

NEWS



Washington State
Department of Transportation

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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October 31, 2001 ML01-10

NEW STUDY TO DETERMINE IMPROVEMENTS FOR AURORA AVENUE

Seattle – A new study is under way to determine future transportation improvements for Aurora Avenue North (State Route 99) between downtown Seattle and the city of Shoreline-- from the Battery Street Tunnel to North 145th Street. Increasing traffic congestion and collisions are the impetus for the study, which is being conducted by the Washington State Department of Transportation in partnership with the City of Seattle, City of Shoreline and King County Metro Transit.

“Addressing the increasing level of traffic congestion and collisions among vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists is one challenge, but so is the need to strike a balance among many users and neighborhood interests,” explained WSDOT Project Manager Nytasha Sowers. “We want to hear from people in the community who use the corridor, and business owners and residents that are located along it. We recognize there is a range of interests, and we are striving to include different perspectives in the study.”

The study will be guided by a policy, technical and “stakeholder” committee, which will help analyze the deficiencies in the Aurora corridor and suggest improvements for evaluation. The policy and technical steering committees are composed of staff from WSDOT, city of Seattle, city of Shoreline, King County Metro Transit and the Seattle Center. The SR 99 North Stakeholder Advisory Committee is composed of local business and neighborhood representatives.

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The SR 99 North Stakeholder Advisory Committee, will meet Monday, Nov. 5, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Blue Room at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6523 Phinney Avenue North in Seattle. The public is welcome to attend.

The study committees will seek input from the public through two open houses in March and July, a speakers' bureau and other outreach activities. Project information is being distributed through local media, mailings, neighborhood newsletters and the WSDOT web site.

Aurora Avenue is both an important local and regional transportation corridor that is shared by cars, trucks, buses, cyclists and pedestrians. It serves as a main thoroughfare for people commuting into downtown Seattle, and it also supports a diverse local and regional shopping district with over 450 businesses lining the roadway through the study area. Local residences living in adjacent neighborhoods – Belltown, Queen Anne, Wallingford, Fremont, Green Lake, Phinney, Greenwood, Broadview, Licton Springs, Bitter Lake, Haller Lake, to name a few -- access Aurora to travel to work, run errands and reach various local and regional destinations.

The study began in July and will be completed by December 2002. At this time there is no preferred alternative for improvement. Recommendations for improvements will be provided at the end of the study. The cost of the study is \$505,000.

More information on the Aurora study is available on the study's website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/mobility. The study's project manager, Nytasha Sowers, may be reached at (206) 464-6161, sowersn@wsdot.wa.gov, or 401 2nd Avenue, South Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98104.

Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate forms by calling collect (206) 440-4528. TTY users can call 1-800-833-6388 and ask for (206) 515-3683.

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