



# Meeting Summary

**PROJECT NAME:** NE 18th Street Improvement Project – West Segment

**SUBJECT:** Key Property Owners Meeting

**TIME AND DATE:** May 9, 2019, 4:00-7:30 p.m.

**VENUE:** Media Room at Marrion Elementary School

---

*This meeting summary was prepared for the City of Vancouver by WSP USA.*

## 1. PURPOSE

The City of Vancouver met with property owners who live adjacent to the west segment (NE 97th Avenue to NE 107th Avenue) of the NE 18th Street improvement project. To accommodate attendees' schedules, there were two sessions: 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. Information and feedback from these two sessions are combined in this summary, and the sessions are referred to as one "meeting" for simplicity.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide these key property owners with the opportunity to learn about the project and provide feedback on existing conditions and potential corridor improvements. The meeting also was an opportunity for the project team to engage directly with property owners before the public open house that will be held on June 6, 2019, and prior to the development of alternatives for the roadway and multi-use path. The meeting was facilitated by these City and consultant staff members.

## 2. PROJECT TEAM ATTENDANCE

- Leslie Degenhart, Civil Engineer/Project Manager, City of Vancouver Public Works
- Loretta Callahan, Communications/Public Information, City of Vancouver Public Works
- Cory Kratovil, Project Engineer, PBS
- Emma Johnson, Public Involvement, WSP
- Nicole McDermott, Public Involvement, WSP

## 3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Vancouver's NE 18th Street is an important east-west travel corridor. The City has steadily been improving segments of this corridor over time. Most recently, the City completed the segment from Four Seasons to about 136th Avenue. Most of the existing roadway in the west segment of 18th Street is a two-lane paved street with minimal shoulders and substandard pavement, originally built to more rural standards. In addition, there is no roadway between NE 100th Avenue and NE 105th Avenue. As part of improving the west segment, the City will be looking at how to best

improve travel; meet federal/state stormwater requirements; encourage safety, accessibility, and mobility; and enhance the neighborhood where possible. Improvements will also include a multi-use path within the adjacent Bonneville Power Administration easement for cyclists and pedestrians. The project will evaluate existing traffic and environmental conditions, gather input from the community, and recommend improvements to address mobility and safety for all users: motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

#### **4. EVENT OVERVIEW**

The project team identified the most affected properties as those lots adjacent to the north side of the corridor where street improvements will occur. An invitation to the meeting was sent to the owners of all identified properties. The meeting was held in the Media Room at Marrion Elementary School on Thursday, May 9, 2019. A total of eight community members attended. When attendees arrived, they were asked to sign in and were handed a colored pin to identify their property on a mounted aerial (see Board 1, attached).

After introductions, Leslie Degenhart, Project Manager, summarized the project to establish a baseline understanding and facilitate questions and answers. The project team then conducted a roundtable discussion, which included both questions from the attendees as well as questions for the attendees that the City and consultant had developed. (See attached questionnaire). In addition to oral comments at the meeting, attendees were encouraged to provide written feedback via the questionnaire. Attendees were given extra copies of the questionnaire to provide to neighbors who did not attend the meeting.

#### **5. COMMENTS**

The following summarizes the oral comments received from the property owners during the meeting.

##### **Q1. Tell us about yourself. How do you currently use your property? (owner-occupied or rental, business/work at home, vacant, etc.)**

- All attendees indicated they are the property owners and are currently residing at their properties in the corridor.
- None of the attendees use the properties for business purposes.
- Attendees have lived there for a range of times, with some moving in recently (within 1 to 2 years) and others living there more than 10 years.

##### **Q2. Are you familiar with the City's NE 18th Street Improvement Project? If yes, what is your understanding of the project planned for this segment west of I-205?**

- Some attendees had not heard about the project before they received the invitation to this meeting. Others had heard about the project through various means (e.g., from neighbors, a real estate agent disclosure, etc.).

##### **Q3. Do you have any future development plans for your property?**

- No attendees had specific development plans for their property at this time.

**Q4. This project will include a street corridor design with on- and/or off-street bicycle and pedestrian pathways. How do you use the BPA power line easement now (examples: visual open space, passive recreation, etc.)? As we work on the design, do you have any thoughts about how open-space access might best be used for you and your neighborhood?**

- Some attendees use the easement for recreation (walking/biking) as well as a visual amenity.
- Attendees noted the following ideas/considerations for improved open space access:
  - Improved bicycle and pedestrian access would be welcome, keeping in mind the need for the safety and security of property owners.
  - Multi-use path connection to Burnt Bridge Creek.
  - Pedestrian/cyclist connection, across 18th Street, to the new multi-use path.

**Q5. Are there any other design features you think should be considered if there's an option or ability to do so?**

- The overall design should be aesthetically pleasing.
- Any walls (sound walls/retaining walls) separating the properties from the road should be visually pleasing, landscaping should be maintained, and the security/safety of the properties taken into consideration in the design.
- Landscaping of the roadway should be maintained.
- Protection of wildlife. Attendees mentioned small animals, such as rabbits, are frequently seen, as well as occasional coyotes and infrequently, deer.
- Adequate street lighting to enhance safety.
- The design should protect kids in the area.
- There is an existing problem with through traffic, and the design should consider how to address this issue and not exacerbate it.
- Improved wayfinding signage.
- Possible connection from 18th Street to 112th Avenue.

**Q6. Do you have any concerns about the project or have you heard any concerns we should be aware of as we design this new corridor? Any concerns about access to your property during or after construction?**

- Safety of properties during construction (e.g., temporary fencing to prevent illegal access).
- Concerns over the characteristics of the soil (e.g., drainage, weight capacity).
- How the City will avoid design flaws, and how the City would fix them if they occur.
- How is traffic modeling being done where no roadway currently exists?

**Q7. How would you like to stay informed about this project (for example, mailers, emails, Nextdoor, Facebook, neighborhood association meetings)?**

- Most attendees cited emails and mailers as the best way to reach them.
- Online forums (e.g., Nextdoor and Facebook) were less commonly used.
- There is little interaction/involvement with the neighborhood association (Burton Ridge), and the homeowners' association would be a better avenue to distribute information.

**Q8. Do you know of other individuals or groups we should contact about the project?**

- No names of individuals or groups were provided. Attendees took copies of the questionnaires to provide to other property owners.

**Q9. Is there anything else you would like to add?**

- Need to consider some means of traffic calming both on 18th Street as well as in the general area (e.g., traffic on 97th Street).
- Attendees questioned whether construction could begin sooner (or later) than 2022. (Per the City, the construction timeline is dependent on funding, and 2022 is the best guess at this time as construction is not currently funded. If funding were obtained before anticipated, the schedule could be moved up.)
- Some comments received at the meeting were not directly related to the project, but are otherwise relevant to the City.
  - Concerns over the design of the WSDOT roundabout at I-205
  - Traffic on 97th Street
  - ATV use/noise in the BPA easement (area known as Honda Hill)
  - Trash being dumped in open areas near 18th Street
  - Are there any plans to improve 112th Avenue?
  - Flooding at the intersection of 18th Street and 97th Street
  - Overgrowth/need for vegetation maintenance in the BPA easement

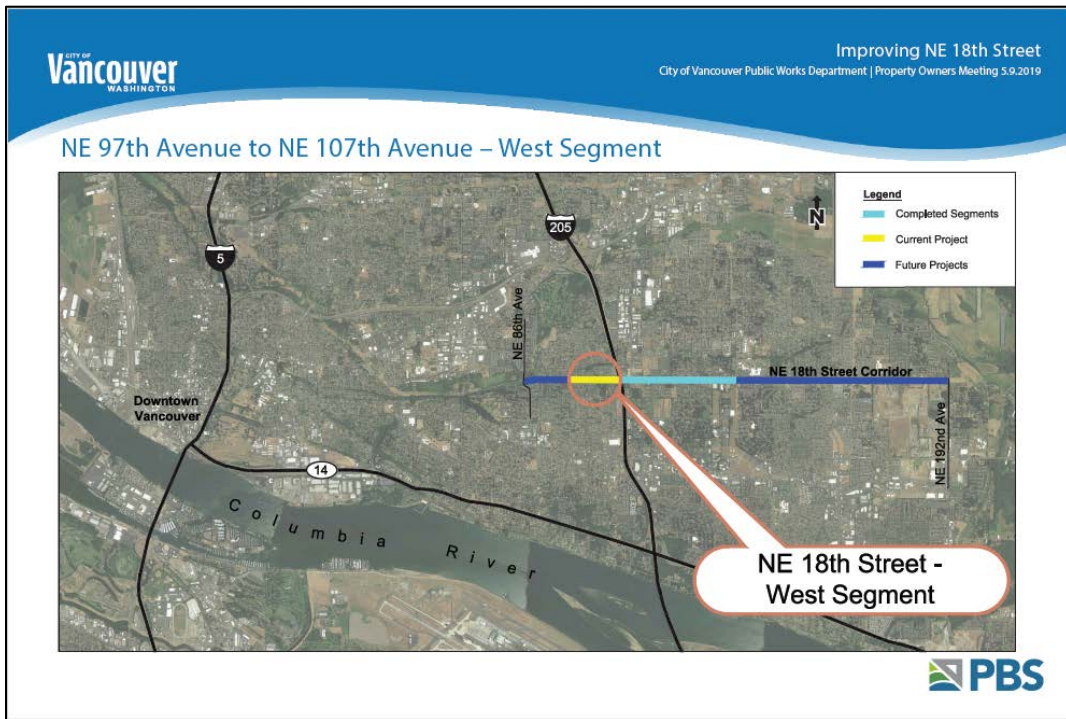
**6. NEXT STEPS**

The project team will host a public open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at Henrietta Lacks Health and Bioscience High School, 9105 NE 9th Street. The owners of all properties within 600 feet of the west segment (including those who attended this property owners' meeting) will receive a postcard mailer with event details. The open house will also be advertised on the project webpage ([www.cityofvancouver.us/18thWest](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/18thWest)).

## 7. DISPLAY BOARDS



**Display Board 1 – Aerial of West Segment**



**Display Board 2 – NE 18th Street Corridor**

## 8. QUESTIONNAIRE

CITY OF  
**Vancouver**  
WASHINGTON

Improving NE 18th Street

### Property Owners Questionnaire

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please submit written comments by or before May 20, 2019, if at all possible. Comments may be sent by email or mail to: [Loretta.Callahan@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:Loretta.Callahan@cityofvancouver.us)  
Loretta Callahan  
City of Vancouver Public Works/Operations  
PO Box 1995  
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995*

1. Tell us about yourself. How do you currently use your property? (owner-occupied or rental, business/work at home, vacant, etc.)
  
2. Are you familiar with the City's NE 18th Street Improvement Project? If yes, what is your understanding of the project planned for this segment west of I-205?
  
3. Do you have any future development plans for your property?
  
4. This project will include a street corridor design with on- and/or off-street bicycle and pedestrian pathways. How do you use the BPA power line easement now (examples: visual open space, passive recreation, etc.)? As we work on the design, do you have any thoughts about how open-space access might best be used for you and your neighborhood?

5. Are there any other design features you think should be considered if there's an option or ability to do so?
  
6. Do you have any concerns about the project or have you heard any concerns we should be aware of as we design this new corridor? Any concerns about access to your property during or after construction?
  
7. How would you like to stay informed about this project (for example, mailers, emails, Nextdoor, Facebook, neighborhood association meetings)?
  
8. Do you know of other individuals or groups we should contact about the project?
  
9. Is there anything else you would like to add?

**NEXT STEPS**

Additional opportunities for community input will include a public open house on June 6, 2019. Updates will be provided on the project webpage at [www.cityofvancouver.us/18thWest](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/18thWest).