

# Currents – News from the City of Shoreline

February 2022 – Volume 24 No. 1

## Annual Traffic Report shows significant decrease in collisions in 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of life in 2020, and transportation was no exception. With the implementation of the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” policy, traffic volumes decreased dramatically statewide as did associated congestion in urban areas. In Shoreline, traffic volumes dropped by more than 50% on some corridors, with the annual average 20% lower than 2019 volumes. Similarly, transit ridership dropped more than 60% at the low point in spring. Given the fact that there were so many less people on the road, it was not surprising to see total collisions decrease significantly – down 34% compared to 2019. This is the lowest total for any year in Shoreline’s 2010 through 2020 collision database.

While most agencies expected to see fatal collision trends follow the decrease in total collisions, the opposite happened. Nationwide and statewide fatal collisions soared. According to the National Safety Council, there was a 24% spike in US roadway death rates (fatal collisions per million vehicle miles traveled), resulting in the highest fatal collision rate in 96 years. Even in Shoreline we saw more fatalities (3) than we've seen in over ten years. While it is difficult to pin down any one causal factor, common themes seem to center around a significant increase in risky driving behavior. As regional congestion evaporated and enforcement agencies decreased contacts to limit the spread of COVID-19, driver speeds increased. Various public health studies have also shown a significant increase in alcohol and drug use during the pandemic, so an increase in impaired driving is thought to also be a contributing factor in the high number of 2020 traffic deaths.

It is difficult to predict what new transportation norms will look like moving forward both in terms of collision trends and travel patterns. With multiple major City capital improvement projects focused on safety, a reduction in speed limits on some arterials (see story on page 7) and Federal transportation funding which will provide increased safety resources, there is hope of steering fatal and serious injury collisions back toward zero.

To see the full report, visit the website at [shorelinewa.gov/traffic](https://shorelinewa.gov/traffic).

MORE INFORMATION

[shorelinewa.gov/traffic](https://shorelinewa.gov/traffic)

## Your new Shoreline City Council

ON January 3, 2022, Shoreline District Court Judge Marcine Anderson swore in newly elected City Councilmembers Laura Mork, Eben Pabee, and John Ramsdell into office. Judge Anderson also swore in returning Councilmember Chris Roberts. After the swearing in, the City Council selected Councilmember Keith Scully as Mayor and Councilmember Betsy Robertson as Deputy Mayor.

As the City's governing body, Shoreline's seven elected part-time Councilmembers establish City policies and laws, adopt an annual budget, and approve contracts for services. Council meets most Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We encourage the public to attend meetings. The City Council has been holding meetings virtually during the pandemic. When meetings shift back to City Hall, people will have the choice to continue to watch and take part virtually or in-person. For more information and links to attend meetings via Zoom, visit [shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings](https://shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings).

In addition to Council meetings, Councilmembers represent the City at community events; in meetings with community members; and on national, state, and regional boards and committees. The Council directs City policy based on input from residents, staff, and other stakeholders. To receive as much input as possible, Councilmembers are available by email and phone, and often meet one-on-one with individuals and community organizations.

More Information

[shorelinewa.gov/council](https://shorelinewa.gov/council)

[shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings](https://shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings)

## North King County Enhanced Shelter update

After opening on April 1, 2021, with 18 residents, the North King County Enhanced Shelter at The Oaks slowly ramped to 60 residents during July and August. As residents move to other housing, the shelter continues to stay full as staff transition new residents off their referral list and into the shelter.

Lake City Partners manages the 24/7 shelter located at the former Oaks Nursing Facility at 16357 Aurora Avenue N.

The Enhanced Shelter model recognizes that individuals need to have safe and stable shelter to effectively address the challenges that prevent long-term housing stability. Local first responders, Lake City Partners' outreach staff, and social service agencies in Shoreline and North King County make referrals to the shelter. Participants must agree to maintain safe behaviors and are provided case management, hygiene, and other services. The use of drugs and alcohol is not allowed at the shelter.

In August 2021, Lake City Partners welcomed a new Executive Director, Walt Washington. Shelter staff report that residents are making progress in managing their health, getting their IDs, and working towards their goals of long-term stable housing.

We will provide a more in-depth update later this spring after receiving the final report for 2021.

Volunteer

The Shelter is now able to offer volunteer engagements – for both short and long-term commitments. For more information, please contact the shelter directly at 206-913-2267.

More Information

Community Services Manager Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn

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206-801-2331

## City's state legislative priorities

Every January, the Washington State Legislature meets in Olympia to pass new laws and make changes to old ones. They also direct how to spend revenue received by the State through taxes and other sources. This year, they will also decide how to spend the federal government's substantial investments in infrastructure.

Last year, the legislature sat for a "long" 120-day session. Washington residents saw dramatic action on issues ranging from climate change and water quality to law enforcement and behavioral health. This year, the legislature has a "short" 60-day session. While it is likely to be less sweeping, it will be no less important for Shoreline and the people who live here.

Each year, the Shoreline City Council prepares for the legislative session by adopting a legislative agenda that lays out goals and policy positions they feel will best serve the interests of Shoreline residents. Council works closely with Shoreline's elected state legislators—Sen. Jesse Salomon, Rep. Cindy Ryu, and Rep. Lauren Davis—to make sure that both state and local officials from Shoreline are working together.

During the session, City Councilmembers and City staff will talk to legislators and staff in Olympia. They will offer ideas, feedback, and support as legislators craft legislation, and bills move through the legislative process. In the fast-paced and fluid environment, the City's legislative agenda provides a firm foundation for clearly and consistently representing the City's point of view.

Here are some highlights of the City's 2022 state legislative agenda:

### Transportation investment

As Sound Transit completes its Shoreline light rail stations, new transit-oriented communities are springing up around them. However, at the Shoreline South station, residents living west of I-5 face a daunting challenge through traffic and congestion to reach the light rail station safely. That's why Shoreline is pursuing the development of a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across I-5 at 148th Street. It will take residents directly to the light rail station. This project has received support in the past from both Senate and House transportation leaders. Shoreline will continue to advocate for this project.

### Investments in behavioral health

Shoreline is part of a five-city coalition (along with Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, and Kirkland) that has established an innovative behavioral health intervention program called RADAR. RADAR works in partnership with law enforcement to engage with individuals who have acute behavioral health needs. Recent changes in the laws surrounding drug possession have highlighted the need for more treatment options. Shoreline supports state efforts to increase investment throughout the behavioral health system, so people and families that need support can get it.

### Combating climate change

The City Council strongly supports a range of state efforts to reduce carbon emissions and make everything, from housing to transportation, more sustainable.

### Addressing affordable housing and homelessness

For too many individuals and families, housing is still too expensive and hard to find, and many find themselves without shelter. Addressing our affordable housing and homelessness crisis is still an important policy goal for the City.

More Information

Intergovernmental Relations Manager Jim Hammond  
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## City set to complete park restroom renovations

As part of the 20217-2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan, we identified park restrooms in need of renovations. Over the past several years, we have been making those renovations. With a \$400,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce, we will be able to complete four restroom renovations by the end of 2022. We have already completed the renovations at Cromwell Park. The other three parks that will see restroom renovations this year are:

- Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (lower restroom)
- Paramount Park
- Shoreline Park

Our park restrooms get a lot of use throughout the year, and we have seen an increase in use during the pandemic. We inherited our park system from King County, and the County constructed most of the restrooms beginning in the early 1970s. While the structures themselves are made of durable materials such as concrete blocks and metal roofs, the concrete walls and floors on the inside have become porous and are hard to keep clean and sanitary. The renovations will make servicing the restrooms easier and cleaner.

We bring in portable restrooms to serve the public while renovations occur.

More Information

[shorelinewa.gov/prosplan](http://shorelinewa.gov/prosplan)  
[shorelineparks@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:shorelineparks@shorelinewa.gov)

## February is Black History or African American History month

First celebrated as Negro History week in 1926, Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard-trained historian chose February, because the month included both Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. Officially recognized nationally and expanded to a month-long celebration in 1976, President Gerald Ford urged everyone to take the opportunity to learn and honor the significant history and tremendous contributions Black people have made to the U.S.

The City of Shoreline and community partners will host an exhibit Celebrating Blackness with local art, history, and resources at Spartan Recreation Center during February.

With City support, Black Coffee Northwest will host a celebration of Black joy on Saturday, Feb. 26, with music by JHP Legacy, a Shoreline-based arts education organization. The celebration will feature delicious cultural food, a traditional coffee ceremony, art, and a fashion show.

More Information

Equity and Social Justice Program Coordinator Suni Tolton  
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206-801-2556

## Reducing carbon emissions from new commercial construction

On December 6, in its continuing efforts to address climate change and greenhouse gas emission, the City Council approved Ordinance 948, which bans the use of fossil fuels in new commercial and large multi-family construction projects for space heating and most water heating. The ordinance also includes other increases in energy efficiency requirements.

The City's 2019 communitywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory showed a 1.3% increase in emissions compared to 2009. This trend is not on track to meet the City's goal to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and to zero by 2050. Working to reduce emissions is critical to preventing the most catastrophic impacts of climate change for the community. The more quickly we can reduce emissions, the more quickly we can mitigate climate change impacts.

The Puget Sound region is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate. We are likely to see more extreme weather and its impacts due to climate change, including extreme heat, wildfires, rising sea levels, and more-frequent flooding, all of which can harm public health. We are already seeing the direct effects, such as breathing problems from prolonged exposure to wildfire smoke and heat-related illness from lasting heat waves, particularly with our frontline communities. Frontline communities are those communities that often experience the earliest and most acute impacts of climate change, face historic and current inequities, and have limited resources and/or capacity to adapt.

In Shoreline, we largely heat our buildings using three fuel sources: electricity from Seattle City Light, natural gas from Puget Sound Energy, and heating oil from private companies. Electricity from Seattle City Light is considered carbon neutral and thus is the preferred energy source from both a carbon emissions reduction and public health perspective.

The City's 2019 communitywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory reported that the largest sources of emissions were transportation (67%) and the built environment (32%), primarily from natural gas usage in the residential and commercial sectors. Natural gas consumption was responsible for 87% of emissions from the built environment. The residential sector was the largest consumer of natural gas (11,681 customers, ~9.4 million therms), followed by the commercial sector (563 customers, ~4.8 million therms).

Reducing the number of buildings that rely on fossil fuels for heating spaces and water is an important way to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect public health. Governmental jurisdictions across the country have used various tools to either encourage all-electric buildings or ban fossil fuels, such as natural gas, for specific uses in new construction. Building codes are one such tool that can have a powerful influence on the type of energy used in buildings and their resulting emissions.

## Shoreline CityWise Project

Have you ever wondered who maintains our parks? Or how the City creates a budget or plans for changing traffic volumes?

Since launching as a pilot in 2017, the CityWise Project has provided participants insight into the wide range of services provided by the City. In 2022, we will again offer CityWise as an online experience. This series of nine informational sessions on Zoom starts with an introduction to Shoreline's form of

government. At the end of the series, participants will use what they have learned about City operations to write a budget.

Applications will be available online February 1, 2022. The deadline for submitting applications is February 18. Ninety-minute sessions run on Tuesday evenings from March 1 through May 3. CityWise is free of charge, and open to residents, employees, business owners, and students aged 16 and older in Shoreline. We limit class size to 30 participants who are chosen to represent all parts of the City and their diverse populations. Applicants who are Shoreline residents will receive priority.

More Information

[shorelinewa.gov/citywise](https://shorelinewa.gov/citywise)

## Get safe, secure, easy, and free tax help

From January through April, United Way of King County volunteers who are trained and IRS-certified tax experts will be available to provide free tax preparation help to the community. United Way is offering both in-person and virtual help.

All in-person locations will exercise strict COVID-19 protocols and follow CDC guidelines for safety.

More Information

[uwkc.org/need-help/tax-help](https://uwkc.org/need-help/tax-help)

## City Manager to appoint Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee (FSAC-22)

The City Manager is planning to appoint 12 to 15 community members to serve on the Financial Sustainability Advisory Committee-2022 (FSAC-22). The goal of FSAC-22 will be to look at whether the City should seek replacement of the 2016 levy lid lift on the November 2022 General Election ballot. Using FSAC-22's input, the City Manager will develop a recommendations to be reviewed by the City Council with potential action on next steps during the summer of 2022.

FSAC-22 will meet five to six times using Zoom on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on March 10 and 24, April 7 and 21, and May 5 and 19. If you are interested in serving on FSAC-22, please visit [shorelinewa.gov/10YFSP](https://shorelinewa.gov/10YFSP), click on the FSAC-22 button, and fill out the online application by 5:00 p.m. February 14, 2022.

The City Manager will seek to appoint people who will represent a broad range of Shoreline residents and issues, including community organizations, immigrant and refugee communities, communities of color, neighborhoods, Shoreline businesses, and human services organizations.

City Council accepted the City's 10 Year Financial Sustainability Plan in 2014. It included a strategy for engaging Shoreline residents and stakeholders in a discussion every six years regarding the possibility of replacing the expiring property tax levy lid lift, which allowed the City to increase property tax by inflation rather than the 1% imposed by state law. In 2016, the City Manager formed an advisory committee for input prior to seeking Council approval to place a levy lid lift on the ballot. After evaluating the 10-year Financial Sustainability Plan, the committee recommended that the City seek

replacement of the levy lid lift in November 2016. The Council placed a measure on that ballot and Shoreline voters overwhelmingly approved the measure. That six-year levy lid lift expires in 2022.

More Information

Budget & Tax Manager Rick Kirkwood

<mailto:rkirkwood@shorelinwa.gov>

206-801-2303

## Environmentally safe de-icing methods

Protect our streams, lakes, and Puget Sound. When removing ice and snow from driveways and sidewalks, please follow the tips below:

1. If safe to do so, always try shoveling snow first. Shovel early and often to keep snow from building up and turning to ice. Shoveling means that no extra chemicals will make it into our streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.
2. If you need a de-icing product, use a calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) based deicer. You can find it at most home hardware stores. Always follow the instructions on the label and never over-apply!

Please avoid:

- Sand. It builds up in the stormwater system and can smother fish and insect life in streams, lakes, or Puget Sound.
- Typical rock salt (sodium chloride) and other chloride-based de-icing products. The chloride-based products are not biodegradable and will make their way into our streams and creeks.

## Share your feedback on Shoreline's Climate Action Plan

We are updating our Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions and protect our community from climate impacts. We are looking for community input to ensure the actions we take to address climate change benefit everyone in Shoreline.

Most of Shoreline's contribution to climate change comes from driving gasoline or diesel vehicles, and from using natural gas in our homes and buildings. The Climate Action Plan will find key actions the City can take to reduce community-wide emissions in these and other sectors. The Plan will also include actions to prepare our community for climate impacts like wildfire smoke, hotter summer days, summer drought, and heavier winter rainfall.

Next month, we will host a series of online, interactive events to discuss specific strategies to include in the Climate Action Plan:

- March 2: Decarbonizing Shoreline's Transportation
- March 16: Achieving Carbon-Neutral Buildings and Energy
- March 30: Fostering Community Resilience, Capturing Carbon in Trees, and Ecosystems.

More Information

Register for upcoming events and share feedback: [shorelinewa.gov/climate](https://shorelinewa.gov/climate).

## Planning Commission to study changes to MUR-70 zoning in light rail station areas

It's been more than six years since the City Council adopted new zoning plans for areas around the two future Link Light Rail stations at 148th Street and 185th Street. The two plans show a vision for compact neighborhoods centered around the light rail stations with a variety of housing, parks, and safe streets for all users.

To implement the plans, City Council changed the zoning to Mixed Use Residential (MUR) to allow for the types of development called for in the plans. There are three distinct MUR zones with variation in allowable land uses and development regulations. The MUR-70' zone allows the most intensive development and is located closest to the light rail stations.

Compared to the other two zones, the MUR-70' zone has seen less development activity to date. To further understand why, the City Council and Planning Commission convened a joint meeting on October 25 to have an in-depth discussion of the MUR-70' zone.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the amount of parking required for new development; streamlining the development agreement entitlement process to reduce the review time and uncertainty for additional building heights; and ways to remove or reduce other provisions for early developments in the MUR-70' zone.

While City Council and the Planning Commission discussed several ideas and topics to make refinements to the MUR-70' zone regulations, there is consensus that the fundamental vision and purpose for the two plans still make sense. For example, new developments in the MUR-70' zone help advance housing and sustainability goals by providing mandatory affordable housing and built green requirements. As with any long-range vision, City Council will need to make refinements as we implement the plan over many decades.

The Planning Commission will continue discussions at upcoming meetings to define the scope of potential changes to study. We expect Draft Development Code amendments will be prepared in the first quarter of 2022, at which time the Commission will deliberate and hold a public hearing before making a recommendation to the City Council for final action.

## City to reduce speeds on six corridors

On December 6, 2021, City Council adopted Ordinance 950, which will reduce speed limits on six corridors in Shoreline beginning June 1, 2022. The City will reduce speed limits from 35mph to 30mph. The corridors that will see the change are:

- N/NE 175th Street from Aurora Avenue N to 15th Avenue NE
- Meridian Avenue N from N 145th Street to NE 205th Street
- 15th Avenue NE from NE 145th Street to NE 175th Street
- Greenwood Avenue N from N 145th Street to NW Innis Arden Way
- N/NW Richmond Beach Road from 8th Avenue NW to Fremont Avenue N
- 15th Avenue NE between NE 180th Street and NE 196th Street



Fatal and serious injury collisions are on the rise in Shoreline. High vehicle speed is a key factor in these types of collisions, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists. Recent research and associated updates to speed limit setting methods recognize that speed limits are a crucial tool for creating safer streets.

Throughout 2020, staff worked on a speed limit study with traffic engineering consultant DKS, a leader and expert in evolving speed limit setting practices. Staff presented the study and results to City Council on January 4, 2021. Based on City Council discussions and staff recommendations, the City Council passed Ordinance 450 in hopes of lowering fatal and serious injury accidents along these corridors.

More Information

[shorelinewa.gov/traffic](http://shorelinewa.gov/traffic)

## City Council Salary Commission

Early last year, Shoreline City Council adopted Ordinance 919, which calls for setting up a Salary Commission for Elected Officials. The mayor will appoint three people to be on the Salary Commission. They will make recommendations for elected officials' salaries in 2022. Currently, the only elected officials covered by the Salary Commission's recommendations are the Shoreline City Council.

We expect to set-up the Salary Commission by March 31, 2022. They will meet one or two times virtually and complete their work by early summer 2022. Shoreline's Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development will provide administrative support and comparable market analysis information to the Commission.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Salary Commission, please fill out the online application found at [shorelinewa.gov/citycouncil](http://shorelinewa.gov/citycouncil) by February 28, 2022.

## Shoreline Short Short Film Festival

Season Six

March 5, 3PM & 7PM showtimes

Shoreline Community College Theater

\$25 admission – Tickets now available online at [shorelakearts.org](http://shorelakearts.org).

## Contact your Shoreline City Council

- Mayor Will Hall, 206-373-1630, [whall@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:whall@shorelinewa.gov)
- Deputy Mayor Keith Scully, 206-735-9030, [kscully@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:kscully@shorelinewa.gov)
- Susan Chang, 206-373-1639, [schang@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:schang@shorelinewa.gov)
- Doris Fujioka McConnell, 206-731-9323, [dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov)
- Keith McGlashan, 206-330-3948, [kmcglashan@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:kmcglashan@shorelinewa.gov)
- Chris Roberts, 206-391-2733, [croberts@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:croberts@shorelinewa.gov)
- Betsy Roberston, 206-396-5807, [brobertson@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:brobertson@shorelinewa.gov)
- Contact all Councilmembers, (206) 801-2213, [council@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:council@shorelinewa.gov)

City Council Meetings

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meetings via Zoom

Agendas: [shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings](https://shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings)