

Currents – News from the City of Shoreline

September 2022 – Volume 24 No. 7

City Council adopts resolution placing levy lid lift on November ballot

On July 18, the Shoreline City Council adopted Resolution No. 492, which places a levy lid lift on the November 8 general election ballot. If approved by Shoreline voters, Proposition 1 would maintain current levels of police and community safety services, including neighborhood safety patrols; traffic enforcement in school zones and neighborhoods; and community crime prevention programs. It would also enhance the RADAR Program by adding mental health professional teams to provide 24/7 response with police to community members in behavioral health crisis. Proposition 1 would also preserve safe, well-maintained, and accessible parks and trails; playgrounds and play equipment that meet safety standards; playfields and restrooms; and preserve recreation programs for youth, adults, families, and seniors. Proposition 1 would continue funding for community services for seniors, youth, and individuals and families in need, including homelessness response services. The levy would also sustain the City's code enforcement and customer response programs.

The City collects its operating revenue from several sources, with 28.3% coming from property tax. Washington State is one of two states that uses a levy-based property tax system, which allows a taxing district to collect a specified total dollar amount (the levy) per year. State law limits levy increases to 1% per year. The exception to this rule is the levy lid lift. It allows taxing jurisdictions to go to the voters to ask that the levy rate be increased (lid lift) to an amount equal to or less than the statutory maximum tax rate (\$1.60). Proposition 1 will ask voters to approve a tax levy rate of \$1.39, below the statutory maximum tax rate of \$1.60.

Historically, the consumer price index (CPI), which measures inflation, has usually risen at rates higher than 1%. For example, over the past five years, the average CPI for the Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue region has been 4%. Some major city expenses, such as our contract for police services and the cost of road maintenance supplies, such as asphalt, often increase at rates higher than CPI. Because the City must pass a balanced budget, we must absorb any cost increases, which typically means providing lower levels of service. This year's CPI for the Seattle, Tacoma, and Bellevue region is 10.14%.

In 2010 and 2016, Shoreline voters approved six-year maintenance and operations levies to help fund basic public safety, parks and recreation, and community services. The 2016 levy will expire on December 31 of this year. The proposed maintenance and operations levy would replace the expiring 2016 levy. The City's 10-Year Forecast projects that without replacing these funds, revenues will not be adequate to support the costs of current service levels. If Shoreline voters approve Proposition 1, a homeowner with a median home value (in 2023 estimated to be \$731,300) would pay an average of \$30 more per month over the six-year levy to maintain the above services.

Property tax assistance

Senior citizens or persons with disabilities may qualify for tax exemptions or tax deferrals. Contact the King County Assessor's Office at 206-296-3920 or kingcounty.gov/assessor for information.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/prop1

Council declares a climate emergency

On August 15, Council passed Resolution 494 declaring a climate emergency and directing the City to take accelerated and comprehensive action to address the climate crisis. With this resolution, the City formally recognizes human-caused climate change as a major threat to the health, safety, and welfare of our community and of communities and ecosystems around the world.

Climate change is already significantly affecting communities around the world, including Shoreline. In the Puget Sound region, we are experiencing more extreme heat events, unhealthy air quality from more frequent wildfire smoke, and increased flood risk from heavier rainstorms. Recent scientific consensus finds that these and other impacts of climate change are accelerating and will continue to get worse if we don't act to quickly reduce climate pollution.

In October 2021, Council joined the Cities Race to Zero, an initiative of over 1,100 cities around the world who have committed to reduce climate pollution to the level needed to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius to prevent the worst impacts of climate change. Through the Cities Race to Zero, Shoreline received and committed to updated science-based targets that reflect the amount of climate pollution we need to reduce to do our part of achieving the 1.5-degree limit. Resolution 494 directs the City to take the necessary actions needed to reduce climate pollution to meet our updated targets. This means reducing climate pollution from the Shoreline community to 60% below 2019 levels by 2030 and achieving 'net-zero' climate emissions no later than 2050.

Shoreline has been working to create an environmentally sustainable community and to reduce climate pollution for more than a decade. We completed our first Climate Action Plan in 2013 and since then have implemented many of the recommendations in that plan. Due to these and other actions, climate pollution from the Shoreline community has decreased 5% since 2009 despite a growing population.

While this is good progress, we are not reducing climate pollution quickly enough to meet our updated science-based targets. Currently, most of Shoreline's climate pollution comes from fuel used for driving and natural gas or heating oil used for heating homes and buildings. Over the past year, staff have been working on updating Shoreline's Climate Action Plan to find the most impactful actions the City can take to reduce climate pollution and protect Shoreline from the impacts of climate change.

Shoreline also takes part in the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration – or "K4C" – a group of 20 cities and the Port of Seattle who work together on regional solutions to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions such as sustainably increasing mobility; investing in renewable energy; promoting clean energy use in buildings and vehicles; and expanding farm and forest protection.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/climate

Community Court and Resource Center Call for Volunteers

The City and King County District Court are seeking volunteers to help with Shoreline's Community Court and Resource Center. The success of this program depends on the hard work of community volunteers.

Volunteers help set-up and take-down the court and the resource center; greet people; help connect people with service providers; and answer questions. If you would like to volunteer, contact King County District Court Community Court Coordinator Karra Wilson at karwilson@kingcounty.gov or 206-296-0594.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/communitycourt

Stretching Shoreline taxpayer money with grants

According to the latest census update, Shoreline's population has topped 60,000, and we can expect the figure to keep trending upward as new urban neighborhoods spring up around our two light rail stations. It is exciting to think of how these new communities will help support the region's efforts to address the housing crisis by bringing thousands of new units online, including hundreds of affordable ones, as well as advance our fight against climate change through stricter green building codes and by making cars less necessary for many households. But at the same time, this growth poses a challenge for the City. As a medium-sized city, how do we build the infrastructure necessary to support this growth? Much of it comes from the new developments themselves through taxes and transportation impact fees. But we also work to bring Shoreline taxpayer money back to Shoreline through regional, state, and federal grants.

Long-time Shoreline residents might remember the multi-year effort to rebuild the Aurora Avenue corridor, which relied on dozens of regional, state, and federal grants to carry that project through to completion. More recently, success in securing grant funding for the proposed 148th Street Non-Motorized Bridge illustrates this critical strategy. With a price tag of nearly \$38 million, this bridge will cross I-5 at N 148th Street. It will connect the growing neighborhood on the west side of I-5 directly to the light rail station, bringing 70+ acres of the new community into walking distance of the region's multi-billion-dollar mass transit system.

Prior to 2022, the City had already raised approximately \$11 million dollars, from partners such as Sound Transit and King County, as well as the federal government. This year, Shoreline has secured \$5.4 million more in federal dollars, as well as \$7 million in state dollars from the latest statewide transportation package—Move Ahead Washington. More work remains, but the City continues to explore every possible partnership for this important community investment.

Will there be Shoreline dollars invested in the project as well? Yes. However, Shoreline's ultimate contribution will be far smaller than the grant funding already in place. The City is leaving no stone unturned in its effort to stretch local dollars as far as they can go by using grant funds to bring state and federal taxes back to Shoreline.

Grant funding provided approximately 89% of funding for the Aurora Corridor Project. Grant funds have helped renovate Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, construct the Interurban Trail, and buy the South Woods property. Since 2004, the City has received over \$160 million in federal, state, and local grant funding.

To learn more about the 148th bridge, see drawings and dive into financial details, go to:

shorelinewa.gov/148thbridge.

Budget Schedule Before Council: Proposed 2023-2024 Biennial Budget and 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The City Manager will present her Proposed 2023-2024 Biennial Budget to the City Council on October 10.

The Council meeting schedule for the budget process is in the table to the right. The public is encouraged to participate. All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in a hybrid format with both in-person at City Hall and online attendance via Zoom allowed.

Preliminary View	September 19
Presentation of City Manager's Proposed Budget and CIP	October 10
Department Presentations	October 17
Continued Department Presentations and discussion	October 24
(First) Public Hearing with Special Emphasis on 2021 Regular and Excess Property Tax Levies, (Second) Public Hearing on Budget and CIP	November 7
(Third) Public	November 14
Adoption of Budget, CIP, fee schedules, salary schedules, and regular and excess property tax levies	November 21

More information
shorelinewa.gov/budget

Annual Police Services Report

EVERY YEAR, Shoreline Police provide the community with an Annual Police Service Report. The report tracks crime data; service efforts and accomplishments; crime trends; and budget information. Interim Police Chief Ryan Abbott presented the 2021 Report to the City Council on August 8. While the data shows there has been an uptick in crime, this is not unique to Shoreline. Across the region and the country, we have seen increases in crime, particularly property crimes. However, it is important to note that even with these increases in crime, Shoreline continues to be a safe place, with a low overall crime rate.

Crime data

Crime data falls into three categories: Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society.

Crimes Against Society include such things as illegal drug activity, prostitution related offenses, and weapon law violations. We saw a significant drop in drug offenses between 2020 and 2021; however,

this is primarily due to new legislation that significantly limits when police can arrest someone for a drug offense.

Crimes Against Society	2019	2022
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	141	46
Prostitution Offenses	6	6
Weapon Law Violations	21	26

Crimes Against Property includes such things as robbery, fraud, burglary, shoplifting, and vandalism. While we have seen significant increases in some of these crimes, particularly around vandalism (150% increase from 2019) and motor vehicle theft (75% increase from 2019), the actual numbers continue to remain low for a city our size.

Crimes Against Property	2019	2022
Commercial Burglary	112	188
Residential Burglary	120	150
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	179	450
Motor Vehicle Theft	145	254

Crimes Against Persons offenses include such things as murder, assault, and sex offenses. Over the past three years, we have seen a slight increase in these types of crimes.

Crimes Against Persons	2019	2022
Aggravated Assault Offenses	51	61
Simple Assault	190	200
Intimidation Offenses	85	81

Aggravated Assault Offenses – An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury.

Simple Assault – An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon, nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury.

Intimidation Offenses – To unlawfully place another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words and/or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the victim to actual physical attack.

Calls for service and police-initiated contacts

In 2021, Shoreline Police responded to 14,575 Dispatched Calls for Service (911 calls) and made 8,855 contacts on their own, for a total of 23,430 police related contacts. While there had been a steady increase in calls for service since 2010, 2019 was the first year that calls had decreased. That trend has continued. Calls for services in 2021 were down 12% from 2018.

Arrests

Shoreline Police made 748 arrests in 2021. That was a 36% decrease from 2019. We can partly attribute this to the new drug offense law that took affect in May of 2021. Police can no longer make an arrest for

the use and/or possession of illegal narcotics unless the subject has had two prior contacts with law enforcement for drug use or possession and treatment referrals were made in both cases.

Traffic Enforcement

Due to the number of officer vacancies within the Department, Shoreline Police had to reassign the Traffic Unit to patrol. Shoreline Police have been prioritizing 911 calls over traffic enforcement. Traffic citations issued decreased from 1,347 in 2020 to 408 in 2021. Shoreline Police have 51 commissioned officers assigned to the City. However, as of July of this year, 12 of those positions were unfilled. The King County Sheriff's Office is experiencing the same issues around recruitment that police forces are experiencing across the country.

Hate Crimes

Hate crimes are considered a crime against a person. Shoreline saw a slight decrease in the number of hate crimes in 2021 to a total of nine as compared to eleven in 2020. A hate crime is a criminal offense that is motivated, in whole or in part, by the offender's bias(es) against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.

Use of Force

In 2021, Shoreline Police had 23,430 contacts and made 748 arrests. Out of these contacts, force, or a report of force, was used in ten incidents. This equates to 0.043% of Police contacts. Pointing a firearm is considered a use of force, as is handcuffing someone if there is a complaint of pain. A taser application and any contact that results in a complaint of pain or injury is reported as a use of force.

TMP Update: Comment on the Transportation Element

The City is currently updating the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and Transportation Element (TE) to better serve the community's current and future transportation needs. The TE is part of the Shoreline Comprehensive Plan and sets the vision, goals, and policies to guide transportation investments over the next 20 years. The TMP is a strategic document that provides the level of detail to implement the TE vision, goals, and policies. The current project schedule has adoption of the TE update by the end of 2022 and finalization of the TMP update in early 2023.

One requirement for the TE update is a list of priority projects, which the City could realistically construct in the next 20 years. In preparation for this, the City conducted Outreach Series 3 last spring to get public feedback on the draft Pedestrian, Bicycle, Transit, Shared-use Mobility Hub, and Automobile Plans and hear priorities for developing a project list. Visit the project webpage at shorelinewa.gov/tmp to read the Outreach Series 3 Summary Report.

The draft TE update will have a Public Hearing on September 15, 2022. This draft TE update will have the City's transportation vision, goals, and modal plans. It will also include the project prioritization process and a financially constrained list of draft priority projects. If you would like to comment on this, please visit the project webpage at shorelinewa.gov/tmp.

MORE INFORMATION

shorelinewa.gov/tmp

Transportation Services Manager Nytasha Walters
<mailto:nwalters@shorelinewa.gov>, 206-801-2481

Parks Bond Projects Update

We are happy to announce some exciting developments with the Parks Bond Project. We have hired an internal project manager, Jacob Bilbo, who will handle overseeing the project. The City also recently selected FORMA as the Progressive Design Build team that will conduct the design and construction of the park improvements. The Project officially kicked off at the end of July, and, over the next six months, FORMA will be working with us to design and plan park improvements. FORMA will base their work on the conceptual designs developed through the public process we conducted prior to the February 2022 bond measure.

We expect construction to begin in the summer/fall of 2023 with completion in fall 2024.

More information

shorelinewa.gov/parkbond

Project Manager Jacob Bilbo

<mailto:jbilbo@shorelinewa.gov>, 206-801-2358

Climate Action Tip

Are you looking for a safe, fun, cool way to grill up your favorite summer meals? Consider an electric grill! Unlike the more traditional charcoal and gas options, electric grills use renewable electricity for cooking all your beloved summertime staples – burgers, hotdogs, veggies, you name it! Worried you'll miss out on those oh-so-delectable grill marks? Don't fret. Electric grills create the same recognizable char without the hassle of filling up a propane tank or struggling to light charcoal. They also emit less heat, so you can keep cool while cooking. Simply plug into a standard three-pronged outlet, "fire it up," and you are on your way to a cheap, clean, cool BBQ meal. Bonus! Electric grills are an excellent choice for any urban grillers living in areas with gas or charcoal grill restrictions.

Learn other tips to save money, reduce your energy impact, and ensure a healthy future for our community at ShorelineClimateChallenge.org.

Back to School Safety Tips

Please be careful on the roads and keep everyone safe this school year!

DRIVERS

More children are hit by cars near schools than at any other location. Please pay close attention in school zones and use extreme caution around pedestrians. Be aware, be safe, buckle up, and slow down.

KIDS

Remember to cross only at crosswalks and look both ways before crossing. Never walk while using your phone or headphones. Be aware of your surroundings.

Most of all - have a great school year!

Meridian Ave N Safety Improvements

Online presentation

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The City of Shoreline would like to hear from you! As we prepare to make safety improvements on Meridian Avenue N, we want your input with a short survey on lane configuration and pedestrian and bicycle enhancements.

In addition, we invite you to attend an online presentation to learn more about the project, view the latest design, and provide feedback. The online presentation will be held on September 14, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, the survey link, and to register for the online presentation, visit:

shorelinewa.gov/MeridianAve.

September is “Puget Sound Starts Here” Month!

Join the Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) campaign in Shoreline to increase awareness of Puget Sound’s pollution problem. The City works with organizations across the Sound to spread awareness and highlight everyday actions people and businesses can take to help be a part of the solution.

We say Puget Sound Starts Here because everyday pollutants from our neighborhoods, streets, and parks flow through storm drains to nearby lakes, streams, and creeks, which ultimately flow into Puget Sound.

If we work together to make small changes, we can in fact make a big difference in reducing Puget Sound’s water pollution. The City has many programs and resources to support these efforts. To learn more about these practices, visit: shorelinewa.gov/our-city/environment.

Ways to act:

- Bring out your PNW side by adding a rain garden or native plant garden beds. Rebates are available through the City’s Soak It Up program.
- Use Natural Yard Care methods instead of garden chemicals. Recorded workshops using these principals are available to watch on the City’s website.
- Join Shoreline’s Adopt-A-Drain team! Commit to keeping a storm drain in your neighborhood clear of leaves and debris.
- Report spills and illegal dumping to 206-801-2700.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash or wash it on the lawn – never let soapy water, even biodegradable soap, go into storm drains.
- Pick up pet waste every time, even in your backyard. Scoop, bag, and throw it in the trash.

To learn more about PSSH month, visit PugetSoundStartsHere.org or follow Puget Sound Starts Here on Facebook or Instagram!

Join us! Shoreline Music Celebration

What do Pearl Jam, Macklemore, Dave Matthews, Foo Fighters, Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, Brandi Carlile, and Nirvana all have in common? They’ve all recorded music in Shoreline. Music that’s heard around the world daily, all created here. Businesses including London Bridge Studios and Robert Lang

Studios have been drawing musicians north for years to record in their amazing rooms with their talented engineers and producers. And now, so are our music venues.

Established music venues like North City Bistro and Darrell's Tavern have in just the past few years been joined by new venues Aurora Borealis, The Drumlin, and The Hidden Door, which are all presenting live music on a regular basis and drawing audiences from their surrounding neighborhoods and beyond. In this way, Shoreline plays a vital role as an incubator within this world-famous region of music. Musicians don't just start off at Climate Pledge Arena—small, local venues showcase tomorrow's hit artists and Shoreline's growing number of stages speaks well for the future of music in our city and beyond.

To help promote and support the local live-music industry's recovery from the economic impacts of the pandemic, on Saturday September 17, the Shoreline Music Celebration will present a night of free music for the community (21+). Featuring performances by artists like Sera Cahoone, The Marshall Law Band, The Moondoggies, Wild Powwers, and others. Attendees will get a chance to sample our area's music venues as well as some of the popular new music being produced in our region.

Produced by local non-profit Black Fret with support from the City, The Recording Academy, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, Port of Seattle, King County, The Washington State Department of Commerce, and KEXP, we envision the Shoreline Music Celebration to evolve into an annual event highlighting music, venues, and the vital role of the community in the history of Northwest music.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the City's events calendar at shorelinewa.gov/calendar

Welcoming Week

Welcoming Week, a national initiative of Welcoming America, is September 9 through 18. The purpose is to promote community building efforts so that all people feel a sense of belonging. The 2022 Welcoming Week theme of "Where We Belong", encourages people to reflect on where they feel a sense of belonging and how they can foster that feeling for others. The City, local community organizations, and residents will be partnering to offer virtual and in-person events and trainings in recognition of Welcoming Week. For more information, go to the calendar at shorelinewa.gov, email welcomingplace@shorelinewa.gov, or call 206-801-2556.

In January 2017, the Shoreline City Council adopted Resolution 401 declaring Shoreline to be an inviting, equitable, and safe community for all. It also prohibited inquiries related to immigration status. On November 30, 2020, Shoreline City Council adopted Resolution 467, which stated the City's commitment to building an anti-racist community through addressing the ways racism is maintained through beliefs, behaviors, and policies. The City Council passed these resolutions to emphasize the values that the City strives to uphold in serving the Shoreline community. The goal of building inclusive and anti-racist communities is a continuous process and most effective when done in partnership with community members to ensure accountability. We encourage community members to take part and engage with the City in building a welcoming place for all.

Glassblowing Comes to Shoreline

Saturday, Oct. 15, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Cafe Aroma, 506 NE 165th Street

Artist Dan Friday (Lummi) will be glassblowing live in Shoreline as part of REFRACT: The Seattle Glass Experience, a multi-day, regional festival celebrating the Pacific Northwest's reputation as an international destination for glass.

Watch as Dan Friday sculpts molten hot glass into something beautiful. Listen to the on-site host narrate the presentation and share the secrets of glassmaking. Win fun prizes as you answer glass trivia questions. Vote with your fellow audience members on color and design choices! Learn more about Dan's inspirations as he creates his next public art project with the audience.

Dan Friday is an artist, glassblower of 25+ years, and recently seen on Season 3 of Netflix's 'Blown Away' Television series. As a key contributor to the Studio Glass Movement, Friday spent years working for trailblazing artists such as Dale Chihuly, Paul Marioni, and Preston Singletary. Friday has taught glassblowing classes at the University of Washington, Pilchuck Glass School, and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.

This free outdoor event has timed ticketing to ensure safe viewing. We encourage you to make advance ticket reservations. Open to all ages. ADA Accessible. Rain or shine.

Funding for this event is made possible by a generous Creative Economy grant from Port of Seattle and the City of Shoreline.

MORE INFORMATION

Reserve Your Free Ticket on Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/DanFriday>
refractseattle.org
shorelinewa.gov/art

Contact your Shoreline City Council

- Mayor Keith Scully, 206-801-2202, kscully@shorelinewa.gov
- Deputy Mayor Betsy Roberston, 206-396-5807, brobertson@shorelinewa.gov
- Doris Fujioka McConnell, 206-801-2204, dmccconnell@shorelinewa.gov
- Laura Mork, 206-801-2207, lmork@shorelinewa.gov
- Eben Pobee, 206-801-2201, epobee@shorelinewa.gov
- John Ramsdell, 206-330-3948, jramsdell@shorelinewa.gov
- Chris Roberts, 206-391-2733, croberts@shorelinewa.gov
- Contact all Councilmembers, (206) 801-2213, council@shorelinewa.gov

City Council Meetings

Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid meetings in-person and online via Zoom

City Hall Council Chambers, 17500 Midvale Avenue N

Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings