

Q & A from the Feb. 27, 2024 Allentown Community Meeting

42ND AVE S BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

1. Is there any plan to increase the life of the existing bridge such as adding additional support (e.g. piles, columns, and/or piers) to the existing structure?
 - a. No, there are no plans to add an additional support to the existing structure before the replacement of the bridge. The City had professional heat straightening done a week after the bridge was struck and has since performed non-destructive testing to verify the strength of the steel. We determined that the bridge is safe for the types of traffic that will use it until its replacement, and that interim measures to reinforce it are not necessary to improve the load bearing.
 - b. During the industry standard Type, Size, and Location report, it was found that restoration of the structure was more than 80% the cost of replacement, which is the standard for complete replacement. By replacing the structure, the design life will be 75-100 years whereas rehabilitating the structure would result in a design life of only about 30 years. This information was presented to the state local bridge officials, and they have agreed to move forward with a replacement structure.
2. Did the City receive an insurance settlement from the trucking company who hit the bridge in December 2021?
 - a. Yes, the City was reimbursed \$275,000 for the bridge strike.
3. How can the City prevent drivers from driving the wrong way on the 42nd Ave S bridge?
 - a. This is largely an enforcement issue. The City will look into adding additional signage and barricades that comply with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Public Works will coordinate with the Police Department to address this concern.
4. How did the City determine the one-way direction of the 42nd Ave S Bridge? And did the City ever reconsider the one-way direction?
 - a. The decision to reopen the bridge to one lane with traffic directed southbound was due to safety and emergency access reasons. Staff briefed the City Council on this decision at the February 28th, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting. The administration then made the decision to reopen the bridge southbound based on a thorough investigation and based on data that was provided to them by the WSDOT Local Bridge Engineer, King County Inspectors, TranTech Engineering, KPG, and City Staff. The City staff will revisit the traffic direction if the traffic conditions warrant such action.

ALLENTOWN TRUCK REROUTE EIS

5. Is the EIS going to “Expire”?

- a. The findings of the EIS will continue to satisfy the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) as long as the conditions of the project area and the potential effects of proposed alternatives remain relatively unchanged.

6. Why doesn't BNSF help pay for a new freight truck route?

- a. BNSF is federally pre-empted from any state or local regulations, and they are not legally obliged to compensate the City for its truck reroute efforts. Additionally, the current routes for freight traffic work well for BNSF, and there is no financial incentive for them to pay for a new route. However, BNSF has met with the project team several times, providing information that has significantly improved the alternative designs; we believe that this shows a substantial commitment to the City on their part. Additionally, BNSF has offered to partner with us in identifying grants that could fund future planning and design work for a preferred alternative, and to both help prepare grant applications and support those applications in the grant approval process. This could make a key difference in our ability to get funding for a new truck route.

Other Questions

7. What are the plans for the shoreline and road alignment next to the Duwamish Hill Preserve? Have there been any preliminary designs?

- a. Update on the new acquisition: Recently, City Council authorized the Mayor to sign the ‘Assignment and Assumption Agreement’ with Forterra, which would transfer the terms of the purchase and sale agreement from Forterra, who is leading the negotiations with the seller, to the City. The current offer is pending a couple of items. We anticipate that if the current offer stands, the City will take ownership in the next 6 weeks or so.
- b. Update on plans to the shoreline/road: A Public Works Capital Improvement Project called Duwamish Hill Preserve Phase 3 is planned to begin in the next budget cycle. It will involve coordination with Parks and Public Works, will have community involvement and will go through an alternative analysis process. The project is listed on the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan which makes it eligible for funding for habitat-related improvements. We expect the City will begin to seek design and construction funding for the project in early 2025.