

UNDERSTANDING THE 244th AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

If you have questions about project background, terminology, or the environmental review process, this document is a great place to start.

Background Information

Project History

In June 2002, the Sammamish City Council identified the East Sammamish/244th Avenue corridor as a priority transportation improvement project in the [Six-Year Transportation Involvement Plan](#). This transportation corridor needs improvements in order to:

- provide increased public safety access
- provide transportation system continuity and connectivity
- provide local access to area activity centers, such as schools, parks and shopping
- provide non-motorized access for this area of the City
- accommodate the corridor's increasing population

The City of Sammamish, working with the community, conducted a study in 2003 to evaluate potential improvements to the 244th Avenue corridor. The [East Sammamish/244th Corridor Study](#) analyzed 244th Avenue between SE 32nd Street and NE 8th Street. Several options were developed and analyzed in the study. After reviewing the results of the study, and citizen comments, the City determined that only the northern section of the corridor (from NE 8th to SE 8th) would be pursued as a City project.

Design Information

244th Avenue, between NE and SE 8th Streets will be improved to meet the standard of a minor arterial. What are the characteristics of a minor arterial? Roadways are designed to improve mobility and access for the City of Sammamish and are grouped into three categories: local streets, arterials, and freeways. Minor arterials have the following characteristics:

- Provide intra-community continuity
- Serve as routes for moderate length trips
- Provide service and access to neighborhoods, schools, and parks
- Interconnect and augment the principal arterial system

The following design standards apply to constructing minor arterials:

Sidewalks	6 ft. wide, minimum
Bike lanes	Both sides
Raised landscape median	8 – 12 ft. wide
Curbs/gutters	Concrete, both sides
Travel lanes	11 ft. wide
Planter strips	3.5 – 5 ft., both sides
Right-of-way	63-67 ft.

The posted speed limit on the improved section of 244th Avenue will be 35 mph. What kinds of measures can be designed into the street to help control speed? Modified

chicanes, and roundabouts are traffic calming elements that can be incorporated into the project design.

How is this project connected to other, nearby construction projects? The project team is coordinating schedules and design efforts with other transportation projects such as the Washington State DOT [SR 202 and 244th Avenue NE signal project](#). 244th Avenue improvements will also be coordinated with smaller projects such as constructing sidewalks along NE 8th Street to improve pedestrian access to and from Inglewood Junior High School.

Environmental Review Process

What measures will be taken regarding environmental impacts? An environmental analysis will be conducted to evaluate potential effects and mitigation measures associated with the project, in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will include the following areas: noise, safety, wetlands/wildlife,

Public involvement is critical to a successful environmental process. The first phase of an EIS is scoping. The purpose of scoping is to allow the public, agencies and interested parties to comment on the breadth or scope of issues to be addressed during the environmental review. The official scoping period ran from April 1 to May 5, 2005. However, the City will continue to consider comments through the life of the project.

What happens now that the scoping period is over? The environmental analysis will be conducted and a draft EIS will be released later this year. A public workshop will be scheduled to review the findings in the draft EIS. However, you do not have to wait until then to communicate with the City about this project - comments and questions are welcome at any time.

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