

**CITY OF VANCOUVER  
NE 137TH AVENUE CORRIDOR COMPLETION  
OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY**

**DATE:** April 16, 2015  
**PURPOSE:** Open House No. 2  
**LOCATION:** Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary School

**PROJECT TEAM ATTENDANCE**

- Hassan Abdalla, City of Vancouver
- Loretta Callahan, City of Vancouver
- Brooke Porter, City of Vancouver
- Greg Jellison, HDJ Design Group
- Ken Hash, HDJ Design Group
- Rich Darland, HDJ Design Group
- Hermanus Steyn, Kittelson & Associates
- Jen Colbert, BergerABAM

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The City of Vancouver plans to improve NE 137th Avenue from NE 49th Street to Fourth Plain Road to address safety and congestion issues. The project will upgrade that section of the road to current urban standards, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The improvements will enhance safety, manage access to the fronting properties, and minimize delay now caused by turning vehicles. The City has already improved NE 137th Avenue from Mill Plain Boulevard to NE 49th Street, so this is the last segment of the corridor within the City of Vancouver that needs improvement. The design of NE 137th Avenue is funded through a federal grant from the Federal Highway Administration. This grant is for project design and there are no funds identified for either right-of-way acquisition or construction. Completing design and environmental work are important to move this project forward.

**EVENT OVERVIEW**

The City of Vancouver is working on the design to upgrade the portion of the NE 137th Avenue corridor that is within the City, from NE 49th Street up to Fourth Plain Road. The City and its engineering consultant evaluated four corridor design options to produce a proposed preferred alternative. The April 16 open house is the second of two, and 34 members of the community attended. A cameraman/reporter from Portland channel 6 KOIN TV also stopped by briefly. The event handout that is attached illustrates the preferred alternative presented at the open house.

**STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS**

In general, attendees were supportive of the proposed corridor design. The following comments were received regarding the NE 137th Avenue corridor completion project.

**Roundabouts**

- There was concern expressed about right-of-way impacts to the roundabout at NE 52nd Street. Project staff, and property owners discussed the impact the current design for the roundabout at the NE 52nd Street intersection would have on the property. The roundabout as currently designed would require the demolition or relocation of the

existing home and would move the roadway very close to the front of the existing pole barn on the site. The pole barn houses an active machine shop that the owners believe to be “grandfathered” as relates to zoning. Project staff and attendees discussed how the family operates its business, how trucks access the building for deliveries, and how full-sized equipment is brought into the building for repair work. The current roundabout design places the back of the sidewalk within 40 feet of one of the front corners and within 15 feet of the other front corner of the building, which could prevent owners from bringing large trucks in as is currently done. Other options were discussed, such as new doors on the building’s side or back and reconfiguration of equipment inside the building. It was decided that the property/business owners would visit their colleagues in the trucking industry to see how much room would be needed at a minimum, and that a meeting would be scheduled to visit with the property/business owners on the site to review how their machine shop operates.

#### **Median Barrier**

- A resident from the north end of NE 137th Avenue was concerned about a median being in front of her home. Project staff explained to her that there would not be a median north of NE 59th Street, but a three-lane road with a center turn lane.

#### **Written Comments Received**

- Vote for alternative 2 – Thank you!

#### **UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER EVENTS**

##### **Open House No. 3: Presentation of design at 75 percent complete**

Date: To be determined – approximately November 2015