



NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Mercer Island Walk-and-Talks

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

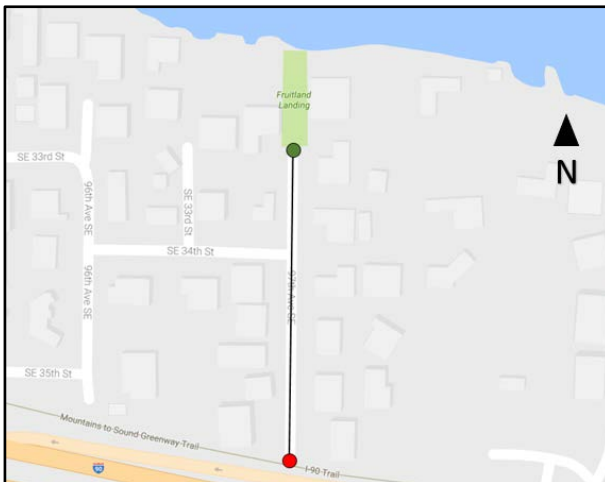
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Purpose

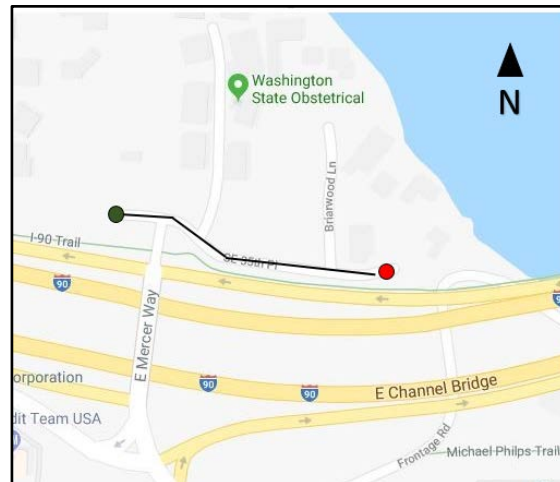
On Tuesday, June 12, King County walked portions of the sewer alignment on Mercer Island with residents. The walk-and-talks provided an opportunity for residents living along the project route to better understand the project's impacts on their neighborhood. The walks also allowed King County to gather information from residents about features on the project route based on their local knowledge of the area.

Locations

1. Fruitland Landing
2. S.E. 35th Place



Fruitland Landing walk-and-talk location



S.E. 35th Place walk-and-talk location

Attendance

Approximately eight members of the public joined the two separate neighborhood walks.

Format

Each walk started with an overview of the planned upgrade, including the rationale for the final pipe location, expected construction impacts and durations and restoration plans. From there, the group walked the alignment, asked questions and discussed how King County will work with neighbors during construction.

- The first walk started at Fruitland Landing, located at the north end of 97th Avenue S.E. The project team pointed out where construction would begin and what techniques the contractor would use to install the pipe. King County explained that there will be upgrades needed at the



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City of Mercer Island's Lift Station 11, located at Fruitland Landing. The scope of the improvements is still being refined with the City. Currently, King County does not plan to install a new pipe between Lift Station 11 and S.E. 34th Street, but this may change pending future discussions with the City. The group walked south along 97th Avenue S.E. to complete the walk.

- The second walk started at the cul-de-sac on the west side of S.E. 35th Place. The team shared information about the pipeline location and new equipment that will be installed underground in the S.E. 35th Place cul-de-sac. The project team explained that close coordination with WSDOT and neighbors will be needed when construction moves near the intersection of S.E. 35th Place and East Mercer Way. The group walked east along S.E. 35th Place and ended the walk where the I-90 Trail meets Frontage Road under the I-90 Bridge.

Summary of feedback

Below is a summary of questions, comments, and discussion with community members during the walk-and-talks:

General questions

How do our side sewers connect to your sewer line?

Side sewers on private property connect into local City of Mercer Island sewer lines. City lines then feed in to King County's regional line, which travels to the South Treatment Plant in Renton.

Why not follow the existing line that runs through Lake Washington?

When the existing pipe was built in the early 1970s, environmental regulations were different. Now, in-water work is allowed only when there is no other alternative. In this case, a feasible upland route was found.

What pipe material will you use for this project?

We will likely use polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe on the I-90 trail portion of the project up to the Siphon Inlet Structure. From this point, there will be 3 parallel pipelines (using ductile iron pipe material) along SE 35th PL. The force main along 97th Ave SE will also be ductile iron pipe. The current pipes are cast-iron ductile, with a High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) portion from a 2007 repair.

What is the difference between a force main and a gravity pipe?

A gravity pipe uses the slope of the pipe to keep sewage moving towards the treatment plant; water flows by gravity and not under pressure. A force main pipe is connected to a pump station, which uses pressure to move sewage through the pipe, often uphill and against gravity. King County uses gravity pipes whenever possible because they are more efficient. On this portion of the project, a force main is being installed at 97th Avenue S.E. to connect flows from Lift Station 11 to the new interceptor at the I-90 Trail.



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Who maintains the I-90 Trail?

WSDOT owns the Trail and the City of Mercer Island maintains it.

Is there a limit to the length of street the contractor will be able to rip up at any given time?

King County will provide a limit to the trench length. The limit may vary by location.

How long will construction last?

We expect the contractor to install up to 40 feet of pipe per day, on average. We expect it will take up to approximately 2 to 3 months to install the pipe along 97th Avenue S.E., and approximately 3 to 4 months along S.E. 35th Place to the water. Lift Station 11 improvements will take 6 to 12 months, pending discussions with the City of Mercer Island.



A member from the project team sharing project plans with local neighbors at 97th Avenue S.E.

How will the road be restored once construction is complete?

The road will be restored to City of Mercer Island standards when construction is complete. We are still working with the City to understand what will be required. We do anticipate overlaying at least the half of the road where our trench is located on each street.

How will the right-of-way in front of my house be restored?

The right-of-way in front of your house will be restored to City of Mercer Island standards. The City has instructed King County to replace grass or landscaping with grass, gravel with gravel and asphalt with asphalt. We anticipate concrete driveway aprons will be replaced with asphalt, but are still working to confirm this requirement.

The streets will be ripped up. Is there any chance that the City will plan to make additional utility upgrades during this time?

We are working closely with the City of Mercer, Sound Transit and the Washington State Department of Transportation to understand how our work will overlap and how we can work together to reduce compounding construction impacts to you. This includes following guidelines under development by the City of Mercer Island's Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan.

[Questions and comments specific to 97th Avenue S.E.](#)

Site visibility at the intersection of 97th Avenue S.E. and S.E. 34th Street

Neighbors commented that there are site visibility issues for vehicles and pedestrians who are turning onto 97th Avenue S.E. from S.E. 34th Street. They requested that construction crew avoid parking vehicles near this intersection, and that adequate safety measures are enforced when construction activity begins.



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King County WTD will work with the City and residents to maintain safety during construction. Flaggers and “No Parking” signs will be used where required by the City-approved traffic control plan.

Will there be concurrent work going on involving other utility projects?

The City may upgrade some water lines along 97th Avenue S.E., but that has yet to be confirmed. While we have regular coordination meetings with City of Mercer Island, the City will communicate additional utility work that may be happening in the area.

[Questions and comments specific to S.E. 35th Place](#)

What is the mitigation plan for tree removal in the ravine between the I-90 Trail and the cul-de-sac?

We will need to remove some trees between 97th Avenue S.E. and S.E. 35th Place. We will be able to confirm tree removal needs and restoration plans after additional tree surveys are taken this summer, along with continued discussions with WSDOT and the City of Mercer Island.

How tall with the odor control stack be?

We are still determining the height needs of the odor stack.

Will there be odors coming from the odor control unit?

No. Maintenance crews replace activated carbon units regularly to ensure that the system is working optimally. If there were ever a problem, King County maintains a 24-hour odor control hotline.



Project team and local neighbors walking S.E. 35th Place.

King County has stringent odor control standards that require treatment and air dispersion to prevent nuisance odors

Historically, there have been sink holes from dried up natural springs flowing underground. Could this project trigger sink holes?

King County has conducted geotechnical surveys to better understand soil and water conditions underground. The pipe alignment and construction techniques are chosen to avoid negative soil and water impacts below ground.

How will storm drains be protected from construction detritus?

During construction, temporary measures will be in place to stop pollution and debris from entering to the storm drains.



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How many trees will need to be removed?

An arborist survey will be underway soon. This survey will inform both tree removal and replacement plans. King County will share this information when it is available. King County will follow guidelines set by the City of Mercer Island and other regulatory agencies for restoration and tree replacement.

Will tree roots be damaged by construction?

A staff arborist will evaluate any trees that may be impacted by construction, including in the root zones. A project team member will work with residents on an individual basis as the team gathers that information.

In what order will the project be built?

The contractor will do the work in the order they determine is best. The contractor will be hired in late 2019 or early 2020, so we won't know the exact schedule until they are on board.

How wide and deep will the construction trench be?

The construction trench on most streets in this project area will be approximately 8 feet wide to 10 feet wide to accommodate the gravity sewer or 3 parallel pipelines and space to install them. The trench will be approximately 7 feet deep. Along 97th Avenue S.E., the trench will be approx. 4 feet wide where a 10 inch pipe will be placed.

Where will the contractor store construction materials?

The contractor will obtain staging areas. Some materials may be staged near the Mercer Island Boat Launch. Some materials may also be stored on the streets where construction is active.

Will I be able to get to my house during construction?

Yes, we will maintain access to your home at all times. However, you may be asked to park on the street, rather than your driveway, during work hours when construction is underway directly in front of your driveway. There may also be delays to get in and out of your driveway, which we will coordinate with you in advance. We will also work with you in advance to understand any special needs you may have and help you plan ahead.

Will there be parking restrictions on my street?

Yes. There will be parking restrictions on roads where our construction is underway. We will need this space to store construction equipment and keep traffic moving around our trench.

Will my street be closed during construction?

King County and our contractor will need to close some streets, but will maintain local and emergency vehicle access at all times. Due to the narrow residential streets in these neighborhoods, we may need to work outside of the paved roadway areas. This may require us to remove improvements that have been made in the right-of-way such as driveway aprons, landscaping, trees and rockeries.



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What will happen to landscaping that is in the public right-of-way?

If there is landscaping that extends into the public right-of-way in front of your home, it may be removed to install the sewer pipe. The project team will be in touch with residents who have landscaping in the right-of-way in front of their property. Residents will have an opportunity to remove landscaping they want to save. If you do not want to save landscaping, it will be removed and disposed of by the contractor. King County will not reinstall landscaping in the public right-of-way after construction.

Is there a risk of the pipe breaking and sewage damaging my house?

The pipe will not carry sewage until construction is complete. In the unlikely event of a break while the sewer is operational, King County would consider this an emergency and assess damages and repairs as necessary.