



NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

Mercer Island Walk-and-Talks

Saturday, March 3, 2018

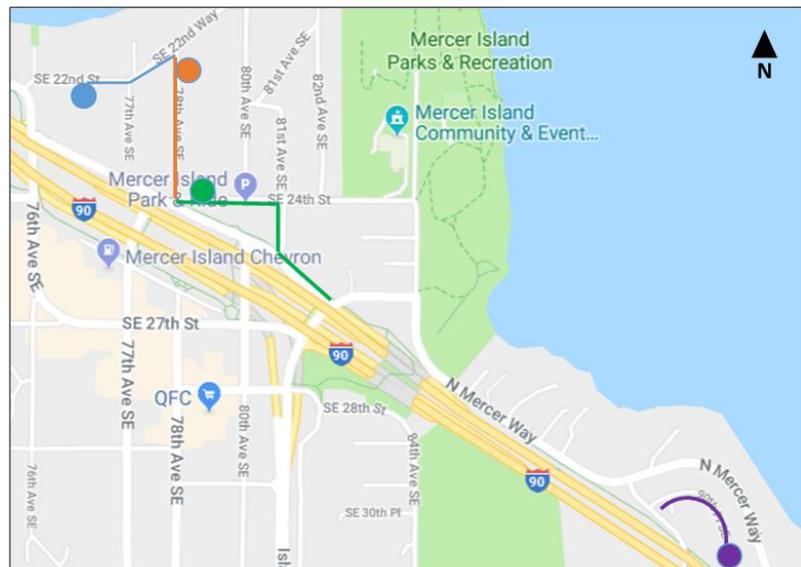
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Purpose

On Saturday, March 3, 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. ● North Mercer Pump Station & S.E. 22nd Way (10 – 11 a.m.)
2. ● 78th Avenue S.E. (11 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
3. ● S.E. 24th Street, 81st Avenue S.E., N. Mercer Way (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)
4. ● 90th Place S.E. (2 – 3 p.m.)



Mercer Island walk-and-talk locations

Attendance

Approximately 40 members of the public joined the four separate neighborhood walks. Some visitors attended more than one walk-and-talk.

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 the North Mercer Pump Station. Neighbors learned about planned upgrades including a new building to house a generator and a new odor control unit. From the pump station, the team walked up S.E. 22nd Way.



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- The second walk started at the corner of S.E. 22nd Way and 78th Avenue S.E. The group walked south to the corner of S.E. 24th Street.
- The third walk started on S.E. 24th Street. The group walked east on S.E. 24th Street to 81st Avenue S.E., south on 81st Avenue S.E., and along N. Mercer Way to Island Crest Way.
- The final walk was along 90th Place S.E. starting at the cul-de-sac at the end of the street.

Summary of feedback

Many attendees asked questions about how their properties will be affected by construction and how access to homes will be maintained. There were also questions about how traffic will be impacted by this work, how the area will be restored when the project is complete, and how King County is coordinating with the City of Mercer Island and Sound Transit on other projects in the area.

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 alternative. In this case, a feasible upland route was found.

What is the overall project budget?

The overall project budget for design and construction is approximately \$116 million.

How is this project being paid for?

This project is funded by monthly sewer bill revenue. Because King County operates a regional sewer system, ratepayers throughout the entire service area will help cover the cost of the project through their monthly sewer bill.

What pipe material will you use for this project?

We will likely use polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe on the Mercer Island portion of the project. High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) will be used for East Channel Crossing and the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) that will be installed in the Enatai Hillside in South Bellevue. The current pipes are cast-iron and ductile iron, with a HDPE portion from the 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 project, a force main is being installed between the N. Mercer Pump Station and 90th Place S.E. A gravity pipe will be installed between the cul-de-sac on the east end of 90th Place S.E. and the Sweyolocken Pump Station in Mercer Slough.



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Why is the sewer force main that will run between the N. Mercer Pump Station and 90th Place S.E. two pipes instead of one larger pipe?

Using two pipes (as opposed to one larger pipe) will keep sewage moving more quickly through each of the pipes, which reduces the likelihood of pipe corrosion and odor.

Design: North Mercer Pump Station

Neighbors are interested in providing input on the look and feel of the pump station. What can neighbors provide input on?

The project team is still working through the details of where neighbors can provide input. Areas of interest in past projects have included restoration and trees, building and roofing materials, and fencing design.

Please consider the amount of maintenance that will be necessary with new plantings around the pump station.

King County will include a plan for maintenance of the site once restoration is complete to ensure establishment of the vegetation.

Be sure to consider the potential for increased noise with larger pumps and a generator.

Part of our design will include noise muffling materials for the existing pump station and new standby generator. With newer equipment, noise levels may actually be lower than they are currently.

It is noisy when trucks come to deliver fuel and supplies to the station. Is it possible to design the facility to reduce the amount of truck traffic coming to and from the facility?

During the walk-and-talk, King County staff explained that the trucks are needed for regular maintenance at the station, but that they would discuss this with the project team after the meeting to get more information. It was determined that overall truck traffic to the site would not significantly change after the proposed improvements.

Since the existing pump station has four floors underneath the ground surface, could another level be added to house the new standby generator, rather than building another space above ground?

The generator and associated electrical equipment must be placed above ground to avoid water damage.

If a tree falls from the pump station site onto private property, who is responsible for getting it removed?

King County would be responsible for removal of any tree that fell from the pump station property. Any on-site questions or concerns about the pump station can be directed to King County operations at 206-263-1760).

Construction schedule and duration

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 early 2020, so we won't know the schedule until they are on board.



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How long will construction take on each street?

The portion from the North Mercer Pump Station to North Mercer Way is expected to take approximately eight months. The segment along North Mercer Way and the segment along 90th Place S.E. are each expected to take approximately three and five months, respectively.

How long will construction last at the pump station?

Construction activities at the pump station will likely take three years to complete. The new pump station cannot operate until the new sewer pipe is installed. As a result, the pump station may not be operational until 2024, after project construction is complete.

Will there be penalties if the contractor does not finish within the approved schedule?

Yes. A daily fee, called liquidated damages, is typically assessed if a project runs over schedule.

Will you restrict the contractor from working on adjacent streets at the same time?

We will look at scheduling restrictions that will allow the contractor to complete the work quickly, but also keep traffic moving as efficiently as possible. We will develop a traffic control plan in 2019 that will help inform any scheduling restrictions.

Construction methods

How wide and deep will the construction trench be?

The construction trench on most streets will be approximately 8 feet wide to accommodate two force mains and space to install them. They will be approximately 7 feet deep, but depth may vary by street because of topography and existing utilities.

Will the entire street be opened up for construction?

The entire street will be used on North Mercer Way (between 81st Avenue S.E. and Island Crest Way). The other streets – SE 22nd Place, 78th Avenue S.E., SE 24th Street, 81st Avenue S.E. and 90th Place S.E. – will see construction on approximately half the street, with delays and flagging to move cars through the work zone. However, the entire width of the right-of-way may be used for material transportation and storage. The contractor will typically keep approximately 40 linear feet of trench length open at a time as they install pipe and backfill.

Where will the contractor store construction materials?

The contractor will find staging areas. Some materials may be staged near the Mercer Island Boat Launch. Materials may also be stored on the street right-of-way where construction is active.

Construction impacts

Lane and street closures

Will my street be closed during construction?

North Mercer Way will be closed to roadway traffic between 81st Avenue S.E. and Island Crest Way for approximately three months when work is underway in this location. There is not enough room to safely complete our work and provide enough space to keep a high volume of traffic moving. It may be possible to keep the sidewalk on the north side of the road open for pedestrian traffic.



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There are no other full road closures planned, but S.E. 22nd Way, 78th Avenue S.E., 24th Avenue S.E., 81st Avenue S.E. and 90th Place S.E. will be narrowed to one lane while work is underway. We will likely have flaggers in place to keep two directions of traffic moving through the open lane. Outside of work hours, the trench will likely be covered with asphalt or a steel plate open a second lane, pending permit conditions.

Can you restrict thru-traffic during construction on 78th Avenue S.E.?

We may consider use of “local access only” signage during construction, though we have no way of screening drivers to enforce this restriction.

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

We will provide a limit to the trench length. The limit may vary by location, and will also depend on permit conditions.

When roads are narrowed to one lane, would you consider detouring one lane of traffic off of the road, rather than stopping traffic and flagging two-way traffic?

This is something we will consider when developing our traffic control plan. This plan will be reviewed and approved by the City of Mercer Island.

Access

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.

How will we get mail and garbage services during construction?

King County will work the post office in advance of construction to ensure daily mail delivery. Some mailboxes may need to be temporarily relocated during construction, and King County will work with residents who may be impacted in this way.

King County will work with both service providers and residents to ensure that garbage and recycling services continue uninterrupted. Like mail, pick up locations may shift temporarily during construction.

Private property

Will tree roots on private property 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.

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

The pipe will not be carrying 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.



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Are there other property risks associated with living this close to street work?

We are gathering as much information about the existing landscape, groundwater, utilities and other existing features in your neighborhood to limit the potential of finding something unexpected when we excavate during construction. However, unexpected events can occur, such as hitting an existing utility that was not properly mapped or recorded underground. Events like this can slow construction down. If something like this were to occur, our first priority would be restoring utility service to nearby homes and businesses.

What happens if there is damage to my property as a result of the project?

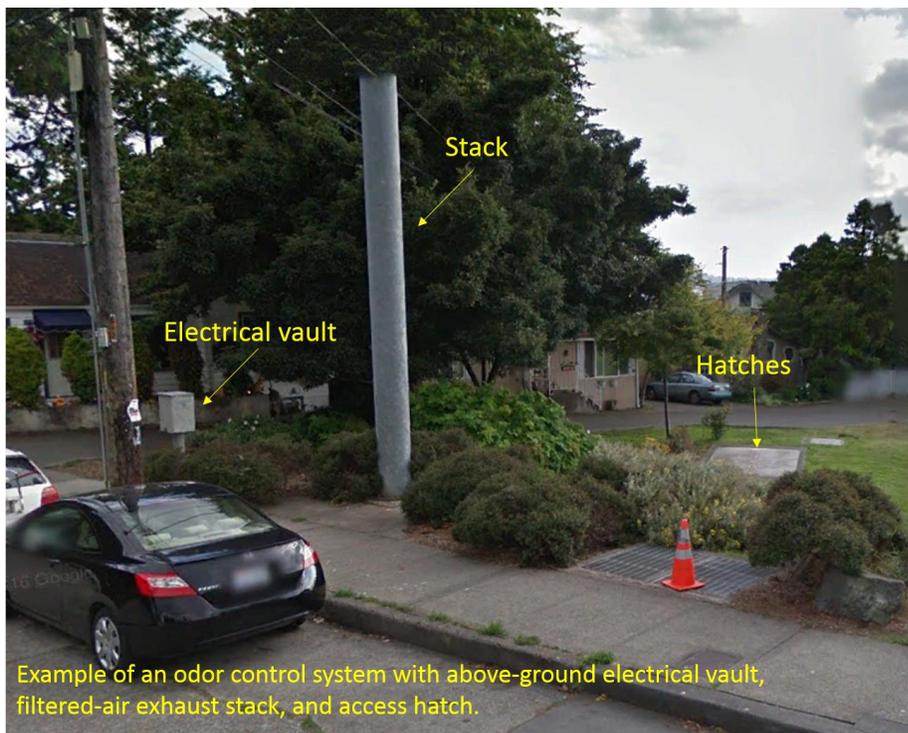
King County has a Risk Management Office where individuals can file a claim if they feel the County is responsible for any damage to their property during construction.

Odor control

What will the odor control facility in the cul-de-sac on 90th Place S.E. look like?

The odor control system in 90th Place S.E. will be primarily underground, with an exhaust stack and electrical panel above-ground and access hatches on the ground surface. King County is conducted a study of wind and weather patterns before we can determine the height of the stack, but expect that it will be about 10-inches in diameter. We are looking to place both the exhaust stack and the electrical vault on the hill behind the guard rail, if possible.

Below is a photo of an example odor control system with similar above-ground components. The size, design and layout of the facility at 90th Place is still being determined.





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Parking

Will there be parking restrictions on my street?

There will likely 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.

Be aware that residents are expected to pay for permitted parking spaces on 78th Avenue SE. If you take away access to our driveway, we will have to pay to park on the street.

This is new information for our project team. We will take this into consideration should residents be asked to park on the street on 78th Avenue S.E. when the pipe is being installed in front of their driveway.

Landscaping and right-of-way improvements

Will there be work on the gravel shoulders?

Yes. The pipe will be placed near the edge of the pavement on most streets, and the work area will extend into the gravel shoulders.

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

If you have landscaping that extends into the public right-of-way, it may be removed to install the sewer pipe. The project team will be in touch with residents whose landscaping will be impacted. 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, but will be restored with grass.

What will happen to my irrigation that extends into the public right-of-way?

If you have irrigation that extends into the public right-of-way, King County will notify you in advance of any impact to the lines. As construction gets going, the contractor will cut and cap irrigation lines that extend into the work zone.

Restoration

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 them to understand what will be required. We do anticipate repaving 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. They've instructed us 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. Retaining walls are structural improvements and will not follow these standard restoration requirements. We will work with the City of Mercer Island and adjacent property owners to develop site-specific restoration plans in these cases.



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Consider paving the full width of the street rather than patching over areas where you work, especially on 78th Avenue S.E. and S.E. 22nd Way, which are frequently used routes for bicyclists.

We will repave at least one half of the road (the side where our trench is located). In some cases, we may repave the full width of the street, pending City of Mercer Island permit conditions

Coordination with other projects

The streets will be ripped up. Is there any chance of undergrounding the electrical wires or replacing aging gas or water lines during this time?

King County coordinates with other utilities and agencies to ensure that our project doesn't interfere with the services they provide. They are aware of the project. It is up to those utilities to determine if they want to make improvements in conjunction with our project. The City of Mercer Island will replace an aging water line on S.E. 22nd Way before our project begins, and we have been working closely with the City to minimize disruption and restore the street efficiently.

Recent closures of the HOV lanes for Sound Transit construction have changed traffic patterns coming to and from I-90. Please take this into consideration when working on North Mercer Way, especially at the intersection with Island Crest Way.

We took traffic counts at this location after the HOV lanes were closed. We believe we've accurately accounted for this change in traffic patterns, but will take a closer look at this when developing our traffic control plans.

How will Sound Transit construction impact your construction schedule?

Sound Transit East Link construction on Mercer Island is expected to be complete by 2020, prior to the start of our construction.