

# Currents – News from the City of Shoreline

April 2022 – Volume 24 No. 3

## Sidewalk Projects Update

The need for sidewalks has been a priority for the community and the City Council since incorporation. Sidewalks not only create safe routes for pedestrians, but creating walkable communities helps reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that lead to climate change and pollution. In 2018, the Council approved a Sidewalk Prioritization Plan and an increase in the vehicle license fee to support sidewalk repair and rehabilitation. Later in 2018, Shoreline voters approved an increase in the sales and use tax to fund the construction of new sidewalks, beginning with the 12 listed on the ballot measure.

Since 2018, staff has focused on developing and implementing both programs – the Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program and the 2018 Voter Approved New Sidewalk Program.

### Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program

Due to passage of Initiative 976 in 2019, which ended the ability to use vehicle license fees to fund transportation benefit districts, we had to place the City's Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program on hold. In October 2020, the Washington Supreme Court overturned the initiative. This allowed the City to once again use the vehicle license fee to fund this important program.

Since then, staff has been able to make progress on two rehabilitation routes:

- 15th Avenue NE from NE 160th to NE 175th Streets
- 5th Avenue NE from NE 165th to NE 175th Streets

Both corridors serve bus routes and have significant barriers to access for people with mobility issues and other users. The primary barriers are the result of tree root damage and curb ramps that are not in compliance with ADA standards. We have scheduled construction for the 15th Avenue NE section in late 2022 and the 5th Avenue NE section for 2023. The preliminary cost estimate for both routes is \$2,300,000.

### 2018 Voter-Approved New Sidewalk Program

The New Sidewalk Program has made considerable progress since 2018. Staff completed an implementation plan that will see all 12 projects completed by the end of 2028. We completed the first project, located along 1st Avenue NE between 192nd and 195th Streets, last year. The project uses pervious pavement for surface water management and includes an 11-foot sidewalk that incorporates the ability for bicyclists to use the sidewalk.

The 1st Avenue NE segment provides a direct connection to the 195th Connector pathway and completes a gap in the sidewalk network on 1st Avenue NE.

We will begin construction of the second sidewalk project, located along 5th Avenue NE, later this year. We will build sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of 5th Avenue NE, from NE 175th Street to near NE 182nd Court where it will connect to improvements completed by Sound Transit. These improvements will provide a direct connection for people moving both on bikes and walking to the new Shoreline

North/185th Link Light Rail Station. The 5th Avenue NE improvements will also act as an on-street connection for the Trail Along the Rail.

For this project, we dropped the standard five-foot amenity zone to preserve the maximum number of trees possible. With all our sidewalk projects, we work to balance the mobility needs of all users with our desire to protect trees. Shoreline is growing and will continue to grow in the coming decades. By creating denser, more walkable communities, particularly around light rail and other transit, we can better reduce our GHG emissions, which are the primary cause of climate change. In comparison with denser developments around transit, a typical existing Shoreline home produces more than three times the GHG emissions from energy use due to its larger size and lower efficiency. A typical home in east King County produces eight times the GHG emissions due to its size and higher-emissions electricity source. The energy-efficiency benefits of denser, walkable communities outweigh the GHG impacts from limited tree removal. While the City works to protect and expand our urban tree canopy, we must also consider the larger environmental and equitable benefits of denser, more walkable communities.

In 2021, we began designing the sidewalk for 20th Avenue NW. We expect construction to begin later this year. We will build the sidewalk on one side of 20th Avenue NW to connect people to Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. We will design it to a scale that provides safe facilities for users of all ages and abilities.

More information

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

## Where do your property tax dollars go?

In 2022, 61% of Shoreline property tax paid for education. The other 39% went to different jurisdictions to pay for road maintenance; mental health services; libraries; youth programs; fire and other emergency services; economic development and trade; human services; and many other areas that help build strong communities.

The 11% of your property tax that goes to the City of Shoreline provides services to the community such as police; parks and open space management; recreation programs; code enforcement; street maintenance; environmental services; human services; traffic management; and more.

When you pay your property taxes, you are making an investment in your community.

Your property tax dollar [graph]

- City operations: 11¢<sup>1</sup>
- Shoreline School District: 34¢
- State School Funding: 27¢
- King County Library System: 3¢<sup>2</sup>
- EMS – King County: 2¢
- King County: 12¢
- Port of Seattle 1¢
- Shoreline Fire District 8¢

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<sup>1</sup> The 2006 park bond levy expired at the end of 2021 and will be replaced next year with the 2022 park bond levy.

<sup>2</sup> Shoreline and Richmond Beach Libraries are part of the King County Library System

- Sound Transit (CPSRTA): 2¢

Annual property taxes for median assessed home [graph]

- Bellevue \$9,078
- Redmond \$8,628
- Woodinville \$8,116
- Bothell \$7,913
- Kenmore \$7,744
- Lake Forest Park \$7,491
- Seattle \$6,710
- Shoreline \$6,668
- Burien \$5,728
- Renton \$5,686

The median property owner in Shoreline will pay approximately \$6,668 in property taxes to all taxing jurisdictions in 2022. When compared with all median property owners in King County, Shoreline owners pay less than those in 21 of the 39 other cities.

When compared with our neighboring cities and other comparable cities in King County, Shoreline property owners pay less than those in eight of the ten.

State law provides two tax benefit programs for senior citizens and the disabled: property tax exemptions and property tax deferrals. However, many qualified seniors and disabled persons have yet to register for the exemption or deferral. We encourage our property tax owners on fixed incomes to apply for these tax relief programs. Learn more on the King County Assessor's website at [kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/TaxRelief](http://kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/TaxRelief).

## ARPA Business Support Update

The COVID-19 pandemic provoked a historic and unprecedented economic recession that caused wide-ranging harm to communities, businesses, and families. In Shoreline, economic indicators are mixed, but significant headwinds unquestionably continue to buffet our local small businesses and economy.

While we are working on several fronts to support our local business community, we know there is much more work to be done, especially for those businesses additionally disadvantaged by preexisting inequalities.

Beginning in early 2020 when it became clear local small businesses would be significantly affected by the pandemic, the City established a COVID-19 Small Business Response Team. This interdisciplinary staff team has administered numerous measures intended to help Shoreline small businesses with the economic burdens of the pandemic and related public health measures. Some of those efforts are described below.

### Email notifications of economic relief opportunities

The City started regular email notifications with economic relief information for small businesses, which grew to more than 1,000 subscribers within the first few months of the pandemic. If you are interested in receiving these updates, you can sign up at [shorelinewa.gov/alert](http://shorelinewa.gov/alert). Click on the "COVID-19 Business Response" link.

### B&O Tax deferral

The City administered a Business and Occupation (B&O) tax deferral for businesses needing extra time to file B&O taxes due to the pandemic.

### Puget Sound Restaurant Map

We partnered with neighboring communities to develop an online “Puget Sound Restaurant Map” and entered data for Shoreline restaurants open for business through modified COVID-safe practices such as expanded pickup and delivery services.

### Outdoor dining regulations

We developed and implemented interim outdoor dining regulations to reduce barriers to expanded outdoor dining in Shoreline. See [shorelinewa.gov/thegreatoutside](https://shorelinewa.gov/thegreatoutside) to learn more.

### Working Washington Grant

Working with the Washington State Department of Commerce, we accepted applications and reviewed them for the Working Washington Grants in its first round.

### Shoreline Small Business Support Program Grant

We developed and implemented the Shoreline Small Business Support Program (SBSP) Grant. The City of Shoreline was one of the first in the Seattle area to distribute economic aid to local businesses early in the COVID-19 pandemic using federal CARES Act dollars. The SBSP awarded \$775,490 in economic relief grants of up to \$20,000 to 45 Shoreline businesses.

### Small business outreach

In 2021, the City dedicated \$500,000 in ARPA dollars to the recovery and stabilization of small businesses. The City has contracted for business outreach with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, with the possibility of renewing annually throughout the duration of the ARPA eligibility period. Interviews with Shoreline small businesses revealed many who have a need for a deeper level of direct support and guidance.

### Small business advisory services

In 2022, the Shoreline City Council approved a new program for the Shoreline small business community. At no cost to those businesses, they will have access to expert advisory resources to aid them in their stabilization and recovery. The City will be contracting with the Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for a level of service equivalent to a full-time SBDC advisor.

Recognizing that our existing businesses are the lifeblood of our local economy, the City has committed more than \$1,275,000 to local small business recovery. However, we know the need far surpasses that amount. The City and its partners will continue to reach out to local small businesses to understand their needs, help where we can, and continue to advocate for the support we know they need.

### More information

[shorelinewa.gov/business/covid-19-business-resources](https://shorelinewa.gov/business/covid-19-business-resources)

Economic Development Manager Nathan Daum

[ndaum@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:ndaum@shorelinewa.gov)

## Outdoor seating regulations for restaurants

To help local businesses during the pandemic, City Council enacted temporary regulations to allow restaurants to seat their customers outside in private parking lots, sidewalks, and other public spaces. The City is now exploring options for permanent regulations for outdoor seating areas. The Planning Commission will be discussing outdoor seating this spring before making a recommendation to City Council later this year.

More information

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

## Economic Development Update

### Shoreline South/148th Station Area

The first project in the area next to the Shoreline South/148th Light Rail Station begins construction this year. The eight-story, 252-unit Ion Apartments project is on NE 149th Street just west of 5th Avenue NE. The development includes ground-floor commercial space. The project also takes advantage of an update to the City Code that allows projects to front directly onto light rail station property and not require setbacks as would be required with other adjacent properties. City code requires the developer to construct frontage improvements, such as sidewalks, amenity zones, bike lanes, and undergrounding power lines. These frontage improvements will encourage pedestrian and bicycle access through the area to the station. They will also provide access to the City's future 148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge linking Shoreline's Parkwood and Ridgecrest neighborhoods.

### Shoreline North/185th Station Area

Located directly next to the future Shoreline North/185th Station, Kinect Apartments is a 266-unit mixed-use project. Also using the updated City code encouraging mixed-use frontage directly onto light rail station properties, plans include two retail spaces. One will be located at the southwest corner of the building closest to the light rail station platform and the other at the southeast corner of the building on 8th Avenue NE. The developer will install frontage improvements along 8th Avenue like those described above with the project on 149th. The developer, American Property Development, expects to complete construction before the start of light rail service in 2024.

### Shoreline Place

In early 2022, construction began on two new spaces in the former Pier One building (15725 Westminster Way N) in the Shoreline Place Community Renewal Area. When complete, the renovated building will include a Chipotle Mexican Grill and a Round Table Pizza.

Shoreline Place will also begin to show signs of more significant transformation this year with Merlone Geier Partners' demolition of the former Sears Auto Center. This will allow for the clearing and grading of a future "C" Street connection across the center of Shoreline Place connecting its upper and lower areas. Under the terms of a development agreement between Merlone Geier and the City, this new street will remain privately owned and maintained; however, Merlone Geier will build it to City specifications including sidewalks and street trees and an easement for public use.

Between April and May of this year, Merlone Geier anticipates beginning construction on the first phase of its redevelopment project. Known as "Block E," they expect to complete construction by January

2023. It will include single-story retail buildings forming a new gateway at the corner of N 155th Street and Westminster Way.

Negotiations are ongoing with several restaurants, cafés, fitness studios, financial institutions, and providers of other services to locate to the new buildings. The development agreement also calls for a new public plaza to be part of Block E. Merlone Geier will also reimburse the City for part of the Westminster Way N frontage improvements and the Westminster Way N and N 155th Street intersection. The City proactively completed this work ahead of the redevelopment to take advantage of construction timing of the 330-unit Trammel Crow Residential project, “The Current,” completed in 2021.

More information

Economic Development Program Manager Nathan Daum

[ndaum@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:ndaum@shorelinewa.gov)

## Salmon Safe lawn care

Lawns in western Washington don’t need extra watering throughout the summer to survive – they just need you to water wisely. If your lawn looks a little yellow in the summer, don’t worry – it isn’t dead, it’s just hibernating. When temperatures cool and rain returns in the fall, lawns snap back to a green shade. Excessive watering not only wastes water but can cause water to flow from lawns to the road and, along the way, pick up pollutants like fertilizers, herbicides, pet waste, and car leaks. Water in the road flows into storm drains, which flow directly into streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.

Follow these tips for a healthy and environmentally friendly lawn year-round.

- During the warm months, water deeply once a week. Aim for about 1 inch of water. You can test by using a tuna can to measure the water.
- Water in the early morning or the evening to avoid losing water to evaporation.
- Mow high, mow regularly, and leave the grass clippings on the lawn (a natural fertilizer.)
- Avoid using chemical fertilizers or weed and feed – instead, lay compost on lawns in the fall. Using chemical products in the heat of summer can sometimes burn grass.

More information

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

## Shoreline Celebrates Earth Day

On Monday, April 18, Council joins communities around the world in recognizing April 22 as Earth Day. This Earth Day, we invite you to celebrate and help care for the natural systems we live in and that sustain us. One of the main challenges facing our planet is the climate crisis, which threatens our ecosystems as well as our health, our infrastructure, and our quality of life.

The Shoreline community has been a leader in working to address climate change for over a decade. We completed our first Climate Action Plan in 2013 and have completed many of the recommendations in that plan. We worked to ensure new development is highly energy efficient, protects water quality, and is built in walkable centers with access to transit. Last fall, we updated our building energy code to further reduce climate pollution from new, large buildings. In the community, we’ve seen increased

composting and recycling rates and growing participation in grassroots efforts like NorthWest SolarFest, student climate marches, and the Shoreline Climate Challenge.

Through these actions, we have made progress in reducing Shoreline's overall climate footprint by 5% despite a growing population. However, we are not on track to meet our climate goals. We need to significantly reduce our community-wide climate pollution over the next decade to avoid the worst consequences of a climate breakdown.

This year, we are updating our Climate Action Plan to help identify the most impactful actions the City can take to address climate change and protect our community from impacts like extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and flooding. We are looking for community feedback to ensure the actions we take to address climate change benefit everyone in Shoreline.

More information

See how we are working to address climate change and take our brief survey at [shorelinewa.gov/climate](https://shorelinewa.gov/climate).

Find ways you can reduce your individual climate impact at [shorelineclimatechallenge.org](https://shorelineclimatechallenge.org).

## Climate Action Tip

Want to help the planet this Earth Day? One of the simplest and most impactful ways you can help protect the planet is to waste less food. Globally, an estimated 30-40% of all food produced for human consumption isn't eaten – an amount equal to 2,860 curbside bins of food wasted each second! All of this wasted food is a major contributor to climate change, leads to deforestation, and wastes a significant amount of energy, water, and labor.

Wasting less food starts with shopping smart. Before you head out to the store, do an inventory of your fridge and pantry to avoid buying things you already have. Then make a list and stick to it once you're in the store.

For more tips and tricks on how to waste less food and lower your climate impact, visit [shorelineclimatechallenge.org](https://shorelineclimatechallenge.org).

## Shoreline Police welcome our new captain

Earlier this year, we welcomed Kelly Park as the new Captain for the Shoreline Police Department. Captain Park has been with the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) for 20 years. Prior to being appointed Shoreline's Captain, she served as captain in KCSO's Southwest Precinct and with Sound Transit. She also served as the Internal Investigations Commander for KCSO.

While serving as captain is a new role for her in Shoreline, it isn't her first assignment with Shoreline Police. She has previously served a total of five and a half years in Shoreline, including as a trainer, patrol deputy, and sergeant.

Captain Park has a passion for and extensive experience with training other officers. Training is something she takes to naturally coming from a family of educators. While Captain Park loves her job and serving the Shoreline community, her number one priority is her family. She is the proud mother of two.

We are happy to have Captain Park back in Shoreline and serving our community!

## Your dedicated streets crew at work

Have you ever thought about what it takes to maintain a City street? Have you noticed the number of street signs, guardrails, or pavement markings there are in Shoreline? Every time you drive, ride by, or take a walk along a Shoreline street you are enjoying the hard work of Shoreline's streets crew.

The crew consists of ten fulltime maintenance employees and one supervisor. They are responsible for maintaining roughly 343 lane miles of city streets. No job is ever the same. On-call throughout the year, they are often called out after hours in all kinds of weather to respond to emergencies. These incidents often include helping the police and fire departments with temporary street closures and setting up detours.

During routine day-to-day maintenance operations, the crew performs a wide variety of tasks including installing new or replacing damaged curbs, gutters, and street signs; sweeping streets; repairing sidewalks; patching and repairing potholes; and many other jobs that require specialized heavy equipment. In addition, crew members respond to resident requests for other public right-of-way services like vegetation removal to improve traffic sightlines, illegal dumping removal, fencing repairs, and graffiti abatement on City maintained infrastructure.

Our streets crew are also responsible for repairing and helping maintain our storm drainage system, which can include catch basin repair or replacement, ditching and shoulder maintenance. The crew also performs crack seal treatments on streets scheduled for chip seal treatments and dig out and repair of failing asphalt on streets scheduled for asphalt overlay.

When it snows, the streets crew often work 12-hour shifts. Each member is assigned to a truck for plowing and de-icing Shoreline streets. The crew plows primary routes to keep these streets open to provide basic transportation capabilities and for public safety lifeline routes. Once the snow has stopped, they move onto the secondary routes and then residential streets.

Street signs are also part of the crew's responsibilities. They maintain over 10,700 existing signs within Shoreline and install new signs when needed. Maintaining signs includes cleaning the sign front, trimming vegetation back around the sign, replacing rotted wooden posts, and replacing signs when they are knocked over or damaged.

Our streets crew works tirelessly every day to ensure our roads and rights of way are safe and well maintained.

More information

Public Works Maintenance Superintendent David LaBelle  
[dlabelle@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dlabelle@shorelinewa.gov), 206-801-2441

## Green Shoreline Restoration Events

Help restore and maintain our forested parks and natural areas at a Green Shoreline Partnership event!

Healthy forested parks and green spaces have the power to strengthen neighborhoods, provide safe access to nature, and offer many valuable benefits to the environment.



The Green Shoreline Partnership is a collaborative effort between the City, Forterra, King Conservation District, other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local businesses, and the Shoreline community at large.

To ensure the safety of all who participate, volunteers must show proof of vaccination.

[shoreline.greencitypartnerships.org/event/calendar/](https://shoreline.greencitypartnerships.org/event/calendar/)

## Contact your Shoreline City Council

- Mayor Keith Scully, 206-801-2202, [kscully@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:kscully@shorelinewa.gov)
- Deputy Mayor Betsy Roberston, 206-396-5807, [brobertson@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:brobertson@shorelinewa.gov)
- Doris Fujioka McConnell, 206-801-2204, [dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov)
- Laura Mork, 206-801-2207, [lmork@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:lmork@shorelinewa.gov)
- Eben Pobe, 206-801-2201, [epobe@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:epobe@shorelinewa.gov)
- John Ramsdell, 206-330-3948, [jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov)
- Chris Roberts, 206-391-2733, [croberts@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:croberts@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)