



Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

Redmond Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee Briefing Summary

Date, Time, and Location

Monday, October 11, 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Attendance

Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee and panelists guests

There were 5 committee members in attendance and the City of Redmond Mayor.

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Kelly Foley Kruse

Danny Applegate, HDR

Lauren Wheeler, PRR

City of Redmond

Scott Reynolds

Overview

The purpose of the briefing was to provide updates to the Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee on the planned detours and closure routes since the project team briefed the committee in 2018.

Briefing summary

Kelly Foley Kruse, King County WTD Community Relations, reviewed the project background, purpose, and timeline. King County is working with the City of Redmond to finalize permitting for the project. Construction is currently expected to begin in 2024. Construction of the 4.5-mile-sewer pipe is expected to take about three years. When complete, the new pipe will provide sewer service for another 50 years or more.

Kelly noted that the Sammamish River Trail will be impacted between NE 85th Street and NE 51st Street. Trail closures will be intermittent over a 3-year construction window. Closures will be completed in sections and may not be consecutive.

Kelly reviewed the different detour options for closures of the Sammamish River Trail. An initial plan included a long bicycle and pedestrian detour, which would avoid closing a lane of West Lake Sammamish Parkway. Based on feedback from PBAC and other community members who travel through the area, the team developed a shorter detour option. This route will close one northbound lane of West Lake Sammamish Parkway to create a 10.5-foot-wide shared-use path for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Kelly provided an overview of King County’s plans to restore the Sammamish River Trail and streets impacted by construction. King County intends to repave the Sammamish River Trail to at least its existing extent. The paved trail and gravel shoulder will be widened between NE 85th Street and Leary Way during project restoration. King County will also seek to relocate maintenance holes off the trail where possible and replant trees and shrubs near the trail.



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Kelly provided an overview of preliminary bike lane closures and detours on West Lake Sammamish Parkway between NE 51st and NE 36th streets. Kelly emphasized that these plans may change as we get closer to construction and that all street closures, detours, and durations would require approval from Redmond City Council. When work is complete, King County will restore impacted pavement, sidewalks, curbs, and planter strips.

Summary of questions and feedback

Attendees asked questions and provided comments on project construction, traffic control on West Lake Sammamish Parkway, and Sammamish River Trail closures and detours.

Attendees had the following questions and comments for King County WTD and City of Redmond staff:

Does the West Lake Sammamish Rowing Association (SRA) know about the project and the planned lane closures? The fall season is a busy time for SRA operations and there is a lot of students who need to be dropped off and picked up off from the SRA parking lot and across West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

King County is in communication with the Sammamish Rowing Association and is aware that the SRA parking lot operations are busy during the summer and fall months. King County will continue to coordinate schedules and provide advance notification to the Sammamish Rowing Association before and during construction.

King County will maintain access to at least one entrance of the Sammamish Rowing Association driveway at all times during construction. There may be parking loss due to construction staging.

Closing West Lake Sammamish Parkway near the SR-520 ramp will have a big impact on car traffic. Has the project team considered building a temporary bridge across SR 520 to connect to Bear Creek Trail?

This was discussed early on in the project with King County Parks. However, this option was ruled out for a number of reasons but primarily based on anticipated environmental impacts as the bridge would need to extend across the adjacent Bear Creek to get to the trail resulting in stringent permit requirements. This was complicated by the fact that the Sound Transit light rail construction project will be under construction on the south side of SR-520 resulting in potential conflicts. This would be a very expensive pedestrian bridge as it would likely be over 600-feet in length in order to cross Bear Creek, SR-520, and Sound Transit with multi-level ramps on both sides to make this path ADA-accessible.

There is a lot of traffic in both directions on West Lake Sammamish Parkway, but perhaps higher volumes of northbound traffic than southbound during peak hours. Is the project team considering having two northbound lanes and one southbound lane?

The median between the northbound and southbound lanes makes split lane traffic not feasible.

Scott Reynolds (City of Redmond) added that the City prioritizes pedestrian and vehicle traffic equally, and the proposed detour configuration is the best solution for construction.

Regarding the detour from NE 40th Street to Idylwood Park, where the bike detour goes west on NE 40th Street and then south, this is a steep hill. Has it been looked at?

King County thanked the Committee Member for this comment and committed to looking into it further.



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The proposed detour on West Lake Sammamish Park appears to be the only way to do it. This is a courageous move from the City of Redmond to go through this effort to maintain bicycle and pedestrian access. It's going to be tough on traffic, but he is impressed with the plan.

Scott Reynolds (City of Redmond) said that coordination with King County, WSDOT, and City of Redmond is a challenge. Scott acknowledged that the effort from the PBAC and other communities who have expressed suggestions to help prioritize pedestrian and bicycle use.

What is the best way to share feedback?

King County always welcomes project feedback. Community members can reach out by contacting Kelly Foley Kruse at kelly.foleykruse@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-8621 at anytime. However, feedback specific to the permitting process should reflect the City's preferred timeline.

Scott Reynolds (City of Redmond) invited the Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee to submit comments on the detour routes within the next two weeks. Those comments will be captured during the entitlement phase of the permit process.

Tam Kutzmark (PBAC) will communicate the timeline for receiving comments to the rest of the committee and will share comments received to them with Scott.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS AVAILABLE

206-477-5371/ 711 (TTY Relay)