

# NE 65<sup>th</sup> St Vision Zero Project

February 28, 2017

**Neighborhood Transportation Forum Summary** 



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#### Overview

NE 65<sup>th</sup> St is an arterial that moves people and goods throughout northeast Seattle. Since 2012, there have been 3 fatalities, 1 serious injury, and 231 collisions along this busy corridor between NE Ravenna Blvd and 39<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Seattle is committed to Vision Zero, our plan to end traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

On February 28, 2017, we hosted a neighborhood transportation forum at Roosevelt High School (1410 NE 66th St) from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. There were 15 Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) staff members available to discuss the project and answer questions.

Notifications for the forum included a mailer to 6,500 households near the project area (see Appendix A). Online notifications included posts on the City of Seattle and SDOT public meetings calendars, project website, and neighborhood blogs. Community members also received an email. SDOT also notified the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association, Ravenna-Bryant Community Association, and the Northeast District Council about the project prior to the forum.

The neighborhood transportation forum was set up to provide multiple pathways for communication. Attendees were able to provide project feedback on comment sheets and maps of the project corridor, and could learn about the project by reading display boards that presented additional information about the corridor and similar projects. The comment sheets and aerial maps are discussed in later sections. The project display boards are listed below and shown in Appendix B:

- Welcome/sign-in
- Project overview and background
- Collision data
- Vulnerable users
- Contributing factors to collisions
- Why speed matters
- Tactical improvements
- Upcoming developments
- Next steps
- Aerial maps
- Other projects in the area
  - Banner Way project
  - Sound Transit's Roosevelt Station project
  - Roosevelt RapidRide
  - NE Seattle Paving
  - NE 70<sup>th</sup> St NSF Project

Approximately 150 people attended the neighborhood transportation forum and 109 signed in. The notification method most cited by forum attendees was our email (cited by 20 people) followed by our mailer (cited by 17 people). Photos the neighborhood transportation forum are included in Appendix C.



### Forum Summary

Overall, the forum was well-attended and the public appreciated the opportunity to voice their concerns about safety on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and offer their suggestions to enhance safety.

The overwhelmingly majority of attendees agreed that safety improvements need to be made in some form.

The biggest takeaway from the forum was that attendees supported implementing tactical improvements quickly, and they want corridor-wide improvements to be completed as soon as possible.

The two biggest safety issues that were brought up were the lack the left-turn lanes and the unclear lane configuration on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St. People feel that without left-turn lanes/pockets, drivers often pass on the right to get around waiting vehicles, creating dangerous situations. Also, without left-turn lanes/pockets, queues can form behind drivers waiting to turn left, putting pressure on them to make potentially unsafe decisions.

The unclear lane configuration of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St, when peak-hour parking restrictions go into effect, creates confusion for drivers. They are unsure if there is one lane or two, and where they should be on the road. Weaving between lanes around turning drivers was a common complaint.

The pedestrian-related issue most commonly mentioned at the forum is the difficulty in crossing NE 65<sup>th</sup> St. Things that contribute to this difficulty are the wide street, high speeds, poor visibility, right turns on red, and drivers failing to yield to pedestrians.

Bike facilities were also a topic of discussion, with mixed opinions. Some attendees supported adding a protected bike lane on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St, while some think a bike facility should go elsewhere. Some attendees also thought it was suitable to have a bike facility on portions of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St but not on others.

Other issues the public supported were increasing DUI enforcement/preventing DUI, preserving parking/loading zones, and improving operations at multiple intersections on NE  $65^{th}$  St for all modes (Roosevelt,  $12^{th}$ ,  $15^{th}$ ,  $20^{th}$ ,  $25^{th}$ , and  $32^{nd}$ ).



## Comment Sheet Summary

#### **Comment Sheet Topics**

Of the 64 comment sheets received at the neighborhood transportation forum, the majority of them contained comments on the NE 65th St Vision Zero project. The NE Paving Projects received 13 comments, and the Roosevelt RapidRide, Banner Way, Roosevelt Link Station, and NE 70<sup>th</sup> St NSF project each received about five or fewer comments. From these limited comments on non-NE 65<sup>th</sup> St projects, there were only two discernable generalizations. Of the comments on the NE 70<sup>th</sup> St NSF project, there was modest support for Option 2, and of the comments on the NE Paving project there was a singular comment in support of the existing plan. The remainder of this memo concerns only the NE 65<sup>th</sup> St Vision Zero Project.

#### **High Level Issues**

Broad themes in the comments included the call for safer, slower, and friendlier roadways within the study area, specifically at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Roosevelt Way NE. There was concern for the number of new cars expected to congest the roadways from new development in the area. Most of the comments identified topics surrounding bicycle, pedestrian, and transit issues with several layers of specificity.

#### **Pedestrian Considerations**

Pedestrian concerns were highlighted in the comments. Specifically, many were focused on improving the quality of pedestrian crossings along NE 65<sup>th</sup> St by using options such as roadway markings, lighting, RRFBs, planting street trees, and adding time for pedestrians to cross. Intersections where people wanted to see crossing improvements include:

- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 24<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & East Green Lake Way N
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 66<sup>th</sup> St & 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 68<sup>th</sup> St & 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 68<sup>th</sup> St & 21<sup>st</sup> Ave NE
- NE 68<sup>th</sup> St & 28<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 69<sup>th</sup> St & 21<sup>st</sup> Ave NE

Comments suggested adding more walk signals or shortening signal phases to get more frequent walk signals without needing to activate a pedestrian push button. Locations where improved pedestrian signals were desired include:

• NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Roosevelt Way NE



- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 6<sup>th</sup> St & 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE

#### **Biking Considerations**

Numerous comments spoke to the lack of bike facilities, specifically asking for a protected bike lane on these streets:

- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St
- Latona Ave NE
- 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Other comments suggest emphasizing 39<sup>th</sup> Ave NE for biking, pairing the Roosevelt PBL with 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, and making 68<sup>th</sup> Ave NE a more prominent bikeway.

#### **Transit Considerations**

In general, there were statements in support of facilitating bus movement through the area, especially near the future light rail station. Supporting this theme, a couple of statements were supportive of rechannelizing NE 65<sup>th</sup> St, particularly from 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE to 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, to ease bus movement in addition to bicycle and pedestrian movement.

#### **Vehicle Considerations**

There was strong support for slowing down traffic on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Roosevelt Way NE and limited support for slowing down traffic on 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Especially along NE 65<sup>th</sup> St, comments asked for greater traffic enforcement (including DUI). There was also modest support for prioritizing cars in the study area by keeping or adding parking on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and having fewer people ride bikes on 35<sup>th</sup> St NE. Singular comments were made about NE 68<sup>th</sup> St vehicle congestion, establishing a "No Right Turn on Red" policy around the light rail station to protect crossing pedestrians and bikes, and designating one lane of traffic in each direction along 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. The most common note was concern with speeding and aggressive driving at several sections of road including:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & NE Ravenna Blvd
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & NE 65<sup>th</sup> St
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- 9<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

There was a call for a greater number of designated left turn lanes for vehicles and bikes, especially in the following areas:

- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE



#### For Bikes

- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & Roosevelt Ave NE
- o NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE
- o NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Traffic signals for safer turning movements are suggested at these locations:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE & NE Banner Way
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & Roosevelt Blvd
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St & 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

#### **Special Considerations**

Some comments encompassed all the above-mentioned travel modes or did not fall neatly into those categories. In several comments, there were calls for clearer or a greater number of signs (especially at NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Ravenna Blvd NE), to expand the study area (in one case to the Green Lake neighborhood), and to retain existing conditions on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St, especially from 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE to 39<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. There were also a few comments calling for preserving loading and emergency at the Ida Culver House Ravenna.



### Aerial Map Summary

During the forum, attendees had the opportunity to make comments directly on large aerial maps of the corridor. This allowed people to interact with the project area, and make comments specific to intersections or street segments. Images of the aerial maps are included in Appendix D.

#### **Aerial Map Topics**

Of the 330 comments written on or around the aerial maps, the majority referred to the corridor section from NE Ravenna Blvd to 24<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Across the entire corridor, comments focused primarily on the following:

- Improving intersection crossing infrastructure (78)
- Creating turning lanes or signal improvements (30)
- Slowing down vehicles (26)

The most commented-on travel modes on all the maps were for pedestrians and cars.

Aerial Map Section 1: NE Ravenna Blvd – 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE – 136 Comments

- 52 comments related to vehicle issues, with the most focusing at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Roosevelt Way NE and NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.
- 45 comments related to pedestrian issues, with the most focusing at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup>
  Ave NE, Weedin Pl NE, and NE 66<sup>th</sup> St, and at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Roosevelt
  Way NE.
- Overall, among comments related to bikes, pedestrians, vehicles, and buses, most were focused at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and Roosevelt Way NE, followed by the intersection at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Weedin Pl NE, and NE 66<sup>th</sup> St.
- Throughout this stretch of the corridor, most comments (36) pertained to improving intersection crossing infrastructure. Other comments focused on improving bike infrastructure, slowing down vehicles, and creating or improving turn signals or lanes.

#### Aerial Map Section 2: 15th Ave NE – 24th Ave NE – 101 Comments

- 44 comments related to vehicle issues, with the most focusing at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup>
   St and 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.
- 33 comments related to pedestrian issues, with the most focusing at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.
- 18 comments (4 ped, 7 bike, 4 bus, 3 car) focused at NE 65<sup>th</sup> St.
- 10 comments (8 ped, 2 car) focused at NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.
- Throughout this stretch of the corridor, most comments (25) pertained to improving intersection crossing infrastructure. Other comments focused on improving pedestrian infrastructure, slowing down moving vehicles, creating or improving turn signals or lanes, and improving unclear lane configuration.



#### Aerial Map Section 3: 24th Ave NE – 34th Ave NE – 67 Comments

- 25 comments related to vehicle issues, with the most focusing at the intersection of NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. At this intersection, 9 comments pertained to creating or improving turn signals or lanes.
- NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and 25<sup>th</sup> Ave NE was the most commented-on intersection across all modes (except for bike), with 19 total (5 ped, 3 bus, 11 car, 0 bike)
- Across this stretch of the corridor, 12 comments focused on improving intersection crossing infrastructure and 12 focused on creating longer crossing times and more frequent pedestrian signals at intersections.
- 13 comments pertained to improving bike infrastructure or installing/extending the protected bike lane (7 and 6 comments, respectively).
- 11 comments pertained to creating or improving turn signals or lanes.

#### Aerial Map Section 4: 34th Ave NE – 39th Ave NE – 26 Comments

- Most comments related to bike issues (12), with the most focusing on NE 65<sup>th</sup> St and 35<sup>th</sup>
   Ave NF
- Across all modes (1 ped, 5 bike, 2 car, 0 bus), 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE had the most comments
- Across all modes, most comments pertained to improving intersection crossing infrastructure, improving bike infrastructure, and keeping or adding parking (parking comment specific to 35<sup>th</sup> Ave NE).

# Forum Demographics

The Inclusion Sign-in Sheet was used to help measure our inclusiveness for the event. Of the approximately 150 forum attendees, 13% signed the voluntary Inclusion Sign-in Sheet.

Of those that signed the Inclusion Sign-in Sheet:

- 84% were white:
- 95% speak English as their primary language;
- 55% were female and 45% male;
- 48 was the average age;
- 65% owned their own home and 30% rent; and
- 100% lived in zip code 98115.

Demographic data for the study area Census tracts show that the two most represented ethnic groups in Census data were whites at 81% and Asians at 10%. Hispanics make up 4% of residents. 85% of residents speak only English. 54% of households are owner-occupied, and 46% are renter-occupied (ACS 2015).



# Appendix A: Notifications

Mailer and Mailing Area:







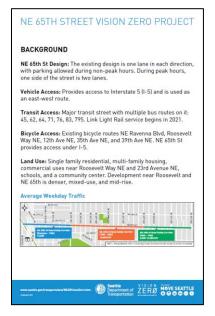


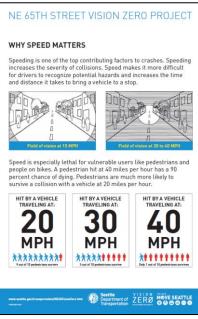
# Appendix B: Neighborhood Transportation Forum Materials

#### **Display Boards:**













#### NE 65<sup>th</sup> St Vision Zero Project February 28, 2017

#### **Neighborhood Transportation Forum Summary**





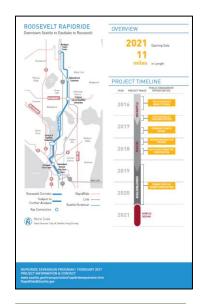


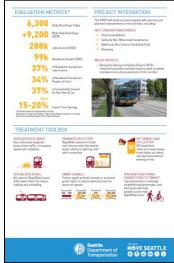


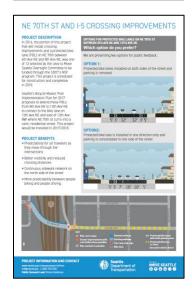


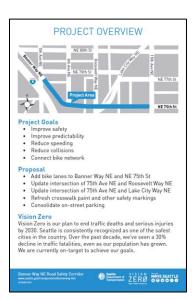






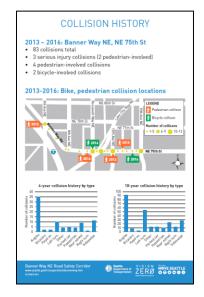












#### Fact Sheet:







# Appendix C: Neighborhood Transportation Forum Photos













# Appendix D: Aerial Maps













