

CITY OF SHORELINE CURRENTS

December 2003 Vol. 5 No. 6

Inside:

Richmond Beach overcrossing bridge

Shoreline is making modifications to the bridge crossing the railroad tracks to 27th Ave. NW following the latest structural report which showed further deterioration.

Page

3

More Inside:

Shoreline Adopts Budget 2

Express Permits 4

Master Plans Update 5

Sister City Visit to Boryeong 6

Brightwater Site Selected 7



Interurban Trail construction continues; Council approves bridge design

As 2003 draws to a close, the first segment of Shoreline's Interurban Trail is nearing completion.

Contractor Paul Brothers, Inc. is putting the finishing touches on the south section from N. 145 to N. 155th Streets this month.

Construction on the North section of the trail, between N. 192nd and 205th Streets, will begin soon, and design for the South Central section from N. 155th to N. 175th Streets is underway with construction scheduled to begin in Spring 2004.

The Interurban project also includes the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Aurora Avenue N. to safely connect pedestrians and bicyclists to the Interurban Trail between N. 155th and N. 160th Streets. Shoreline staff and project consultants are analyzing bridge alternatives for the new crossing.

A Sept. 17 open house was attended by more than 50 residents and business and property owners who provided input on the proposed bridge alternatives. In addition to the open house, individual meetings were held with



With most of the construction complete on the first segment of the Interurban Trail, the contractors are now working on the trailhead at the south end near N. 145th St.

businesses and property owners.

The criteria for the bridge design included: access, visual and other impacts to business/properties, promotes future development, cost to construct and maintain, and community identity.

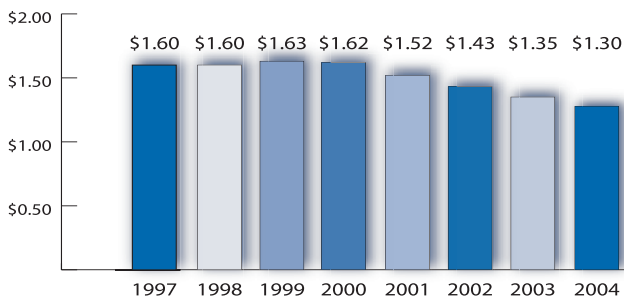
The City Council approved Alternative D5a, the "Loop Ramp Option," at its Oct. 20 meeting. This option provides a truss or arch bridge over N. 155th Street, just west of Aurora Ave. N. and a bridge across Aurora Avenue at about N. 158th Street. A sidewalk

See **Interurban** page 4

Reduced levy as City Council adopts budget

The Shoreline City Council adopted a 2004 budget for the city totaling \$58.3 million on Nov. 24. Council also reduced the 2004 tax levy rate to \$1.30, a 3.8 percent reduction from the 2003 rate of \$1.35 per \$1,000 of

City of Shoreline Property Tax Levy Rate 1997-2004



assessed value.

The balanced budget was achieved without reducing service levels, even though the City's property tax rate continues to decline. Despite an increase in health benefit premiums and decreased investment earnings, the City has been able to maintain a healthy General Fund reserve balance during the recession. The City Council's policy of maintaining a minimum reserve of 10 percent of operating revenues has provided a cushion against unforeseen emergencies. It's estimated that at the end of 2004, the General Fund reserves will equal over 30 percent of operating revenues.

"With stagnant revenue growth, the City has placed a high priority on providing the same or greater levels of service without spending additional funds. The 2004 budget ensures that City resources support the community vision, values and critical success factors we've established," said Steve Burkett, Shoreline City Manager.

Shoreline's 2004 budget is available for review at City Hall, Shoreline Police Station, both Neighborhood Police Centers, Shoreline Library (342 NE 175th St.) and Richmond Beach Library (19601 21st Ave. NW.) For additional information, log on to www.cityofshoreline.com.

Serpentine project offers flood relief

Homeowners in the area around 10th Ave. NE and NE 175th St. should soon see some relief from flooding as the City begins the Serpentine Place Storm Drainage Improvements.

At its Nov. 24 meeting, the Shoreline City Council authorized a contract with Pivetta Brothers, Construction for construction of the Serpentine project. This project is one of a number of projects the City is completing this year to relieve some of the flooding associated with the larger Ronald Bog Drainage Improvement Project.

The Serpentine drainage improvements include: 2,500 linear feet of storm drainage piping; 600 linear feet of electrical conduit; asphalt concrete pavement overlay; sidewalk, curb, gutter, driveways, hand rails and rock walls on NE 175th St.; and a new pump station

on 5th Ave. NE.

Ronald Bog is part of the Thornton Creek Watershed. Flooding in Shoreline's area of the watershed — which affects 15 to 20 homes each year — is caused primarily by inadequate and out-of-date storm water control systems the City inherited from King County.

The City is currently developing a Surface Water Master Plan that will evaluate and recommend solutions for flooding problems and drainage issues throughout the City, including areas around Ronald Bog. The Ronald Bog Drainage Improvement Project previously approved by the City Council has been put on hold until the Master Plan is complete.

In the meantime, the City is

working on short-term improvements such as the Serpentine improvements to provide surrounding areas relief from most flooding.

Earlier this year, the City cleared debris and roots from the storm drainage pipes in two locations: south of Ronald Bog and the vicinity of 10th Avenue NE at NE 175th Street. Both pipes were checked for damage via videotaping devices. The City also created a temporary berm of eco-blocks at the outlet of Ronald Bog to provide winter flood protection.

Construction on the Serpentine improvements is expected to be completed by spring 2004. For more information, contact Shoreline Project Manager John Vicente at (206) 546-8903.

Railroad overcrossing improvements on track

The Richmond Beach Overcrossing Bridge — the sole access over the railroad tracks to 27th Ave. NW (Apple Tree Lane) — is showing its age. Built in

1923 and rebuilt in 1956, the bridge has reached the typical 40-50 year lifespan for a timber bridge. In 1999, the City imposed weight limits on the bridge for safety reasons and determined that the bridge needed major improvements. The City is scheduled to repair or replace the bridge in 2005.

The bridge is inspected annually and past inspections have identified a number of deficiencies that led the City of Shoreline to place weight restrictions on the bridge and apply for a federal grant to replace the bridge.

The most recent inspection in September 2003 identified further deterioration that prompted a load analysis rating. That rating determined that the structural integrity of the bridge has deteriorated to the point where action needed to be taken very soon.

The City is contracting with King County Bridge and Structural Design Unit to add a center median on the main span of the bridge. This will keep the weight from vehicles over the supports that are in good condition and off the deficient ones. The modifications are expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The City's engineering team is evaluating the best long-term solution, which may include a full replacement of the bridge, partial reconstruction or strategic repairs. In determining the most appropriate plan, the City will consider issues such as long-term structural needs, access needs, safety, funding, and impacts to the surrounding community. The City also is



negotiating with the railroad about its needs and financial participation by the railroad.

As part of the engineering study and evaluation, crews have been conducting a series of geotechnical soil tests, fieldwork and surveying properties adjacent to the existing bridge structure and within the project vicinity. Once the engineering study is complete, staff will present alternatives for City Council review. The City will work on the design in 2004 and construction is scheduled for 2005.

The Capital Improvement Program budget for the Richmond Beach Overcrossing project, based on current cost estimates, is \$2,482,130 with \$1,735,950 funded by federal grants and \$660,050 from the City's roads capital fund.

Visit the City's Web site at www.cityofshoreline.com for more information about the project. On the project's Web page, you can sign up to receive project updates via email. If you have questions about the project, contact Shoreline Capital Project Manager Jon Jordan at (206) 546-1678.

You Asked...

Q: How does the City provide snow removal?

The City Of Shoreline Public Works Department keeps a close eye on the weather at this time of year. The City's two five-yard dump trucks are each equipped with a sander and a plow. The trucks are fully equipped and ready to respond to winter weather.

The City's snow plow routes are designed to clear major roads first to keep traffic moving and to ensure access for emergency vehicles. Main arterials, such as Aurora Avenue and N. 175th St., are plowed first, then secondary roads such as Fremont or Dayton. Steep hills and other potential danger spots are next on the route, followed by residential streets. If an area is particularly troublesome, even after plowing and sanding, the City may temporarily close the road to traffic.

If you have any questions about snow removal routes, call Shoreline's Customer Response Team at (206) 546-1700.

Express Permits streamlines permit process

Shoreline's Planning and Development Division is introducing a new and improved permitting program Jan. 1, 2004. Certain commercial projects may

be eligible for an expedited over-the-counter (OTC) permit service, or an Express service that provides a permit within 48 hours. This service is an expansion of the suc-

cessful residential OTC/Express service the City already offers.

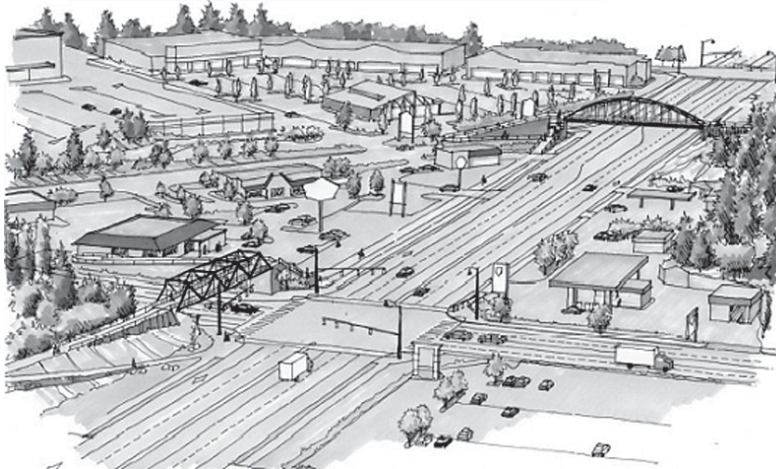
The following project types are eligible for the Express Permit Process: commercial tenant improvements less than 1,000 square feet, commercial demolition permits, commercial mechanical replacement permits, sign permits, fire system permits that are for minor changes to existing systems, and right-of-way permits.

Projects that are not eligible for the new service include: land use action, change of use, change of occupancy and projects in a critical area.

A plans examiner will help customers with the type of service appropriate for their project. The department offers a 15-minute preview of each project to determine if it qualifies for the OTC/Express process. Time slots for OTC/Express meetings are available on a first-come, first-served basis on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Call (206) 546-1811 to make an appointment. Customers should also call or come in to get the specific criteria sheet for OTC/Express permits and a checklist of information needed for a meeting with the plans examiner. This information is also available on www.cityofshoreline.com.

For more information on the City's permit process, call (206) 546-1811. For Specific questions regarding the OTC/Express service, contact Plans Examiner Steve McGlocklin at (206) 546-6401.

Interurban Trail *from page 1*



Shoreline City Council selected the "Loop Ramp Option" for the Aurora crossing of the Interurban Trail as illustrated at right.

and bicycle path within Seattle City Light right-of-way will connect the two bridges with ramps to bring trail users down to grade through the Triangle area between the two structures. Stairs will also be constructed at the ramp locations so trail users will have the option of using the stairs or the ramps to go from the bridges to the trail.

"This option provides the safety benefits of grade-separated crossings for trail users, yet it minimizes the visual impact of an elevated bridge," explains Interurban Project Manager Kirk McKinley. "It provides access to businesses and opens up development opportunities in the Triangle area. The unique bridges also present an opportunity for Shoreline to create a landmark or gateway within the City."

The Loop Ramp option is es-

timated to cost approximately \$3.8 million, but costs may be reduced by combining construction costs with the Aurora project for sidewalks and other features. The trail bridge project includes federal funding.

The Aurora Interurban Trail Bridge Project now moves into environmental review and final design. Over the next year, final plans, specifications and estimates will be prepared and right-of-way acquired for construction. The City estimates that bridge construction will coincide with construction of the Aurora Avenue project in 2005.

For more information, contact Capital Projects Manager Kris Overleese at (206) 546-0791 or Interurban Trail Project Manager Kirk McKinley at (206) 546-3901.

Draft Comprehensive Plan update and Master Plans due next month for public review

Two September open houses launched the Master Plans and Comprehensive Plan Update Project, which entails developing master plans for transportation, surface water facilities and parks, recreation and open spaces, and completing a major update to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The open houses introduced the project, described and confirmed existing conditions and solicited input on issues to be addressed. Just over 40 comment forms and eight typed pages of station flipchart notes were submitted at the public meetings. Suggestions included reducing speeds on neighborhood streets, protecting the environment and making Shoreline more attractive and walkable.

Another way the City is ensuring the plans reflect the needs and expectations of the community is with the help of three Shoreline Planning Commission workgroups. The workgroups each concentrate on a specific area – transportation, surface water and environment, and land use and comprehensive plan – to identify areas that need to be addressed in the plans. While the Planning Commission workgroups are informal work sessions, they are open to the public and written comments are accepted at each meeting. Additionally, the Parks Board is reviewing the development of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

The first draft of the plans is scheduled to be released early next year for public review and comments. Following public re-

view, the final version will be presented to the City Council in spring 2004.

It's not too late to get involved. Find the latest project information including a summary of the open house comments, the Planning Commission workgroup schedule and a comment form at

www.cityofshoreline.com/cityhall/projects/masterplan/index.cfm.

You can also sign up to receive email project updates and notices.

For more information about the Master Plans/Comprehensive Plan Update, please call Project Manager Andrea Spencer at (206) 546-1418.

Shoreline asks for feedback on permit process with survey

As part of its ongoing effort to improve customer service, the City of Shoreline will conduct an online survey of its building and land use permit users beginning this month.

Anyone who has applied for a City permit that was issued or approved after Nov. 1 will receive email notification about the survey and will be encouraged to complete it online, including contractors who have given the City their email addresses.

Permit customers include agents, contractors and owner/tenants seeking building or land use permits.

Survey questions vary from asking how many hours of consultation the City spent on a customer's project to rating the permit process from 1 to 10 to evaluate if staff in Planning and Development Services was professional in every way. The survey also asks customers to list the top three things in the permitting process that the City could do better.

"We hope customers will take the time to fill out the survey and share their thoughts with us," said Tim Stewart, City of Shoreline Planning and Development Services Director. "Our goal is to tailor the permit process to customer needs. With constructive feedback on staff performance and how the current system is working, we can do just that."

Answers are confidential and will be tabulated online by the outside contractor working on the project. A summary report will be shared with the public next year.

For more information, contact Shoreline Management Analyst Joanne Dillon at (206) 546-0789.

Delegation visits sister city

A 16-member delegation from Shoreline visited Boryeong City, South Korea, in October to finalize the official Sister City relationship between the two cities. The group enjoyed a three-day stay hosted by the Boryeong delegation that visited Shoreline earlier this year.

The invitation from Boryeong

delegation included: Scott and Linda Jepsen, Councilmembers John Chang and Ron Hansen, School Boardmember Herb Bryce, Cheryl Lee, Connie and Sammy Sampson of the Filipino Community; Vicki Stiles representing the Shoreline Historical Museum, Ros Bird of the Shoreline-Lake Forest Park Arts

Council, Robin Young of Shoreline Community College, and Tai Ho Song, Hee Yeol Kang, Seung In Ra and Young Hee Kim, business owners and members of the Sister Cities Association. Delegation members paid their own expenses for the trip.

Boryeong City was the first to extend a formal request to Shoreline to become a sister city when the Shoreline Sister Cities Association was formed in October 2002.

The Shoreline Sister Cities Association was organized by local volunteers and is a separate non-profit organization from the City. It is recognized by the City Council as the City's partner for planning and implementing sister city relationships. The objective of the organization is to provide a forum for community involvement in Shoreline's sister city relationships and to encourage educational, cultural, economic and trade opportunities for the greater Shoreline community through the sister city experience.

For more information about the Shoreline Sister Cities Association, contact Cheryl Lee at (206) 234-4412.



Shoreline Mayor Scott Jepsen and Boryeong Mayor Si-Woo Lee display signed Sister Cities agreements.

gave both cities an opportunity to share information about their respective communities and cement the special relationship that began in 2002.

The Shoreline group was honored with a dinner reception and an exchange of gifts. The visit included a tour of city hall, museums, art galleries, a community college, a high school and historic sites and monuments important to the Boryeong community.

"I was impressed with Boryeong's emphasis on education and the arts," said Shoreline Mayor Scott Jepsen. "It was an enlightening trip, and we look forward to hosting our Korean friends in Shoreline again this spring."

Members of the Shoreline del-

Online rec registration

Signing up for youth, teen and adult recreation programs is just a mouse click away now that the City of Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department offers online registration.

The new feature on the City's Web site offers a simple and secure way to register for recreation programs from the comfort of home or office, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anyone can view Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services program offerings at www.cityofshoreline.com/parks. To register online you will need your Family PIN, your Client ID number, as well as a Visa, MasterCard, or credit on your account. The Web site guides you through a new account setup form that can then be saved to your desktop for emailing to the City.

After the initial setup, you may register online anytime using a credit card or credit on your account. The new system also provides a family history of all registrations. At this time Specialized Recreation and Aquatics programs are not available for online registration.

For more information, contact the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services online registration help desk at (206) 546-2741 or econnect@ci.shoreline.wa.us.

Stay safe this holiday season with these tips

The National Crime Prevention Council and the Consumer Product Safety Commission offer the following reminders to help keep you safe during the holidays.

If you're going out of town:

- Set an automatic light timer.
- Ask neighbors to watch your house and pick up the mail and newspapers.
- Sign up for the "vacation home checks" offered by Shoreline Police volunteers. Visit or call the Shoreline Police Neighborhood Centers (see page 8) for details.

Holiday shopping

- Park in well-lit spaces and don't leave packages in sight.
- Keep your purse or wallet close to your body, preferably in a front pocket.
- Teach your children to go to a police officer or store manager if they get lost.

Fire hazards

- Keep trees watered.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree.

- Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.

For more information about holiday safety, log on to the Consumer Product Safety Commission

Web site at www.cpsc.gov, or the National Crime Prevention Council Web site at www.ncpc.org. Or contact your local Shoreline Police Neighborhood Center.

King County Executive selects preferred Brightwater site

On Dec. 1, King County Executive Ron Sims selected the Route 9 site in unincorporated Snohomish County as the location for the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A new conveyance system will bring treated water from the new facility to the Puget Sound at Point Wells on a route roughly along the King-Snohomish County border. Construction of the conveyance system will be done through tunneling. Tunneling requires portals which are construction areas that include shafts for access to the tunnel, materials and equipment storage and space for soil removal.

The current design for the conveyance route shows two primary portals and two secondary portals along Shoreline's north boundary. One primary portal is in the vicinity of Ballinger Way and 15th Ave. NE and the other is at Point Wells.

According to the Brightwater Web site, secondary portals "are not expected to be used based on current information and engineering. However, during final design, it may prove necessary to use one or more secondary portal for temporary ventilation, ground improvement, and to possibly supply grout to the tunnel."

For more information about the Brightwater project, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/>.

City seeks comment on hazard mitigation plan

To be eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) help following a disaster, FEMA requires that cities complete a Hazard Mitigation Plan. A Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies potential hazards in a community and outlines plans to reduce the risks of those hazards.

The City of Shoreline hired the University of Washington Institute for Hazard Mitigation to help prepare the plan. Stakeholders

and agency partners attended a half-day session in November to review the draft plan and now the City is seeking public comments.

The City's draft Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for review at City Hall, the Police Station, both Police Neighborhood Centers, Shoreline Library and Richmond Beach Library. It is also available on the City's Web site at www.cityofshoreline.com.

The Shoreline City Council will be discussing the draft plan at its Jan. 5 meeting at which time public comments will be welcome. You can also send comments to: Police Chief Denise Turner, Shoreline City Hall, 17544 Midvale Ave. N., Shoreline, WA 98133.

Once the plan is finalized, it will go to the City Council for approval in summer 2004.

Who, what, where in the City of Shoreline

City of Shoreline

Shoreline City Hall
17544 Midvale Avenue N.
Shoreline, WA 98133-4921
(206) 546-1700
Fax (206) 546-7868

City Hall Annex
Home of: • Planning and
Development Services Department
• Public Works Department
Highland Plaza
1110 N. 175th St., Suite 105
Shoreline, WA 98133

CURRENTS

December 2003 Vol. 5 No. 6

Currents is produced by the
City of Shoreline Communications
and Intergovernmental Relations
Department, (206) 546-0779.

Editing, writing & design:
Tami Beaumont, Susan Will &
Joyce Nichols

Alternate formats
available upon request.

City Council

City Councilmembers
Mayor Scott Jepsen
Deputy Mayor Kevin Grossman
John Chang
Rich Gustafson
Ron Hansen
Bob Ransom

Meeting Location
Shoreline Conference Center
18560 First Ave. NE
Mt. Rainier Room

Workshop Meetings
First and third Mondays
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Meetings
Second and fourth Mondays
beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Line
(206) 546-2190

Televised City Council Meetings
Cable Channel 21
Wednesday through Sunday
6 a.m., noon and 8 p.m.

Shoreline Police

Emergency: 911

Shoreline Police Station
Chief Denise Turner
1206 N. 185th St.
Shoreline, WA 98133
(206) 546-6730

Westside Neighborhood Police Ctr.
Officer Leona Obstler
624 NW Richmond Beach Road
Shoreline, WA 98177
(206) 546-3636

Eastside Neighborhood Police Ctr.
Officer Angela Holland
521 NE 165th St.
Shoreline, WA 98155
(206) 363-8424

City of Shoreline Web site

Information about meetings,
projects and programs is
now available online.

www.cityofshoreline.com



17544 Midvale Avenue N.
Shoreline, WA 98133-4921

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 6651

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER