

Northgate Bicycle & Pedestrian Bridge Briefing

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

February 12, 2014

Project Area Map



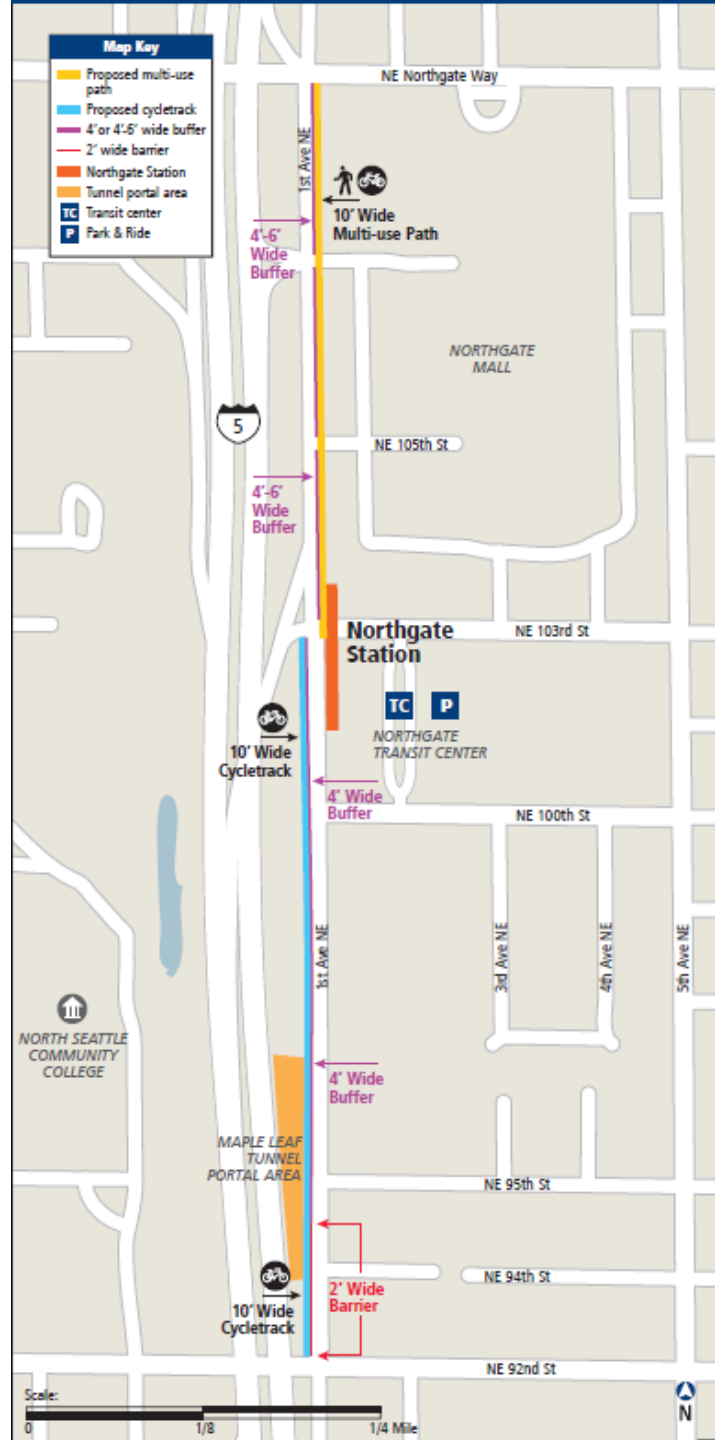
Project Need

- Northgate East and West are split by I-5.
- New major transit investments are being developed, particularly on the east side of I-5.
- Making pedestrian and bicycle travel and connections across I-5 is important to create access for potential transit users.



Transportation Improvements in Area

- Northgate Rail Station for North Link
- King County Transit Station Redevelopment
- 1st Avenue NE Cycle Track
- 1st Avenue NE Multi-use Path
- SDOT's BMP plans for a Greenway on North 100th Street



Project Overview

- Currently in preliminary design and environmental assessment phase
- Bridge is planned to be in the vicinity of NE 100th and NE 103rd streets
- Overall length is estimated at 1000 to 1500 feet depending on the chosen alternative
- Both a preferred alignment and bridge type will be selected
- The points at which the bridge will touch down are a key factor, as is whether the bridge can be designed to connect to the new Link Rail Station

Project Funding

- Both SDOT and Sound Transit have committed to providing \$5M each if (and only if) the project is fully funded by 2015.
- Planning level estimates indicate an additional \$15 million (or more) will be required to fully fund the project.
- If the project is not fully funded Sound Transit's \$5M will be used to make other pedestrian and bicycle improvements

Consultant Team

- The Project Team is led by KPFF Engineers
- Alta Planning is assisting with bicycle related aspects
- LMN Architects are a key resource in planning and design
- Swift Company is handling urban design
- Stepherson & Associates is helping with community outreach
- ESA Environmental is managing the impact analysis and permitting

Current Steps

- SDOT consultant team is gathering existing information and conducting background research
- Design requirements are being established with WSDOT's assistance
- Modelling software is being used to develop and study alternatives



Community Engagement

- Community briefings will be held throughout the spring
- Draft bridge alignments will be available for review in late spring
- A Public Open House, to present the preliminary analysis and the draft alignments, will be held in June
- A refined list of proposed alternatives will be available in the fall
- An Alternatives Analysis report will be issued at the end of the year, with a preferred bridge type and alignment



Questions for SPAB

1. Where should the bridge connect to the ground?
Both east and west?
2. How should the bridge connect to the ground?
Ramp? Elevator? Stairway? Both east and west?
3. How important is it to have a connection directly to the new Link Rail station?
4. Who are the neighborhood stakeholders that would have an opinion about this bridge?

More Questions for SPAB

5. Given what will be provided for by the Northgate Station, what – if any – additional facilities for pedestrians will be needed?
6. What lessons can we take from facilities for other Light Rail Stations?
7. What features would make this attractive for intensive use, particularly considering all the users?