



Kent Auburn Conveyance System Improvements Project: Stuck River Trunk

Pre-Construction Open House

March 7, 2013 4:30– 6:30 p.m.

Holy Family Parish, 505 17th Street Southeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Overview

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted a pre-construction open house for the Stuck River Trunk project on March 7, 2013. The Stuck River Trunk project is a part of the Kent Auburn Conveyance Improvements Project. King County Wastewater Treatment Division is building two new pipelines, the Kent East Hill Diversion in Kent and the Stuck River Trunk in Auburn. The new pipelines will provide the required capacity to accommodate recent and projected growth in Kent and Auburn and will allow King County to continue to provide safe, reliable sewer service.

This report provides a brief summary of input, comments, and questions received at the Stuck River Trunk open house.

Open House Purpose

The purpose of the open house was to give community members and businesses affected by construction an opportunity to:

- Meet the project team and learn about the project
- Ask questions and provide feedback

Kent Auburn CSI Project Staff Attendance

<i>King County Wastewater Treatment Division</i>	Sue Hildreth, Project Manager Keven Sandquist, Project Representative Adair Muth, Community Relations
<hr/> <i>HDR</i>	<hr/> Dan Pecha, Engineer
<i>EnviroIssues</i>	Adonis Ducksworth, Community Relations

Open House Summary

The meeting was an open house format where approximately 15 residents attended between the hours of 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Project staff gave residents a general overview of the project, discussed construction methods and impacts, and described how construction would progress.

Project staff explained that the contractor, Scarsella Brothers, will begin trenchless construction under the BNSF railroad property between A Street Southeast and C Street Southeast. Trenchless technologies are used for underground pipeline installations to avoid open trench excavation at the surface.

Trenchless methods are typically used to install utility or conveyance pipelines under a busy roadway, or

to avoid a sensitive environmental area such as a wetland, stream, or steep slope. In this case, trenchless technology is being used to minimize impacts to the railroad.

Once trenchless construction is complete, the contractor will begin open trench construction at the intersection of 17th Street Southeast and A Street Southeast and progress east along 17th Street Southeast. During open trench construction, a section of the trench is excavated, the pipe is placed in the trench, and it is covered up and compacted prior to moving to the next open trench section. Large metal plates will be placed over open trenches at the end of each work day. Final restoration will be completed after the entire length of pipe is installed on 17th Street Southeast.

Project staff explained that all work must be completed west of F Street Southeast prior to beginning work east of F Street Southeast. Work will conclude at K Street Southeast.

Residents also had the opportunity to view six display boards that graphically communicated the following information about the project:

- Project overview
- Timeline
- Maps
- Construction methods and impacts
- Contact information
- Language translations available

Project staff noted residents' questions, comments, and concerns as they viewed the display boards and discussed the project. Residents raised the following questions and concerns about the project:

Traffic

The most prominent questions and concerns centered on how construction would affect traffic along 17th Street Southeast as well as connected side streets. The project team noted that while some impacts to traffic were inevitable, they would work with the construction team to minimize impacts when possible. Residents noted the traffic concerns below (project staff responses are in italics):

- Cars cutting through H Street Southeast from 17th Street Southeast during construction. H Street Southeast is already narrow and busy due to activities at Olympic Middle School. The addition of more cars would be overwhelming and disturbing to residents along H Street Southeast. *The contractor and City of Auburn are currently finalizing a traffic control plan that will require approval from King County and the City of Auburn before construction begins. Currently, there are no plans to reroute traffic to adjacent or connecting side streets.*
- Closed or blocked alleys due to construction, potentially causing cars to be rerouted to 12th Street Southeast. Some residents felt that being rerouted to 12th Street Southeast would be too far out of their way to drive. *Currently, there are no plans to reroute traffic to adjacent or connecting side streets.*

- Interruptions to King County Metro bus service due to bus stop closures. *King County Metro will determine changes to the 180 bus route. The project team will work closely with King County Metro throughout construction and notify the community of bus stop closures or relocations.*
- Not being able to access 17th Street Southeast from connecting side streets due to construction before and after typical work hours. *Although the contractor and the City of Auburn are still finalizing the traffic control plan, residents should be able to access 17th Street Southeast during construction hours. The contractor will use flaggers to help direct traffic along 17th Street Southeast.*
- Loss of street parking in the neighborhoods and side streets. *Some construction impacts are unavoidable and as construction progresses east along 17th Street Southeast there will be some temporary loss of street parking at active work zones. The project team instructed residents to call the 24-hour construction information line if they encountered any problems or had questions related to construction impacts such as traffic and parking.*

Other concerns and questions

While traffic was one of the major concerns for residents, the project team also heard the following questions and concerns (project staff responses are in italics):

- Concern regarding potential security and vandalism at or near the construction site. *The project staff will work with the contractor to secure the construction site and works zones to deter vandalism.*
- Would homes have to connect to the new sewer pipe along 17th Street Southeast? Some homes along 17th Street Southeast and connecting side streets already connect to the City of Auburn's sewer system. *Residences both along 17th Street Southeast and connecting streets will not be connected to the new King County sewer line. Residents will continue to be connected to the City of Auburn's sewer line.*
- Concern that utility bills would increase due to the new construction and sewer pipe. *This project is fully funded and there will be no increases to utility bills as a result of this project.*
- Concern about noise during construction, especially after 6:00 p.m. *For any work outside normal construction work hours, the contractor is required to obtain a noise variance from the City of Auburn and King County will provide advance notice to the community of the alternate work hours.*
- Would the street restoration after construction fix the low spots along 17th Street Southeast that currently cause standing water? *The contractor will restore 17th Street Southeast to City of Auburn standards after construction is complete. It may not be in the contractor's scope of work*

to repair any low spots that cause standing water. At this point, it is hard to say if the street restoration after construction will repair any low spots along 17th Street Southeast.

- *Concern about utility interruptions during construction. There are no planned utility service interruptions due to construction. However, during construction unplanned things can happen. If a utility is interrupted during the project, the project team will work with residents and businesses to limit the impacts and restore the utility as quickly as possible.*