



City of Sammamish

# Issaquah-Fall City Road Improvements Project

Phase I: 242nd Avenue SE to Klahanie Drive SE

## Frequently Asked Questions

Fall 2017

### What is the Issaquah-Fall City Road Improvements Project?

The City of Sammamish is planning improvements to Issaquah-Fall City Road from 242nd Ave SE to Issaquah-Beaver Lake Road that will add capacity and improve safety. With over 1,800 vehicles per hour traveling along the roadway during peak periods, and few alternate routes, Issaquah-Fall City Road is one of the most highly used roads in the area. The current shape and slope of the roadway can create difficult sight lines for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Roadway improvements are needed to reduce congestion and improve safety for all users.

Roadway design and construction will be done in two phases. Phase I is from 242nd Ave SE to Klahanie Dr SE. Phase II is from Klahanie Dr SE to Issaquah-Beaver Lake Road.

### What will the new road look like?

The Phase I design consists of a four-lane roadway with two-lane roundabouts at each intersection (242nd Ave SE, 247th PI SE and Klahanie Dr SE), and a bridge where Issaquah-Fall City Road crosses the North Fork Issaquah Creek. It also includes a buffered bike lane, separated sidewalks, raised center medians and regrading to improve sight lines.

### Why were roundabouts selected?

The current design, with roundabouts at 242nd Ave SE, 247th PI SE and Klahanie Dr SE, aligns with the community-identified priorities for the new roadway: improved operations, safety for all users and protecting the environment. These priorities were gathered through feedback received at three public workshops, multiple stakeholder meetings, online comments and City Council meetings. Roundabouts also increase safety by reducing vehicle speeds and the number of conflict points in the roadway. Roundabouts have been proven to reduce collisions by 75% compared with traditional intersections.

To address pedestrian safety concerns, the City will install a High-intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) beacon near Pacific Cascade Middle School, and provide ongoing roundabout education. For more information on how roundabouts work visit: [safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/innovative/roundabouts](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/innovative/roundabouts).



### Why is a roundabout needed at 242nd Ave SE?

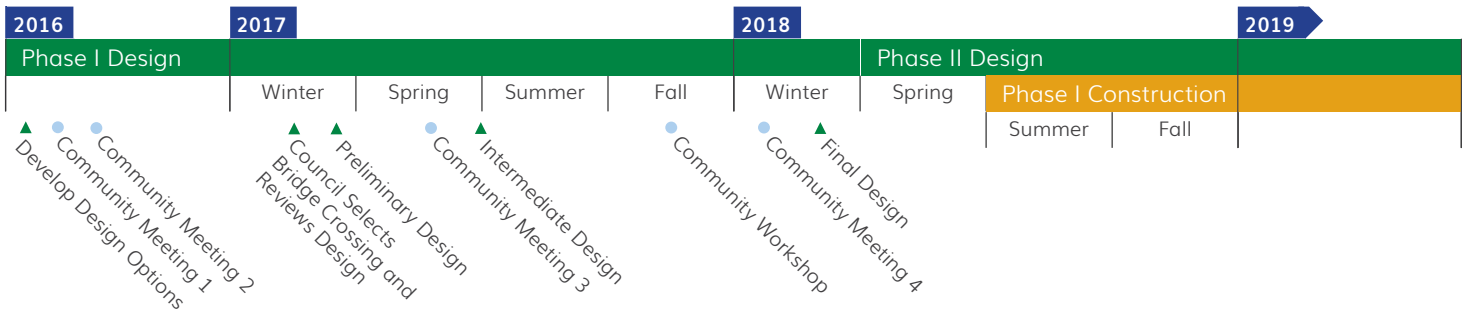
This roundabout helps meet the community-identified priorities for the new roadway. A roundabout reduces the need for a center turn lane, which reduces total pavement, surface water runoff, right-of-way impacts and left-turn conflicts. Roundabouts at all three intersections help improve the environment, water quality, safety and traffic flow through the corridor, while costing the community less.

### How will the public be involved in developing what the future corridor will look like?

Over the past year and a half, the City has gathered feedback from the community through three public workshops, meetings with residents, businesses and organizations along the corridor, online comments and City Council meetings. The public has shared valuable input on priorities that helped shape the design for Phase I. The City will continue to keep the community informed and ask for feedback as we look ahead to Phase I construction and Phase II design.

To request ADA accommodation, including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call 425-295-0538. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

**Project schedule**



**Phase II Construction:** Anticipated 2021-2022. Community outreach and City Council updates will be ongoing throughout the duration of the project.

**What is the project timeline?**

In spring 2016, the City started design for Phase I: 242nd Avenue SE to Klahanie Drive SE. The City has gathered input to identify community values and priorities for the improved corridor and considered design alternatives for the roadway. In early 2017, the City Council reviewed the design and selected the bridge option for the North Fork Issaquah Creek crossing based on feedback received through public workshops, stakeholder meetings and online comments.

Phase I design is expected to be complete in early 2018. Construction is planned to begin as soon as summer 2018 and expected to be completed by the end of 2019. Design for Phase II is expected to begin in 2018, with construction planned for 2021. Design decisions made during Phase I of the project will influence the options and design for Phase II. The City will continue to provide updates on the project schedule as design progresses.

**Can a pedestrian overpass be installed near Pacific Cascade Middle School?**

The City looked into installing an overpass and determined there is not enough available space for the supports and stairways without causing significant private property impacts. A HAWK beacon will be installed near the school to help people cross Issaquah-Fall City Road. The City will continue to provide ongoing roundabout education.

**What is the estimated cost and what are the funding sources for the project?**

The preliminary design-level cost estimate for Phase I construction is \$26-27 million. A \$5 million Connecting Washington grant has been awarded to the project with \$3.5 million allocated for Phase I construction and \$1.5 million for Phase II construction. The City plans to continue to apply for grant funding from local and state programs to help fund the project work.

**Who will decide on the final design for Phase I of the project?**

The City will work with City Council to develop the final design for Phase I based on community feedback, conversations with stakeholders and traffic data.

**How will the roadway improvements impact natural areas and habitat for fish and wildlife?**

Roadway improvements will be balanced with the City's commitment to protect mature trees and environmentally sensitive areas, where possible. The bridge, which will replace the existing culvert, improves wildlife habitat and passage for migrating salmon and other fish. The City will continue to work with the community and appropriate agencies to ensure that roadway improvements are made while minimizing impacts to natural areas, and important fish and wildlife habitats.

**What can I expect during construction?**

While improvements will ultimately benefit the community, there will be impacts that come with construction. Roadway users may experience increased noise, dust and occasional delays. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained. The City is working with the community to determine a detour route and gather input about solutions to help manage traffic and maintain safety during construction. The City will keep the community informed and ask for feedback as we continue to plan.

**How can I learn more about the project?**

- **Join us** at a community meeting (see project website for dates and times)
- **Ask us** to stop by your next community group event
- **Visit** our website and submit comments online: [www.sammamish.us/government/departments/public-works/current-projects/issaquah-fall-city-road](http://www.sammamish.us/government/departments/public-works/current-projects/issaquah-fall-city-road)
- **Contact** Sam Park, Project Manager with the City of Sammamish, at [spark@sammamish.us](mailto:spark@sammamish.us) or 425-295-0538