

December 4, 2017

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Update on resident request for interim walkway improvements to SE 35th Place between 162nd Place SE and 164th Place SE.

STAFF CONTACT

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Transportation Department

POLICY ISSUES

Should staff and financial resources be allocated to further explore the opportunity for interim pedestrian and bicycle improvements to SE 35th Place.

Council Vision and Priorities

In its 2016-17 Priorities, Council envisions continued implementation of safety and connectivity oriented projects in neighborhoods, with an emphasis on sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic calming.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



This is a brief informational update on a request from Mr. Extor and Mr. Fischer at the November 20 Council Regular Session to implement interim walkway improvements on a two block stretch of SE 35th Place.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

SE 35th Place/SE 34th Street is a three-fourth mile long Collector Arterial connecting Eastgate Way to West Lake Sammamish Parkway. This street has a north-side sidewalk on the west and east ends of the street, with a large missing stretch in the center - well over half the street has no sidewalk facility. The Transportation Facilities Plan includes a project (TFP-175) to complete the missing section of sidewalk on the north side along with a wider westbound lane for bicycles. The project cost is identified at five million dollars.

King County is upgrading two sewer pump stations and a force main pipe used to send area sewage to the County's treatment plant in Renton. These facilities have served the area for over 50 years and need to be upgraded to continue to provide reliable sewer service to the area.

This project has temporarily filled in some of the ditch on the north side of SE 35th Place between 162nd Place and 164th Place SE in conjunction with sewer installation. The rest of the ditch in this stretch is planned to be temporarily filled soon when the next section of sewer pipe is installed. The resident request received by Council is to permanently fill the ditch by piping the storm water and improve the surface above the old ditch line to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. This improvement

would be approximately 400 feet in length. King County project work in this area is expected to continue well into 2018.

Since the November 20th Council meeting, the Transportation Department has identified two important initial questions regarding this requested improvement:

- What is the environmental classification of the stream in the north side ditch?
- What interest level does King County have in partnering on improvements?

The stream classification is critical because it will determine if the ditch can reasonably be filled and piped permanently from a permit condition standpoint. Staff already has some indication that King County is willing to work collaboratively on improvements, but this needs to be further developed.

Once these initial questions are investigated, the feasibility of an interim improvement can be assessed, and other questions such as scope, design, permitting, interlocal agreement, cost, and funding availability can be explored.

Next Steps

The Transportation Department plans to assign a project manager to begin work with a consultant on the environmental classification of the north side ditch, and to establish formal contact with King County project managers. Once this work is completed, further steps will be determined. Staff plans to keep Council apprised of progress and recommendations via email or other appropriate means as work proceeds. Staff will also be contacting Mr. Exor and Mr. Fischer regarding the investigation to date and next steps.

OPTIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENT

A. Vicinity Map

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A