

145th Street (SR 523) Aurora Avenue N to I-5 Improvements

Frequently Asked Questions, Winter 2020



Where is 145th Street? Why is it important to Shoreline?

145th Street is a major east-west route for northwest King County. It is designated as a Washington State Route (SR 523), and it connects south Shoreline and north Seattle neighborhoods with businesses, parks, and services. It also links these communities to nearby cities, including Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, and Bothell.

In a few years, 145th Street will become even more important when the Sound Transit Lynwood Link light rail extension opens a new station at 145th Street and I-5. Shoreline and North Seattle residents need safe and reliable ways to access this future transit hub.

Why does 145th Street need improvements?

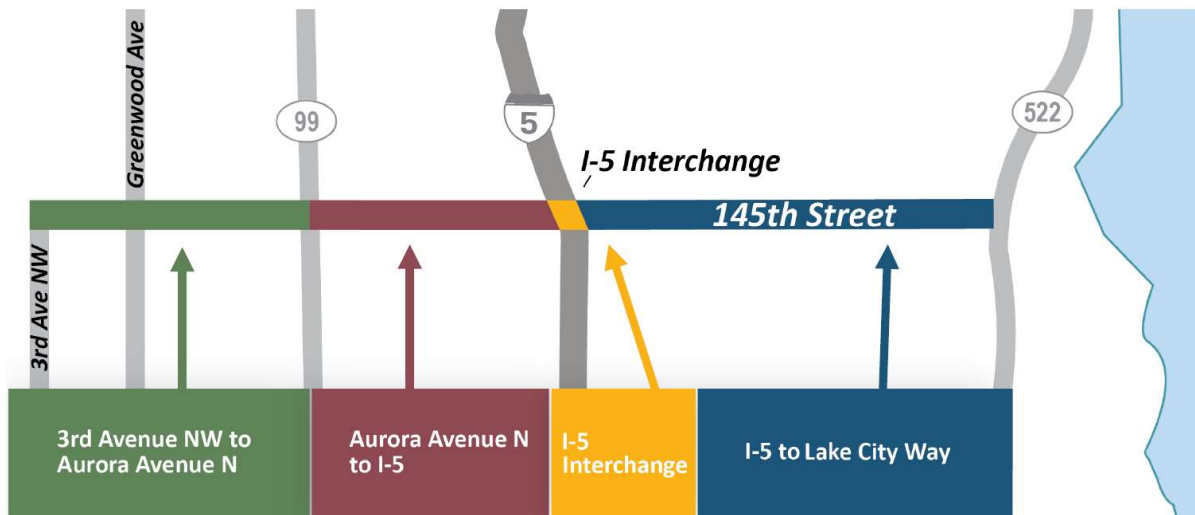
The City of Shoreline has heard from residents for many years that 145th Street could benefit from improvements. Concerns include traffic safety, congestion, narrow sidewalks, lack of bike connections, and limited transit service.

Improvements along 145th Street can help to increase safety and reliability for all users. Updates would also ensure that this important corridor is able to support transit and effectively connect Shoreline residents to regional light rail.

What work has already been done to identify changes needed to make 145th Street work better and more safely?

For 15 months during 2015 and 2016, Shoreline conducted a comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Study on 145th Street between 3rd Ave NW and SR 522. This study analyzed how 145th Street was functioning and considered which improvements would make the corridor safer and more effectively serve the growing number of people that use the road every day.

The project team looked at 145th Street in four segments (see following map), examined different scenarios for 145th Street, and asked the community for input.



The study resulted in a preferred design concept that incorporated the “right size” improvements for 145th Street. This preferred design concept reflected feedback from the Shoreline community and was unanimously approved by the Shoreline City Council in 2016.

Visit the [145th Street Multimodal Corridor Study website](#) to learn more about the study process, view the approved preferred design concept, and learn about other ongoing improvement projects.

Today, we are focused on designing improvements between Aurora Ave N and I-5 and improvements to the I-5 interchange. Sound Transit is designing improvements to 145th Street from I-5 to SR 522 as part of their [Bus Rapid Transit project on SR 522 and NE 145th](#).

How was the community involved in developing the preferred design concept for the 145th Street Corridor?

Conversations with Shoreline residents and community members were an important part of developing a preferred design concept. The City held three public open houses at key points during the study to share progress and to learn more about what resonated with residents, businesses, and corridor users. At each open house we heard community interest in improving the corridor and doing it right.

In addition to public open houses, the City convened a Citizen Advisory Task Force to review study progress and provide guidance. This stakeholder group was made up of eleven people that represented Shoreline and Seattle neighborhoods, businesses, and transit and pedestrian advocates. Task Force members met ten times throughout the study process and meetings were open to the public. At the end of the study process, the task force was in support of the preferred design concept and shared suggested guidelines and goals for implementation.

Are any existing houses or businesses expected to be purchased by the City to make room for improvements to 145th Street?

Some properties abutting or adjacent to 145th Street may be impacted to make room for street and sidewalk improvements. As part of developing the roadway design, the project will create right of way plans, determine the necessary property acquisitions, obtain estimate of property fair market values, and assess relocation requirements that will apply to affected parcels. This work will help determine the anticipated extent of property impacts and if relocation assistance will be needed in advance of contacting property owners. In cases where acquisitions of full parcels or buildings would be required, relocation assistance is anticipated.

Property acquisitions will occur over time. Affected property owners will be contacted by the City during the period of right of way work for each project phase. For the first phase of the project, between I-5 and Corliss Avenue, the project anticipates beginning to contact affected property owners Q1 of 2021. The City will be working closely with individual property owners along this section of the corridor in 2021-2022. Later phases of the project will be developed as funding becomes available.

How will these improvements make east-west and north-south travel easier?

The preferred design concept incorporates several features that can make all modes of travel safer and more reliable, including:

- Improved intersections with left turn lanes, signal upgrades, and improved signal timing to help vehicles and transit travel more efficiently.
- Enhanced and accessible pedestrian spaces, including improved sidewalks, new ADA accessible curb ramps, and new pedestrian crossing signals.
- A plan for an off-corridor bike network that provides cyclists with a reliable and safer route across Shoreline and to the future light rail station at I-5.

Could updates to 145th Street help fix traffic congestion near Aurora Ave N?

The preferred design concept calls for adding capacity to the intersection of 145th Street and Aurora Avenue N and includes adjustments to the timing of the traffic signal. This will allow the intersection to function better for vehicles and transit and is expected to reduce congestion throughout the day.

Instead of adding capacity, could traffic measures like lower speed limits, narrower lanes, or fewer lanes be implemented on the 145th Street Corridor to discourage commuter traffic from using the road?

145th Street is listed in the “National Highways of Significance” system, and the road is classified as a major arterial. Therefore, speed limits, number of lanes, and lane widths are based on strict design standards and technical guidelines.

The Washington State Department of Transportation recently affirmed the project design, which includes five lanes of traffic between Meridian Ave N and I-5, and four lanes of traffic between Meridian Ave N and Linden Ave N with occasional turn-pockets.

What is the anticipated cost for the 145th Street Corridor preferred concept?

The design and environmental phase of the project is estimated at \$5.560 million and is primarily funded by federal and state grants. Overall costs to complete all phases of the project from design through construction are currently estimated at \$64.3 million. The City will construct the improvements in up to three separate phases, similar to how the Aurora Corridor was implemented. The City will continue to seek additional funding for each of the construction phases.

When will construction start and how long will it take?

Construction is expected to begin as early as 2022 and is anticipated to be completed in three phases as illustrated in the following diagram.



Is the preferred design concept for the 145th Street Corridor consistent with the comprehensive plans for Shoreline and Seattle?

Yes. The comprehensive plans for both Shoreline and Seattle were considered throughout the development of the preferred design concept. It is anticipated that the improvements incorporated into this concept will have the capacity to serve the projected population, employment, and traffic generated by the growth of both cities. In addition, the concept is anticipated to fit within the land use parameters included within Shoreline's adopted Comprehensive Plan.

What other projects are happening nearby?

- The 145th Street & I-5 Interchange Project is identifying improvements to improve traffic flow and safety as well as pedestrian access to the future light rail station. This project was also identified as part of the 145th Street Multimodal Corridor Study preferred design concept.
- Sound Transit is beginning work on identifying improvements associated with the bus rapid transit (BRT) project that will run along 145th Street between I-5 and Bothell/Lake City Way (SR522). Elements of this project were also identified as part of the 145th Street Multimodal Corridor Study preferred design concept.
- Sound Transit is building a light rail station at the intersection of 145th Street and I-5. The Shoreline South/145th Station is anticipated to open in 2024.

For additional project information visit shorelinewa.gov/145corridor

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