



# Memorandum

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**Date:** July 20, 2015  
**To:** Sammamish City Council  
**From:** Andrew Zagars, City Engineer  
**Re:** Sahalee Way Preliminary Design Update – June 24<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting Recap

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On May 5, 2015, the City Council approved a contract with Perteet Inc. for the development of a Preliminary Design Report (Report) for the Sahalee Way corridor. The Sahalee Way Project is included in the 2016-2021 Six Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The purpose of the Report is to determine the major elements necessary to satisfy concurrency requirements and analyze peak traffic forecasts provided by the updated Comprehensive Plan. The Report will include design options ranging from 3-lane to 5-lane configurations in addition to providing planning-level cost estimates for all options presented. Additionally, the intersection at NE 28<sup>th</sup> Place will be analyzed for signalization or a roundabout.

At the request of the Transportation Committee, the scope of the study was extended to include analysis of the intersection at Hwy 202, which is outside City of Sammamish limits and part of the King County roadway system.

The scope of work for the consulting contract includes two open houses, the first of which was held on June 24. A summary of the open house is provided below.

**Overview of Public Open House:**

Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Time: 6 – 7:30 pm

Location: Boys & Girls Club, 825 228<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

**Presentation Team**

Andrew Zagars, City Engineer

Cheryl Paston, Deputy Public Works Director

Jed Ireland, Project Engineer

Dan Hansen, Perteet

Jesse Thomsen, Perteet

Mike Hendrix, Perteet

**Presentation**

City staff and the Perteet Design Team described the Sahalee Way Widening project and shared the objectives of the preliminary design study with the audience. Participants were encouraged to share their priorities for the roadway improvement project and were invited to complete a

questionnaire. Participants were also informed that a second open house would be held in October/November to present and discuss the recommendations of the preliminary design study.

- A total of 43 participants signed in (most residing in neighborhoods adjacent to the Sahalee Way project limits)
- 25 questionnaires were collected

### Overview of Public Comment

Public comments most often expressed included a strong desire for congestion relief and improved safety. Some participants owned property adjacent to Sahalee Way and expressed concern about potential impacts to private property. A few participants emphasized the importance of preserving trees where possible to maintain the aesthetic quality of the corridor and encouraged attention be paid to other environmental factors. A few participants expressed concerns about noise and suggested quiet asphalt treatments or sound walls.

### Discussion

Congestion was the primary concern expressed by most participants, though most believed that widening to 5-lanes was not necessary. Many perceived that congestion at Hwy 202 was a governing factor, while others indicated that the NE 37<sup>th</sup> Street signal was a significant source of congestion on Sahalee Way. Some participants saw value in adding a southbound climbing lane from Hwy 202 for slow busses and trucks, while also providing space for bicyclists and an emergency shoulder for snow days.

Safety was the other often identified priority and many expressed a desire for a lower posted speed limit than the current 45 mph. Most participants (including many residing on the east side of Sahalee) suggested that a sidewalk was only needed on the west side. Participants also suggested Evans Creek Preserve would be the most likely draw for pedestrians to the north and indicated that a signalized pedestrian signal nearby the park entrance was desirable.

Participants of Heritage Hills and the Crest neighborhoods were pleased that a traffic signal at NE 28<sup>th</sup> Place was being evaluated. Some participants were concerned that a roundabout in this location would impact private property.

### Next Steps:

The staff and consulting team will continue to work on finalizing the Preliminary Design Report with the intention of presenting the findings to Council this fall. An overview of the anticipated project timeline is provided below.

### **Project Timeline:**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Preliminary Design       | May 2015 to October 2015 (in progress) |
| Present to Council       | October 2015                           |
| Second Public Open House | October/November 2015                  |
| Final Design             | January 2016-June 2017                 |
| Bidding                  | July 2017                              |
| Construction             | September 2017-December 2018           |