon Hill. This area is much more residential. We will be evaluating how to upgrade the center median path to make it pleasant for everyone.

7. Project area

Take a closer look at the project area here. We've labeled some community cornerstones on this map, such as the Pacific Tower, Hilltop Red Apple, the library, and more. Right now, we're in the planning phase for all three segments of this project. Both Segment 2, from S Spokane St to S Myrtle St, and Segment 3, from S Myrtle St to 39th St S, are what we'll be discussing in this presentation.

8. Bike lane overview

Before we dive into cross-sections, I'd like to talk about what the bike project could look like. When the bike facility is on the roadway with vehicles, we plan on installing a protected bike lane. This has a designated space for people to ride their bikes and some sort of vertical protection from the people on bikes and vehicles. For the center median trail, we're investigating repairing and widening the trail to accommodate both people biking and walking, basically making it a multi-use path.

9. Existing conditions

Now we're going to look at existing conditions. In this image, we're looking at Beacon Ave S between S Spokane St and S Alaska St. There are two travel lanes and a center turn lane. This stretch of Beacon Ave S goes between the golf course, Jefferson Park, and the Veteran's Affairs Hospital. Route 36 travels through here. There is also an adjacent parking lot that provides access to the park and community center.

Heading south starting at S Ferdinand St and continuing to S 39th St, there is parking on either side of the street, a lane in each direction, and a center median. Route 36 continues to operate through this area.

10. Proposed Design

Now I'm going to talk through our proposed cross sections. Between S Spokane St and S Alaska St, we're proposing removing the center turn lane and installing protected bike lanes on either side of the street.

11. Potential bus stop treatments

Through this section of Beacon Ave S, there are a couple of different bus stops. Shown here are some examples of what we could potentially install at the bus stops to reduce the conflict between the bus and bikes. On the left, we have a bus island and on the right we have an in-lane bus stop. This is where the bike lane is raised up at the bus stop to accommodate people boarding the bus.

12. Proposed design

As we head south, once the center median trail begins, we are mainly looking at widening the trail and doing spot repair to provide a better experience for people biking and walking.

13. Center Median Path

These are photos of the existing conditions along the center median path. As you can see, it is currently used by both people walking and biking today. There are two elements of the center median trail that we encounter as we're planning for this bike project that we are evaluating: the parking lots and the cut-throughs.

14. Center Median Parking

There are several parking lots in the center median and the three main spots are S Columbian Way, S Graham St, and S Myrtle St. In our survey, we want to know if you use these lots, for what purpose, and what frequency. Additionally, we are reaching out to the businesses to understand the existing usage of those lots for those businesses.

15. Center Median Vehicle Cut-Throughs

In this image, there are several cut-throughs on the center median trail. To improve safety for both people walking and biking through the median, we are evaluating closing a few of these cut-throughs. Here is a map showing the locations of the cut-throughs we're proposing to close. In our proposal, the maximum distance would be less than 0.2 miles between the openings. In our outreach, we want to know if you utilize the access points and for what purpose. Now, I'm going to hand it over to Lisa.

16. Other City of Seattle efforts in your area

Thanks, Serena. We are about to wrap up our presentation, but first, I'd like to make sure you're aware of two projects happening nearby.

One is the 15th Ave S Improvements project, which begins construction in early 2021. Each of the elements of this project are designed to contribute to public benefits in this corridor. From paving to intersection changes, we expect to make this area safer for people walking, rolling, biking, and driving. Learn more on the project website.

The other is the S Henderson Stairway project, which is currently in the design phase with construction to begin in 2021. The new stairway will increase convenient access to the Sound Transit Rainier Beach station and other community amenities for both students and residents of South Beacon Hill. Learn more on the project website.

17. Next Steps

We have an online survey available for Segments 2 and 3 of the project area that we would like feedback and your support on. Please visit the project website for the survey link. The survey will be open until Wednesday, November 18th. We're hosting an online drop-in session on Thursday, November 12th. We will share information about the project and host a live Question and Answer session.

We will be working to stay in touch with you throughout this project.

You can stay informed about upcoming outreach activities by checking the project website or signing up for email updates.

18. Thank you for watching this presentation

Remember, there is an upcoming online drop-in session on Thursday, November 12th from 6 to 7:30 pm. The online survey is now live and the link is available on the project website.

The survey is open until Wednesday, November 18th. Thank you for watching this presentation.