

**DATE:** April 5, 2022

**TO:** Chair Ramos and Transportation and Mobility Commission members  
**CC:** Rebecca Kennedy, Community Development, Ryan Lopossa, Public Works

**FROM:** Jennifer Campos, Community Development

**RE:** **SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street Safety and Mobility Project**

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The focus of the workshop today is the SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street Safety and Mobility Project. As part of the City's ongoing Complete Streets Program, the SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street Safety and Mobility Project is evaluating potential changes to improve safety and mobility on 34<sup>th</sup> Street between 164<sup>th</sup> and 192<sup>nd</sup> avenues. The project is evaluating repurposing a travel lane in each direction to add dedicated space for people walking, biking, rolling, and using mobility-assistance devices, and other safety improvements in the corridor for all users, including drivers.

Along with the overriding Complete Streets project goals, several corridor specific goals have been identified for the SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street project process and are being used to align potential changes to the corridor with the project goals. The specific goals for the project are:

- 1. Improve comfort and mobility for all users, regardless of how they choose to travel**
  - a. Provide an east-west connection that serves cyclists of all ages and abilities
  - b. Improve accommodations for existing transit, as well as future planned service
  - c. Add landscaping, art or other amenities to the corridor
  - d. Avoid adding substantial delays to people driving
- 2. Prioritize safety for all users**
  - a. Improve corridor safety by reducing driver speeds
  - b. Address identified conflict points/collision locations
  - c. Support safe pedestrian crossings especially around schools, retail hubs, transit stops, and the Vancouver Innovation Center campus
- 3. Make improvements quickly & efficiently**
  - a. Use low-cost solutions
  - b. Maximize efficiency of pavement treatment opportunity
  - c. Utilize eligible grants, impact fees, or state/federal investment

Technical analysis is being completed to understand how repurposing a travel lane would change travel for all users in the near-term, mid-term, and long-term as the City continues to grow and

development occurs in the vicinity of SE 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Early analysis being completed for the project is focused on answering three key questions:

1. Can the project goals be achieved by repurposing a traffic lane to add buffered mobility lanes?
2. What are the trade-offs for users of repurposing a traffic lane?
3. Are there locations that will require additional improvements or a different design concept?

Analysis completed to date indicates that under the near-term and mid-term scenarios, repurposing a traffic lane will achieve the project goals by leveraging the planned pavement project and reserving capital investment for additional project features that would improve safety for all users. Repurposing a travel lane would provide dedicated space for people biking and rolling, increase the separation from vehicles for people walking, and enhance connections to transit along the corridor. In the near-to mid-term, this can be achieved without substantially increasing travel time or delay experienced by people driving.

Under the long-term scenario, approximately 20 years from now, additional improvements may be needed at the intersections with SE 164<sup>th</sup> and SE 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenues to reduce delays that are forecast to be experienced by drivers.

Based on the initial findings, the project team is working to refine design options for the corridor and identify how improvements could be phased over the next 20 years. This includes low-cost improvements that could be deployed to improve safety for all users in the near-term and long-term options that will require additional funding sources.

Community outreach for this project includes stakeholder engagement with impacted groups as appropriate, including residents, businesses, corridor users, neighborhood associations, community-based organizations, historically excluded and underserved communities, and the Transportation and Mobility Commission. The first touchpoint with the community, planned to occur in April 2022, will provide an overview of the project and allow the community to identify safety issues that should be considered as concepts are refined. This will be followed by a series of events in June 2022 that will provide an opportunity to community members and stakeholders to review the findings and design concepts and provide feedback prior to final design.

Pavement treatment is currently scheduled for summer 2023, which requires that project analysis and design concept development are completed by September of this year. To meet this timeline, the following project schedule has been developed:

- April through June 2022 – Gather Community Feedback & Refine Design Concepts
- June through August 2022 – Develop Project Design & Gather Community Feedback
- September 2022– Safety & Mobility Study Concludes
- Summer 2023 – Pavement Microsurfacing Treatment
- Summer 2023 through summer 2024 – Implementation of other capital improvements

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