

**2024 State of the City
Shoreline is Rising**

Thursday, June 13, 2024

7:00 to 8:30 a.m.

City Hall – Council Chamber

Welcome – Mayor

Introduce Electeds

[slide 1] Thank you for joining us this morning for our annual State of the City breakfast.

I want to recognize the elected officials in attendance today and express my appreciation for their service.

- Washington State Senator Jesse Salomon
- Washington State Representative Cindy Ryu
- King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski
- Mountlake Terrace Mayor Kyoko Matsumoto Wright and Councilmembers Bryan Wahl, Jeff Niten, and Erin Murray
- Seattle City Councilmember Cathy Moore
- Woodway Councilmembers Rajeev Thakur (*TAH-koor*) and John Brock
- King County District Court Judge Raul Martinez
- North City Water District Commissioner Patty Hale

I'd also like to recognize Megan Utemei (*OO-ta-may*) from Senator Murray's office, Josie McKinley from Senator Cantwell's office, and Marielle Trumbauer from Congresswoman Jayapal's office.

I'd like to recognize former Shoreline Councilmember and Mayor Will Hall.

Now I would like to recognize my colleagues on the Shoreline City Council. Please stand when I call your name.

- Deputy Mayor Laura Mork
- Councilmembers:
 - Keith Scully
 - Betsy Robertson
 - Eben Pobee

- John Ramsdell
- Annette Ademasu

I would like to recognize our City Manager Bristol Ellington.

And, as always, I would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of our city staff.

Shoreline is now arriving

[slide 2] I am excited about Shoreline - and the future of our city. Two simple words describe where we are - Shoreline is now arriving.

I am honored to serve as mayor during this exciting time in Shoreline's history.

[slide 3] When I was growing up in Sacramento, I remember regularly going to the California State Railroad Museum. When we walked in, there was a video about the importance of railroads to the city. When the video ended, the screen opened and a 40-ton steam locomotive appeared before our eyes.

Sacramento is a city that developed from its proximity to the gold rush and by being the western terminus of the Transcontinental Railroad. The rail line connected people and goods from the central valley to the East Coast, promoting innovation and business development.

[slide 4] Like Sacramento, I see Shoreline's future also connected to rail. In just a few short months, Shoreline residents will have a rail connection to Seattle for the first time since 1939.

[slide 5] Beginning August 30th, Shoreline residents can take quick, dependable trips to the airport; to classes at the UW; to see a play; to cheer on their favorite teams; or to pick up flowers at Pike Place Market.

When we learned that Shoreline was going to get two light-rail stations as part of the voter-approved ST 2, the City Council recognized this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. We would be the beneficiaries of a multi-billion dollar regional investment and we weren't going to let it pass us by.

[slide 6] If you've been to our state of the city events over the past ten years, you know our story. Our council had a bold vision to rezone the areas around the Shoreline North/185th Street station in 2015 and the Shoreline South/148th Street Station in 2016.

Vision 2029

[slide 7] These actions stemmed from the vision outlined by the community in Vision 2029, which the Council adopted in 2009. Vision 2029 imagined a Shoreline where **[slide 8]** people are drawn here by the city's beautiful natural setting and abundant trees; affordable, diverse, and attractive housing; award-winning schools; safe, walkable neighborhoods; plentiful parks and recreation opportunities; and its arts, culture, and history.

[slide 9] Among the framework goals in Vision 2029 are three core values:

- Equity, where we make decisions that value Shoreline's social, economic, and cultural diversity;
- Climate action, ensuring we are working to reduce emissions and conserve and protect our environment and natural resources;
- And housing, supporting diverse and affordable housing choices that provide for Shoreline's population growth.

[slide 10] As we work to adopt our new comprehensive plan this year, we will look at each area of the plan with these three core values in mind.

Equity

[slide 11] Our commitment to equity and diversity is a core belief of the Shoreline community. Our diversity leads to stronger neighborhoods. Our diversity leads to increased opportunities. And our diversity points us to better policy decisions. **[slide 12]** In 2017, we said that Shoreline would be a leader in protecting human rights, equity, public safety, and social well-being. In 2020, we declared that we would be an anti-racist community. And, for the past few years, as a council, we have been committed to

co-creating a vision with the community to ensure that Shoreline is an inviting, equitable, and safe community for all.

As such, equity is one of the core values driving our comprehensive plan. As part of that effort, we are developing citywide equity needs maps for use in analysis and to inform service delivery and resource allocation decision making.

However, even as our commitment to equity is core to who we are as city, there are some members of the community that continue to bully, that continue to spread hate. Hate crimes and intimidation are on the rise in our region and nationally. We must take a firm stand against hate. No one should ever feel threatened because of their religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or other identity.

We must always commit ourselves to be tolerant of others, to disagree without being disagreeable, and to act ethically and with compassion. We must not turn a blind eye when our neighbors are hurt, are threatened or intimidated and we all must be ready to take a stand against hate.

[slide 13] We know that safety is important to our residents. One of our goals as a city is to ensure that our residents and businesses continue to find Shoreline to be a safe place. We continue to be a leader in the region by providing mobile crisis response services to community members. This work reduces an over-reliance on traditional public safety responses to behavioral health calls by providing an alternative. And, I can say that our police, and our community, strongly support this model of crisis response.

Climate Action

[slide 14] Vision 2029 boldly proclaimed that Shoreline would be a regional and national leader for living sustainably. In 2024, I know, and the region knows, that Shoreline is such a leader in addressing the climate crisis facing us today.

In 2013, we adopted our first Climate Action Plan representing our commitment to reducing emissions in Shoreline. **[slide 15]** Using new science and data; updated

goals and targets; and inclusive engagement, our updated plan, adopted in 2022, represents the City's renewed and ongoing commitment to climate action.

[slide 16] The strategies and actions outlined in the plan support and advance our three overarching goals, which are to reduce emissions; enhance ecosystem health and carbon sequestration; and increase resilience and preparedness, especially for those who are most vulnerable to climate impacts.

These actions will have a wide range of co-benefits for Shoreline, such as cleaner air and water, greater ecosystem health, and cost savings from lower utility bills.

[slide 17] Some of our recent efforts in implementing the Plan include supporting the Shoreline Tool Library, our home electrification program that will be rolling out this summer and fall, and the completion of the EV Charging Feasibility Study. Our new buildings are required to be built green, and we must help our residents build resiliency in their homes.

The actions in the Climate Action Plan are bold and implementing them will require significant effort, innovation, and partnership. However, the science is clear, the urgency is undeniable. We need bold action, and we need it now. I am proud that we continue to be a leader in this regard.

[slide 18] As a city we are known, and we will be known, for our urban forest. We know that trees and green spaces are important to our physical and mental health. We know that trees improve our ecosystem and help our surface water system. As a council, we are discussing ways to preserve existing trees in our transportation projects.

And, as we increase our density, which prevents the destruction of intact forests and farmlands at the edge of the urban growth boundary, this council knows that we need a healthy urban forest and more parkland.

Housing

[slide 19] Vision 2029 was bold for Shoreline when the Council adopted it in 2009. Shoreline's population had remained flat for decades. In 2009 there were 12 – 12

total housing units permitted, and there were less than 200 units of new housing permitted in the previous two decades. What the Council knew was that infrastructure was the key to unlocking Shoreline's potential. In 2009, we had just celebrated the completion of phase 1 of the Aurora Corridor Project and voters had just adopted ST2.

[slide 20] As we look forward to how our community will evolve with the light rail's opening, we start with looking back. Shoreline is now arriving. In 2023, we had over 1400 new units permitted and in 2024 we project another 1200 units will be permitted, our fourth straight year of over 900 new homes permitted. In less than a decade, that is over 5,000 new homes for people of all income levels.

These new homes are located on Aurora, in North City, and near our light-rail stations. These residents have more transportation options, will support local businesses, and bring additional diversity and vibrancy to our community. As we develop our comprehensive plan, we want to continue to build on these successes, by continuing to leverage our infrastructure improvements, by embracing middle housing, and reforming our services so that everyone can receive timely responses to permit applications.

[slide 21] But we know there is more we need to do to address our current community needs. This year's point in time count showed there are more people who are houseless in the region than at any other time in recent years –over 16,000. And we know that there are many more people in our city who are housing insecure. Last year the Council adopted additional funding to help residents with utility assistance and food gift cards. But as we hear from our partners, those resources continue to be in great demand.

[slide 22] Earlier this year, Deputy Mayor Mork and other members of the council had the privilege of attending the blessing of St. Margaret's Place. St. Margret's provides housing for single adults who are exiting homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. Built on city-owned land, it features 100 residential units, space for resident services and onsite staff, and substantial community space for residents.

Half of the residents living at the building are between 50% and 31% Area Median Income and the other half of the residents are at or below 30% AMI.

Permanent supportive housing, such as St. Margaret's, is desperately needed across the region. I am proud that we stepped up to make such housing possible in Shoreline. Every single city in the region needs to contribute to addressing this issue. Shoreline will continue to look for opportunities to support this type of housing when and where possible.

[slide 23] In addition to permanent supportive housing, we also need more 24/7 shelters to get people who are unhoused stable before they can move to more permanent housing. The Oaks provides critical shelter and stabilization for people exiting homelessness.

The 60-bed facility, which operates at capacity most of the time, continues to be a good neighbor. Facilities like this that are well run should not be feared. They provide urgently needed services that benefit the entire community.

If we are serious about addressing the homelessness crisis, then we need more enhanced shelters, more permanent supportive housing, and more affordable housing. We need behavioral health facilities and crisis responders. And we need facilities for treating addiction. Shoreline will continue to be a leader in these areas.

[slide 24] Equity, climate action, and housing – These are the pressing issues we are facing as a region. The comprehensive plan is our guiding document as a city. It is what all of our other plans are based from. That is why we are so focused on these three core values and ensuring that everything we do in the comp plan has these values in mind. We cannot become the community we want to be otherwise. And that is why I am so proud of the work we are doing. We are addressing these issues head-on.

Infrastructure

[slide 25] Shoreline is the city that thought it could, and did. And we are now arriving.

We have been able to do this because of the bold vision we laid out in 2009. That vision has allowed us to take bold action. **[slide 26]** Our council was bold in thinking that we should build a pedestrian bridge across I-5 to connect with the Shoreline South/148th Street Station. The bridge will serve the dual purpose of reconnecting neighborhoods divided by the construction of I-5 and placing more than 70 acres of a new urban neighborhood we envision on the west side of I-5 into the half mile walkshed of the light rail station. Today, thanks to the receipt of the \$20 million federal RAISE grant last year from the federal government, that vision is nearly realized.

The bridge will help foster the development of thousands of new housing units, including hundreds of affordable units, all within walking distance of light rail.

[slide 27] Our council had a bold vision in taking the lead to make 145th safer for all users. Even though Shoreline does not own any of the roadway, we stood up and said, yes we can. With the assistance of our federal, state, and county partners, and the City of Seattle, in April, we started construction of the 145th Corridor and I-5 Interchange project.

[slide 28] The first phase will remove the two signalized intersections on either side of the bridge and replace them with two roundabouts. This project will also include significant regrading of the roadway, lowering it by about ten feet in some areas. The redesigned corridor provides safer sidewalks that are accessible to all users, better transit access, and reduced traffic congestion. These are all improvements that work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and furthering the region's climate goals.

[slide 29] Our Council had the bold vision to build a trail along the rail between the Shoreline South and Shoreline North Stations - to provide a safe path for cyclists and pedestrians. I am excited to say that like the 148th Street Bridge, and the 145th Street Corridor, this project is moving full steam ahead, with most of the rights of way acquired and much of the funding sources identified. Between the 148th St Bridge and the Trail along the Rail, we will have a more robust and safer bike network that connects the Burke Gilman Trail with the Interurban Trail.

[slide 30] The vision of our council does not stop with the projects connecting people to light rail. We are a city that can, and a city on the rise. Just last month, the Council added to our Transportation Improvement Plan a project that will connect the Interurban Trail between Echo Lake and where it resumes in Snohomish County.

I know, and our council knows, that these projects only come about because of our great partnerships with federal, state, regional, and county officials. Bringing federal, state, and regional tax dollars back to Shoreline has enabled us to complete these important transportation projects that we would be unable to complete if we just relied on local revenue. We have always made seeking grant funding a priority, and it has paid off, thanks to incredible partnerships with agencies like Sound Transit, King County, and WSDOT, and with the state legislature, and with leaders like Senators Murray and Cantwell, and Congresswoman Jayapal, all of whom played instrumental roles in helping us get over \$34 million in funding for these projects. For a city of our size that is an enormous benefit, and I am thankful to have so many advocates for our city.

[slide 31] As we improve our infrastructure and increase housing around transit, creating dense, walkable communities, we also need to take bold action when it comes to park space. Parks and green space are essential to the success of transit-oriented development. We all need places to recreate, relax, and engage in social interaction outdoors. That is why we are also investing in improving and expanding our park space.

Green spaces close to transit hubs can make walking more attractive. Green spaces also boost our mental and physical health, reduce stress, and improve brain function, promoting active and healthy lifestyles in our community.

Parks

[slide 32] Last year we approved the purchase of 1.9 acres of property for new park space, expanding Hillwood, Ronald Bog, and Twin Ponds Parks, and providing additional waterfront access at Echo Lake. Our council is continuing to work to meet our goals of adding 20 acres of park space in Shoreline by 2030. And, I say proudly, we are adding these parks with the support of our partners, King County, and the King Conservation District.

[slide 33] Continuing with our commitment to parks, last year we broke ground on the first projects of our Parks Levy, which voters approved in 2022. The first project, Ridgecrest Park, is set to reopen soon, boasting a brand-new, all-ages play area with slides nestled into embankments, alongside accessible walkways, and a new off-leash dog area. We are looking forward to cutting the ribbon for a full-inclusive playground at Richmond Highlands park and an ADA-accessible pathway at Kruckeberg Botanic Garden and completion of the other park projects, including a few splash pads, in the next couple of years.

Before I give the floor to our city manager to talk more about our accomplishments, I want to say one more thing about our great community.

[slide 34] A few years ago, we tested the slogan Surprised By Shoreline. I'll admit, the slogan never really caught on. But, there was a grain of truth to that slogan when we adopted it, as our city was on the cusp of doing great things. When August 30 rolls around, when light rail opens, as riders explore our two stations, not only will they be surprised by the city that could, but they will realize that Shoreline is fully on-board and stepping up to meet the challenges facing our region.

Introduce City Manager

[slide 35] Now I would like to introduce our City Manager Bristol Ellington.

[CITY MANAGER WALKS TO THE PODIUM]

Thank you, Mayor. And thank you to all of you for being here today. This is my second State of the City and I'm thrilled to share with you all the amazing work we are doing as a city. We are very fortunate to have an amazing staff dedicated to making this a great community in which to live, work, recreate, and invest.

2023 Accomplishments

[slide 36] As we did last year, I want to read some of our day-to-day accomplishments from 2023.

- **[slide 37]** We processed over 5,600 permit applications; conducted over 4,200 building inspections, 3,200 right-of-way inspections, and 560 sewer inspections.
- **[slide 38]** We adopted new Cottage Housing regulations and requirements for ground floor commercial space in multi-family buildings in all commercial zones.
- **[slide 39]** Working with the Shoreline Chamber, we contacted 240 small business owners and managers and connected them to resources.
- We issued two mixed use building permits under the City's Deep Green Incentive Program for a total of 790 LEED Platinum units.
- We were awarded over \$38 million in grant funding for capital projects, with over 36 million going towards projects around the 145th corridor.
- We collected \$2.8 million in Transportation Impact Fees and \$4.2 million in Park Impact Fees.
- **[slide 40]** We performed 760 pothole repairs.
- We cleaned approximately 53 miles of wastewater main pipe and inspected another 17 miles using our CCTV camera.
- We removed over 1,180 graffiti tags.
- **[slide 41]** And we processed 740 public disclosure requests -two shy of the record set in 2022.

Those are just some of our accomplishments from last year. These are testaments to the many hours of hard work our staff put in every day to serve this great community.

Other Capital Projects

[slide 42] Something that impacts each one of us every single day is transportation infrastructure. Think about your daily routine. Maybe you drive to work, take the bus, ride a bike, or walk. All these modes of transportation rely on infrastructure like roads, bridges, sidewalks, and public transit. When these things are well-

maintained, efficient, and meet the needs of all users, they make our lives easier. But when they're falling apart, congested, or non-existent, it can cause major headaches.

Investing in transportation infrastructure isn't just about fixing potholes or paving roads. It's about improving the quality of life for everyone. When we invest in better roads and sidewalks, we create opportunities for businesses to grow and for people to access jobs, school, and their community. When we invest in public transit, we make it possible for people to get around without having to rely on a car, which can save them money, reduce congestion on the roads, create a more equitable community, and help us meet our climate action goals.

175th Corridor

[slide 43] The 175th Street corridor is one of Shoreline's most active east-west arterials and an important access point to I-5. It also abuts an elementary school, several churches, a Buddhist monastery, and a park, making its pedestrian infrastructure essential. **[slide 44]** Unfortunately, in those areas with the most pedestrian traffic, it is also the most dangerous. Between Meridian and Stone Avenue, pedestrians, many of whom are elementary aged children, must navigate extremely narrow sidewalks and walkways to get to school. And it is almost completely inaccessible to anyone with mobility challenges.

[slide 45] We have made improving 175th between Stone Avenue and I-5 a priority. The project will support growth and promote safety and mobility by constructing pedestrian, cycling, and roadway improvements along the full length of the corridor, including the intersection at 175th and Meridian.

[slide 46] Another important part of this project will be to seismically retrofit the road next to Ronald Bog. A preliminary soil study has shown that a significant seismic event could cause the failure of soil next to the bog, which would affect the roadway, possibly causing it to slide into the bog.

Balance trees and transportation

[slide 47] As with all our capital projects, we review the design to see how we can protect trees in the project area. We often refine the design throughout the process to save even more trees when possible.

Our climate goals play a big part in informing our transportation infrastructure work. One of our primary goals is to reduce community-wide driving and idling traffic. Currently, transportation is Shoreline's largest greenhouse gas emissions source, accounting for 55% of total community-wide emissions in 2019. Most of these emissions come from gasoline use in passenger vehicles, highlighting the urgent need for alternative modes of transportation and to cut down on idling traffic.

To encourage a shift away from traditional car usage, we need to create safe, walkable communities so people feel comfortable relying less on their cars to get around.

Yet, even as we press forward with these vital infrastructure projects, we remain committed to another climate goal, which is to enhance ecosystem health and carbon sequestration.

Our commitment to environmental sustainability is reflected in the array of programs aimed at maintaining and expanding our tree canopy.

[slide 48] Last year, we adopted the updated Urban Forest Strategic Plan and continued to implement the Green Cities Partnership.

We expanded the Communi-Trees Program, providing 130 trees to residents, schools, churches, and businesses at no cost, with 40% of the trees planted in areas with the greatest need. And we received a \$50,000 grant for staff support from the King Conservation District to expand the Communi-Trees Program even more this year.

We conducted weekly volunteer-led ecological restoration and tree planting events in the City's park system, including one large planting day on Green Shoreline Day, which resulted in volunteers planting over 1,170 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants in eight parks.

As a regional leader in addressing climate impacts, we recognize the pressing need to make significant cuts to our greenhouse gas emissions. Through tireless effort and unwavering dedication, we strive to strike a balance between our transportation needs and our environmental priorities, laying the groundwork for a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

Transportation – Walk, Ride, and Roll

[slide 49] As part of our efforts for getting people to use their cars less, we are working on several initiatives to support alternative modes of transportation in our community.

[slide 50] We are part of a statewide commute trip reduction program that aims to decrease the number of solo drivers on our roads. This means encouraging more walking, biking, scooter riding, bus-taking, carpooling, vanpooling, and remote working. While this shift may seem significant, it holds immense potential for positive change.

[slide 51] Later this year, we'll be rolling out a pilot program for electric scooters and bikes. These micromobility options will offer residents convenient and eco-friendly alternatives for short-distance travel within our city.

[slide 52] We're planning to establish shared-use mobility hubs across Shoreline. These hubs will serve as central points where public transit, bike share, car share, and other transportation options converge, making it easier for people to navigate without relying on private vehicles.

[slide 53] We're also working on identifying suitable locations for electric vehicle charging stations in public areas and apartment complexes. This infrastructure will support the transition to cleaner transportation options and make EV ownership more accessible to our residents.

[slide 54] We are exploring the feasibility of implementing car share programs in Shoreline. These programs would allow individuals to rent vehicles temporarily, eliminating the need for ownership and maintenance costs. It also helps to reduce car usage as people only use them when they really need them, using transit and other transportation options for most of their travel.

[slide 55] In essence, we're developing comprehensive programs aimed at providing diverse commuting options, improving local mobility, and reducing our reliance on single-occupancy vehicles. We're paving the way towards a more sustainable and accessible transportation landscape in Shoreline.

City's financial health

[slide 56] Finally, I want to discuss our financial health, which continues to be strong. We have healthy financial reserves; double A plus bond rating; Standard & Poor's highest assessment for fiscal management; and we continue to receive clean state and federal audits.

However, inflation continues to be a concern as it has significant impacts on our 10-year financial sustainability model, both for revenues and expenditures. And while we will see close to 1,000 new housing units come on the market this year – a record- the flood of new units will soon ease as the impacts from the tightened capital markets means far fewer projects are breaking ground. This slow-down could have revenue impacts down the road.

We have always followed conservative budgeting principles to ensure we can provide the community with the services they need and at the levels they desire. We will continue to do this. Being good stewards of taxpayer money is one of our most important jobs.

Turn back over to Mayor

I will now turn it back over to the mayor to conclude the program.

[MAYOR RETURNS TO PODIUM]

Conclusion

[slide 57] After years of planning, we finally are seeing the fruits of our labor. Light rail and the development around the stations will be transformative for Shoreline. I am glad that we had the forethought to plan early on for this reality and not wait for it to change our community in ways we didn't want and didn't expect.

Summer events

[slide 58] As we wrap up today's program, I want to encourage everyone to get out this summer and enjoy the many different events available around town.

This Saturday will be the 2nd annual Pride festival at the Shoreline Farmers Market and on June 19th we will have a Juneteenth celebration at City Hall.

Karaoke in the Park kicks off on July 9th as does our noon concert series; Swingin' Summer Eve will be held on July 17th; and Celebrate Shoreline will be on August 17th.

[slide 59] And don't forget the opening of light rail on August 30th. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony in the morning in Lynnwood and then in the evening there will be festivities at each of the different stations, including Shoreline North and South Stations.

There are also many other community events to take part in. Get out there and try something new that Shoreline has to offer.

Thank you

[slide 60] Thank you for being here today and for your continued support and involvement in this great community!

[slide 61]