



# CURRENTS

News from the City of Shoreline

Volume 26 No. 2

March-April 2024

## Construction begins on 145<sup>th</sup> Street project

### Six-month closure begins April 1

Beginning April 1, N 145<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE and I-5. The closure will allow our partners to complete multiple, complex utility relocations, while reducing the time needed to complete the entire project. The I-5 interchange will remain open during construction.

If you are a frequent user of the 145<sup>th</sup> corridor, we advise you to plan for additional travel time and use alternate routes during this period. We anticipate the closure lasting until the fall of 2024.

Unfortunately, there's no way around it; construction on a major corridor like 145<sup>th</sup> is a significant disruption. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to enhance the safety and efficiency of our transportation infrastructure. A 24/7 hotline is available for people to call with questions or concerns: 206-899-5127. You can also email the project team at [145thProject@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:145thProject@shorelinewa.gov).

### Detour routes

The primary detour routes when heading east and west will be on N 155<sup>th</sup> and N 130<sup>th</sup> Streets. There will be no impacts to traffic travelling north and south on Meridian, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Visit [engage.shorelinewa.gov](http://engage.shorelinewa.gov) for a detour map.

### Tree removal

Around the same time as the beginning of the closure of 145<sup>th</sup>, contractors will begin removing trees in the project area. We have designed these projects to affect as few trees as possible. However, the project involves widening the footprint of 145<sup>th</sup> Street, which will require the removal of a significant number of trees. We will plant new trees once the project is complete.

### Stay engaged

We will post regular updates about the project to our Engage Shoreline website and provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

### MORE INFORMATION

#### Questions & concerns:

24/7 hotline: 206-899-5127

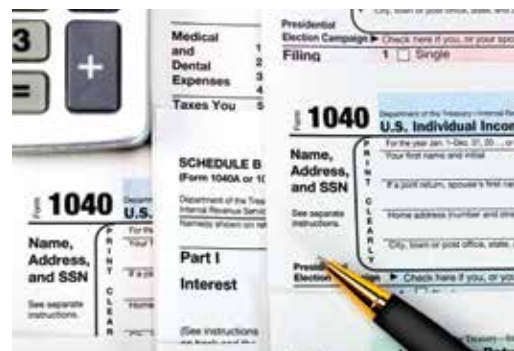
Email: [145thProject@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:145thProject@shorelinewa.gov)

Project information: [engage.shorelinewa.gov/145corridor](http://engage.shorelinewa.gov/145corridor)



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**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:**  
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.  
Hybrid meetings: City Hall Council Chambers/online  
Agendas: shorelinewa.gov/councilmeetings



## Senator Patty Murray celebrates Shoreline's \$20 million RAISE grant for projects around 145<sup>th</sup> Corridor

On February 14, U.S. Senator Patty Murray returned to Shoreline to help us celebrate the \$20 million RAISE grant we received for projects around the 145<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, including the 148<sup>th</sup> Non-motorized Bridge project.

Shoreline Mayor Chris Roberts and Shoreline Deputy Mayor Laura Mork joined Senator Murray and King County Executive Dow Constantine for a tour of the Shoreline South/148<sup>th</sup> Street Station. This gave the Senator an opportunity to see where the 148<sup>th</sup> non-motorized bridge will connect the neighborhood on the west side of I-5 directly with the station.

The \$20 million RAISE grant will allow us to complete several vital transportation projects connected to the opening of light rail. We will be able to complete the transformation of the 145<sup>th</sup> Corridor from the Interurban Trail to I-5; complete funding for the bicycle/pedestrian bridge across I-5 at 148<sup>th</sup> Street connecting directly to the new light rail station; and establish a west-side network of safer bike routes. The grant will enable the City to complete all this work by the end of 2027, as the new urban center rises around light rail.

With light rail slated to open in 2024, and thousands of new townhouses and apartments being built around the Shoreline South/148<sup>th</sup> Street Station, there will be many more individuals who need to use this corridor to access the regional transit system. Creating a safe transportation network that also allows people to walk or bike away from automobile traffic will play an important role in ensuring that the new transit-oriented neighborhood is a welcoming and livable one.

Bringing federal, state, and regional tax dollars back to Shoreline has enabled the City to complete many important transportation projects that we would not be able to complete if we just relied on local revenue. We have always made seeking grant funding a priority, and it has paid off. We will continue to do this in the future.

# Human Services Strategic Plan

Since its incorporation, the City has allocated funding to support human services agencies serving the Shoreline community. We provide this financial assistance using a competitive funding process as well as through direct contracting. We provide funding to agencies, such as the Center for Human Services and Hopelink, that serve Shoreline residents with behavioral health, food, and financial assistance.

The City conducts a resident satisfaction survey every two years. In the past two surveys, 2020 and 2022, residents have said the three city services that should get the most emphasis over the next two years are the overall response to homelessness; the overall quality of police services; and the overall quality of human services.

To be more responsive to community needs, the City Council approved one-time funds in the 2023-2024 biennial budget to create a comprehensive Human Services Strategic Plan. We have tasked BERK Consulting with gathering information and feedback to develop recommendations.

The primary objectives of the Human Services Strategic Plan are as follows:

- Review established data and information to prioritize service areas and identify gaps.
- Review City programs, policies, staffing, and best practices to make recommendations that will guide the work of the City.
- Identify policy and program opportunities to promote equity and inclusion and build on community strengths.
- Provide a rationale for an appropriate level of funding required to have the impact in the areas that the plan prioritizes.

At the January 8 City Council meeting, City staff and staff from BERK shared an update on the development of the plan, engagement feedback received so far, and the proposed plan review and adoption schedule. BERK found that the top feedback from the Shoreline community revolved around housing and homelessness; mental and behavioral health; and basic needs, including food assistance. Other major themes included the challenges navigating systems and the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff brought five recommendations to the City Council on February 26.

- Update human service priorities justified by current needs and develop target metrics.
- Increase contract services funding with a focus on equity, priority areas, and outcome metrics.
- Explore or pilot innovative human service programs and connect human services to housing strategies.
- Increase administrative staffing levels.
- Maintain or increase community support specialists.
- Identify additional funding sources.

The City Council is scheduled for a final review and approval of the Human Services Strategic Plan on April 1.

## MORE INFORMATION

**Community Services Manager Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn**  
[bwolbrec@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:bwolbrec@shorelinewa.gov)  
206-801-2331

# City Council and Leadership Team hold annual Strategic Planning Workshop

On March 1 and 2, the City Council will hold their annual Strategic Planning Workshop with the City's Leadership Team. The purpose of the workshop is to monitor the City's progress from its current workplan and determine priorities and action steps for the Council's 2024-2026 goals and workplan. The Citywide workplan acts as a guide for fulfilling the community's vision. City departments determine their workplans based on what is in the Citywide workplan; in the City's budget and capital improvement plan; and through special initiatives.

For this year's goal setting workshop, Council will review the 10-year Financial Sustainability Model; the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update with a focus on housing and economic development elements; implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan; trade-offs between improvements to our transportation infrastructure and housing and tree preservation; asset management; and opportunities for an aquatics facility.



**145<sup>th</sup> Corridor and I-5 Interchange  
Project Update**  
**Wednesday, April 3, 2024**  
**7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

After many years of planning, construction has begun on the 145<sup>th</sup> Corridor Project. Join the project team to learn more about the construction schedule, roundabouts coming to the I-5 interchange, and the benefits this project will bring to the region.

Hybrid presentation: in-person in Council Chambers at Shoreline City Hall, and online. Find the zoom link at [shorelinewa.gov/citylearn](https://shorelinewa.gov/citylearn).

# TAX CREDITS AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

## Utility Assistance Programs

### Electric, Water, and Garbage/Recycling Service

The Utility Discount Program helps income qualified Seattle City Light customers lower their electric bills by 60%. Seattle Public Utilities customers will also receive 50% off their water bills if enrolled in this program. You may be eligible if you are a Seattle City Light customer and meet income eligibility requirements. Call 206-684-0268 or go to the Utility Discount Program webpage for more information.

Qualifying Recology and Puget Sound Energy (PSE) customers may be eligible for exemption from the City's utility tax on these services. For more information, please call the City at 206-801-2302.

### Low Income Utility Assistance

The City provides \$25,000 in annual funding to Hopelink for utility assistance for low-income individuals. Persons seeking to apply for assistance should contact Hopelink at 206-440-7300.

### North City Water District

The North City Water District provides a low-income discount for those households that have income within the "very-low income" limits set by HUD for the Seattle area. The discount is 50% of the base charge for single family customers. In addition, they have implemented several programs to assist customers financially impacted by COVID-19. For more information, visit [northcitywater.org](http://northcitywater.org) or call 206-362-8100.

### Wastewater Service

Qualifying senior citizens (62 years of age or older) and persons with disabilities receive reduced rates from the City of Shoreline Wastewater District. The qualifying income levels correspond with the limits by HUD for "very-low income" for the Seattle area. For more information, please call 206-546-2494.

### MORE INFORMATION

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

## Property Tax Exemptions & Deferrals

If you are a senior, a person with a disability, a disabled veteran, or a homeowner with limited income and your primary residence is in Washington State, there are several programs that may help you pay your property taxes and/or special assessments. Your household income, age, and disability help determine your eligibility for these programs.

### Property Tax Exemption Program

Under the exemption program, the value of your Washington State residence is frozen for property tax purposes, and you become exempt from all excess and special levies and possibly regular levies - resulting in a reduction in your property taxes.

### Property Tax Deferral Program

Under the deferral program, the Washington State Department of Revenue pays the property taxes and/or special assessments on your behalf. The deferred amount, plus interest, becomes a lien in favor of the state until the total amount is repaid.

### Property Tax Deferral Program for Homeowners with Limited Income

Under this deferral program, the Washington State Department of Revenue pays the second installment of your property taxes and/or special assessments, due October 31, on your behalf. The program is not an exemption or a grant. Deferred taxes are taxes that have been postponed. When you no longer own or use the property as your personal residence, you must repay the deferred tax. The deferred amount, plus interest, becomes a lien in favor of the state until the total amount is repaid.

### MORE INFORMATION

*King County Assessor's Office: [kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/TaxRelief](http://kingcounty.gov/depts/assessor/TaxRelief)*



## Get safe, secure, and free tax help

From January 16 to April 21, trained and IRS-certified tax experts will volunteer with United Way of King County to provide free tax preparation help to the community. United Way offers both in-person and virtual help.

### MORE INFORMATION

[uwkc.org/freetax](http://uwkc.org/freetax)

## Working Families Tax Credit

The Working Families Tax Credit is a tax refund that helps Washington workers, and their families get more money back at tax time. The refund returns a portion of sales tax paid each year and is modeled after the federal Earned Income Tax Credit program.

The purpose of the Working Families Tax Credit is to stimulate the local economy, promote racial equity, and support the financial stability and well-being of low-to-moderate income Washington residents and their families.

The Washington State Department of Revenue manages this credit program.

### Who is eligible for a tax credit?

Individuals and families are eligible for the Working Families Tax Credit if they meet all the following requirements:

- Have a valid Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Lived in Washington a minimum of 183 days in 2023 (over half the year).
- Are at least 25 and under 65 years of age OR have a qualifying child in 2023.
- Filed a 2023 federal tax return.
- Eligible to claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on their 2022 tax return (or would meet the requirements for EITC but are filing with an ITIN).

### What are the income requirements?

The credit amount varies depending on the number of qualifying children and income level.

### MORE INFORMATION

[workingfamiliescredit.wa.gov](http://workingfamiliescredit.wa.gov)

## Walk, Ride, and Roll through Shoreline

How do you currently get around Shoreline? Would you consider walking, riding, or rolling if it was easy and cheap? Shoreline will be kicking off several programs this year to support residents walking, riding, and rolling to their destinations. Visit [shorelinewa.gov/walkrideroll](http://shorelinewa.gov/walkrideroll) for future opportunities to participate in sharing your ideas and needs.

### Can you leave your car at home?

The City is part of a statewide commute trip reduction program. The program seeks to reduce the number of people driving alone to help reduce climate change impacts and make our communities more livable. This means making more of your trips by modes other than driving alone, such as walking, bicycling, using a scooter, taking the bus, carpooling, vanpooling, telecommuting, etc. For most people that would be a big change.

What would help you reduce the number of times you drive alone and use an alternative mode of transportation? We are going to look at actions the City and large employers could take to encourage getting you to your destination without driving alone, and we need your input.

### Try an electric scooter or electric bike.

If you've spent time in Seattle, you have probably seen people using those bright green scooters and bikes to get around. Users gain access through a cell phone app. Shoreline will be kicking off a pilot program for similar electric scooters and bikes later this year. We want to hear from you as we develop this program.

### Have you heard of shared-use mobility hubs?

Shared-use mobility hubs are places in a community that bring together public transit, bike share, car share, and other ways for people to get where they want to go without a private vehicle. Where to locate these hubs and how/when you might use these facilities and services will be important for us to know.

### Electric Vehicles (EV) and Car Share.

The use of electric vehicles is growing in Shoreline. We need your input on adding more electric vehicle charging stations in public locations and for apartments. We also want to hear from you about new car sharing programs coming to Shoreline. Not all people have access to a car and many people would like to lessen the cost of owning a car. New car share programs allow you to reserve a car temporarily without having to pay to own and maintain it. Provide your input so we can create a system of electric charging stations and car share programs that work for the community.

We hope together we can find new ways to move around Shoreline and build a vibrant community. Look for more information at [shorelinewa.gov/walkrideroll](http://shorelinewa.gov/walkrideroll). Your input is important to the success of these programs. We invite you to sign up for E-Notifications at [shorelinewa.gov/alert](http://shorelinewa.gov/alert) (click on Transportation Projects and Planning) to stay connected and informed for the chance to provide input to help direct these changes.



# 2022 Parks bond projects update

## Construction

Construction began on the first bundle of projects (Ridgecrest and Shoreview Parks and Kruckeberg Botanic Gardens) in early December. At Ridgecrest, crews completed much of the clearing and grading and began placing some large boulders that are part of the final design. We anticipate that Ridgecrest will remain closed throughout the duration of the project.

At Kruckeberg Botanic Garden, crews installed extensive construction fencing, completed tree limbing and clearing, and began work on installing diamond piers. Kruckeberg remains open during regular business hours with limited access to the lower garden during construction.

We anticipate completing Ridgecrest and Kruckeberg improvements by the end of this summer.

## Remaining Project Development

The second bundle of sites (James Keough, Richmond Highlands, and Brugger's Bog Parks) are still in various stages of permitting. Construction



Installing diamond pier foundations for the walkway coming to Kruckeberg Botanic Garden

is tentatively set to begin this spring pending issuance of permits. We are in early design development for the final bundle of sites (Hillwood and Hamlin Parks) with a design review for both sites having taken place in February.

We recently acquired a parcel of property adjacent to the west side of Hillwood Park. We are taking the opportunity to incorporate this new parcel into the improvement plans at Hillwood. It will allow us to open an

additional access point on the west side of the park on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. Initial plans for this parcel include the addition of a walking trail that will connect to the loop path around the ball field.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
[shorelinewa.gov/parkbond](https://shorelinewa.gov/parkbond)



New sidewalk on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW from NW 190<sup>th</sup> to NW 195<sup>th</sup> Streets helps pedestrians get safely to Richmond Beach Saltwater Park.

## 2018 Voter-Approved Sidewalk Projects update

We have completed two more sidewalk projects that were part of the 2018 voter-approved sidewalk measure. In November 2018, Shoreline voters approved a 0.2% increase of the Sales and Use Tax for the construction of new sidewalks with a portion to fund sidewalk repairs. As part of the ballot measure, the City Council identified twelve specific locations for new sidewalks. We anticipate completing all the new sidewalk projects called out in the measure by 2029.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW (from NW 190<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 195<sup>th</sup> Street)

The sidewalk, constructed on the west side of the street, connects the existing pedestrian facilities to the entrance of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. The few remaining items left to complete this project are weather dependent, so we expect completion later this spring.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE (from NE 175<sup>th</sup> Street to NE 182<sup>nd</sup> Court)

We constructed sidewalks on both sides of the street and connected them to other new sidewalks that are under construction on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, north of 182<sup>nd</sup> Court, as part of Sound Transit's Shoreline North/185<sup>th</sup> Street Station construction project.

## Parking tip

Later this year, we will begin our new parking enforcement program. To ensure you don't get a parking ticket, here are some parking tips to keep in mind.

**IT IS ILLEGAL TO PARK:**

**In a bike lane**  


**In a turn lane**  


**In a bus lane**  


And, in areas marked with No Parking signs.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT Workshops, Vendor Fair, and more

Tuesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., March 26, April 23, and May 21

Shoreline City Hall

RSVP: [shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement](https://shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement)

Do you have a home improvement project in mind but need some guidance to get started? Join us for our popular free home improvement workshops to help with your potential project.

Visit [shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement](https://shorelinewa.gov/homeimprovement) to sign up for an appointment to meet with technical reviewers to discuss your potential project. Depending on the scope of your project, you can meet with up to three technical reviewers.

### Vendor fair

In addition to appointments with technical reviewers, we will have several outside vendors and resources available to meet with to discuss your project. No appointment is necessary to meet with these vendors, so be sure to set aside extra time to discuss their services. The Vendor Fair is open to all residents of the Seattle metro area.

### New presentations for 2024

**Middle Housing: April 23 at 6:30 p.m.**

New state regulations are increasing residential development opportunities. Learn about middle housing and what it means for your property.

**Deck 101: May 21 at 6:30 p.m.**

Learn more about residential deck permitting for new decks and deck replacements.

### MORE INFORMATION

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

Permit Services Manager Jarrod Lewis

[jlewis@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:jlewis@shorelinewa.gov), 206-801-2521



## Did You Know?

Recology offers residential curbside recycling for specialty items that they do not accept in your blue recycling cart and are hard to dispose of otherwise. Items collected through this service include:

- fluorescent tubes and bulbs
- motor and cooking oil
- Styrofoam
- textiles
- small appliances and electronics
- batteries
- small propane canisters (empty)

Visit [Recology.com/Shoreline](https://Recology.com/Shoreline) or call 206-763-4444 for more details and to schedule a pickup.

You can also visit the Recology Store at 15235 Aurora Ave N, #102, to drop off other hard-to-recycle items not accepted curbside, like bicycles and hardcover books. Scan the QR code for a full list of accepted items, preparation instructions, and quantity limits. Renters at apartment properties – you can use this Recology Store service, too!



## SPOTLIGHT NORTH

**Saturday and Sunday, May 4 & 5  
Noon to 5:00 p.m.**

An event to meet local artists and check out their creative workspaces.

Various locations in Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, and the northernmost reaches of North Seattle

Artists include Robin Arnitz, Laura Brodax, Elizabeth Copland, Tim Cross, Shruti Ghatak, Eva Isaksen, Iskra Johnson, Amanda Knowles, Dale Lindman and Emma Jane Royer.

Visitors will be able to meet the artists, view works-in-progress, and purchase artwork.

The event is free and open to the public.

Check [Spotlightnorth.org](https://Spotlightnorth.org) for location information just prior to the event.

March - April 2024 Vol. 26 No. 2  
**CITY OF SHORELINE**  
**CURRENTS**

Currents is produced by the  
Shoreline City Manager's Office  
Contact the City:  
(206) 801-2700

**Alternate formats  
available upon request**



Currents is printed on  
post-consumer recycled  
paper with soy-based ink.



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**(206) 801-2700** Customer Response Team 24 hours/7 days a week

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