

Black Diamond Sewer Upgrade



Preliminary Design Survey Summary

Overview

The City of Black Diamond built the Black Diamond Trunk sewer pipe in 1992 with help from King County. Now the pipe is almost full. King County plans to upgrade it to serve the growing community. We may repair the pipe, expand it, or add new pipes. The Black Diamond Trunk Sewer carries wastewater from the City of Black Diamond. The pipe runs north of Black Diamond all the way to Covington.

In summer 2025, King County ran an online survey. It shared project information and gathered community input. We received 80 complete survey responses. **Traffic and construction were identified as the community's top concerns.** The survey was open from July 18 to September 17, 2025.

What we heard

Most people said they live nearby and travel in the project area daily. When they travel it is to run errands, commute to work/school, and for recreation. Additionally, People told us the following:

- **Traffic and construction are top concerns:**
 - People say traffic is their biggest concern.
 - Many people asked how long construction will take.
 - People say being able to reach their homes and businesses during construction is important
- **Roads with existing safety concerns:**
 - **Covington Sawyer Road:** Traffic backs up near schools and neighborhoods create safety concerns.
 - **Timberlane Way Southeast and Timberlane Drive:** People worry about accidents on these busy roads.
 - **216th Avenue Southeast and Southeast 272nd Street:** People said these roads are busy and feel "dangerous".
- **Other community wastewater priorities:**
 - **Public health:** People say that keeping our communities healthy is most important. We help do this by collecting and cleaning wastewater.
 - **Water quality:** People want clean rivers, lakes, streams, and the Puget Sound. We help with this by keeping untreated wastewater in our sewer system.

- **Preventing sewer failures:** People want to prevent sewer failures. We help do this by upgrading aging pipes and systems. We also regularly repair and upkeep our system.
- **How people want to learn about the project:**
 - Most people want email updates.
 - People want clear and frequent information.
 - People want to learn more about project costs, odor control, and sewer connection options.

How we shared

| Outreach method | Promotion details |
|---------------------------|---|
| In-person outreach | King County promoted the survey to about 1,120 people at the Black Diamond Labor Days Festival (two days), Covington Days festival (two days), and the Maple Valley Farmers Market. |
| Social media post | King County ran ads on Facebook and Instagram from Aug. 4 to Aug. 31, 2025. |
| Mailer | King County sent a mailer to 3,660 addresses on Aug. 15. |
| GovDelivery | King County sent an e-newsletter to 177 subscribers on July 18. |
| Web update | The survey was announced on the project website on Aug. 6, 2025. 551 people visited the website to learn about the project. |

How we will use this feedback

We will use your 2025 feedback to help plan next steps. It will inform project design, traffic planning, and outreach in 2026 and beyond.

What's next?

In 2026, we will keep working on the project design. Additionally, we will:

- Bring a contractor onto the team. They will help inform design and future construction.
- Share detailed plans for pipe construction.
- Apply for permits.
- Begin an environmental review.
- Study soil and underground conditions. This helps us learn more about the project area.
- Share updates before any field work begins.

For more information or schedule a meeting:

- **Email** the project team at BDSEwerUpgrade@kingcounty.gov
- **Call** Annie Plumley at 206-263-3203
- **Visit** [the project website](#).

Alternate Formats Available: 206-377-5371 or TTY Relay: 711