



NORTH MERCER ISLAND/ENATAI Sewer Upgrade Project

North Mercer Island/Enatai Sewer Upgrade 2020 Open House Events Summary

Dates, Times, and Locations

Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. S.E., Bellevue, WA 98005

Thursday, January 30, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Mercer Island Community and Event Center
8236 S.E. 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Purpose

The purpose of the open houses was to:

- Review the project purpose and need
- Update community members on project status and schedule
- Explain landscape removal and restoration plans in more detail
- Highlight planned improvements
- Share what to expect during construction
- Provide information on how King County is coordinating with other local projects



Project staff and meeting attendee discuss the project alignment.

Attendance

Eighteen community members attended the January open houses.

Advance notification

Approximately 986 residents and businesses near the project area received a postcard invitation to the open houses.

Project staff posted information announcing the open houses on the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) website, advertised on the WTD Twitter page that has over 1,100 followers, and sent email invitations to approximately 885 project subscribers in advance of the event. In addition, project staff also asked community partners to help in sharing information about the open houses. A partner at the City of Bellevue advertised the open houses on the Surrey Downs/Enatai Nextdoor page, with over 3,000 subscribers.



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Format

The open houses were designed to allow visitors to come and go at times convenient to them, review project materials, and ask questions of project staff. There was no formal presentation. Comment forms were available for visitors to encourage participation and feedback. Light refreshments were provided.

Staff arranged project videos, information boards, and roll plots to cover topics of interest to the community, including:

- Project overview, status and schedule
- Detailed maps of the sewer pipe route
- What to expect during construction, including construction methods
- Restoration plans for the I-90 Trail, roads, and sidewalks
- How King County is coordinating with other local projects



Project team members talk with an attendee about project details.

Summary of feedback

Project staff recorded verbal comments and questions throughout the night. Questions and comments received were mainly regarding construction timeline, traffic and bike detours, and access to private properties. Below is a summary of questions, comments and discussion from the January 29 and January 30 open houses:

Construction

When will construction begin and how long will it take?

Construction is expected to begin by early 2021 and be complete in 2024. The work will be completed in sections such that the entire 4-mile alignment is not under construction at the same time. Multiple sections may be under construction at once and work may not occur consecutively.

How will I know when construction will impact my neighborhood?

We won't know the exact construction schedule until a contractor is selected, but we will be sure to share that information with you as it becomes available. We will share information on impacts and detours frequently. We will have a better idea of when work will occur in the project area after a contractor is hired in late 2020.

How will construction impact Enatai Beach Park?

Enatai Beach Park is a focal point of the North Mercer/Enatai Sewer Upgrade Project. Three main parts of the project meet at Enatai Beach Park: the construction of the new pipeline across the East Channel (the East Channel Siphon), the relining of the existing Enatai Interceptor, and the construction of the new Enatai Siphon. In addition, a new sewer will be built to connect the new pipelines to the Enatai Interceptor, and an existing sewer across the park will be improved. A new road will be built to provide access to the new facilities.



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Work that affects Enatai Beach Park is expected to begin in 2021 and continue intermittently for up to four years. We will confirm the timing and duration of these closures after hiring a contractor in 2020.

During construction, Enatai Beach Park will be closed to recreation. After construction, King County will restore all disturbed areas to a condition that is as good or better than before the work began. The only permanent above-ground structures to remain will be the odor control cabinet, inlet and exhaust pipes, all located under the I-90 bridge.

What is the timing and duration of construction near the Mercer Island Park and Ride? Will access to the park-and-ride be maintained during construction?

We will have a better idea of the construction schedule after a contractor is hired in late 2020. Construction will impact streets near the park-and-ride, including North Mercer Way. Detour routes will be provided to maintain access to and from the parking lot.

What will you do with the old sewer pipe?

King County will decommission the old pipe and leave it in place. The environmental impacts of removing the pipe are more harmful than leaving the pipe in place.

How far off the road do construction crews need to go to install the pipe?

The contractor will stay within city right of way. There are no plans to take more land than necessary. All city right of way will be restored with grass or gravel after construction. Any impacted driveway extensions into the right of way will be replaced with asphalt. Residents with private landscaping will have an opportunity to remove landscaping before construction begins, but King County will not replace any private landscaping.

How deep is the trench for the sewer pipe installation on 90th Place?

The pipe will be buried at a depth of six to ten feet, depending on the location.

Sewer pipe

Why does the pipe follow 90th Place S.E. and not the I-90 Trail or North Mercer Way?

The pipe will come off the I-90 Trail and follow 90th Place S.E. to keep wastewater flowing efficiently. In the cul-de-sac at the end of 90th PL S.E., the force main that pushes sewage from the North Mercer Pump Station will transition to a gravity pipeline that allows sewage to flow downhill to the East Channel. At the transition point, there will be an underground discharge structure and odor control



Project staff review project area map with open house participants.



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facility. Above ground, just past the guard rail at the top of the ravine, there will be an electrical cabinet, an air vent, and a stack to release clean air.

What are the dimensions of the pipes being installed?

The diameter of the new sewer pipes will range from 12-to-32 inches.

Residential access

Will I have access to my homes during construction

We are required to maintain access to homes during construction, but sometimes vehicle access may be limited. When work is occurring in front of a resident's driveway or in a narrow section of roadway, the resident may need to park their vehicle on the street and walk to and from their property. King County will work with you in advance to understand any special access requirements that we may need to accommodate you. We will maintain emergency access at all times during construction.

Will homes on 90th Place S.E. be accessible during construction?

King County will work closely with the contractor to ensure residents have access to their homes. There will be delays at times because the road will be narrowed to one way with flaggers. For any work that directly impacts access to driveways, the contractor will work with the residents to plan for access.

Traffic and detours

Bike and pedestrian safety on North Mercer Way during construction

Project staff received a comment from a member of the bicycling community at the open house concerned about bike and pedestrian safety during construction along the I-90 Trail adjacent to North Mercer Way. The bicyclist said that vehicle traffic and poor lighting along North Mercer Way could make the bike and pedestrian detour route dangerous. The participant also voiced concern about the contractor using steel plates to cover open construction holes and how that could affect bike tires traveling through the construction area. Project staff were requested to share this concern with the County and further review bike and pedestrian detour plans.

It is likely that North Mercer Way near the I-90 Trail on Mercer Island will remain open to two-way traffic with a pedestrian detour provided adjacent to the roadway. Bicyclists would have the choice to cycle with vehicles or walk bicycles through the pedestrian detour. Detour routes have not been finalized and are pending discussion with the City of Mercer Island, City of Bellevue, and WSDOT.

Wildlife and trees

Bald eagle activity seen near sewer alignment

A property owner living near the alignment at S.E. 22nd S.E. and S.E. 78th Street used a roll plot displayed at the open house to show project staff where the participant has seen bald eagles nesting in nearby trees. They said that the eagles return every year. The residents invited project staff to visit their home and walk the area where the eagles have been spotted. The project team will follow up to observe the area for bald eagles.

Where are trees being removed?



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In order to safely install the new pipe, our crews will need an area approximately 26 feet wide along the I-90 Trail. We expect to remove several hundred trees and plants along the route.

When work is complete, we will replant at least one tree for every mature tree that is removed. Tree replanting standards are set by the Washington State Department of Transportation, City of Mercer Island, or City of Bellevue depending on where the tree is located.

Odor control

Will the odor control systems stink?

Although we can't guarantee that there will be no odors in the system, King County is committed to minimizing sewer smells to the maximum extent possible. Being a good neighbor by controlling odors is part of the normal operation of our facilities. We continuously monitor our pipes, pump stations, and treatment plants for odors, and we take steps to keep them in check. In addition, King County has a 24-hour odor complaint hotline (206-263-1760) and responds promptly to odor complaints.

How tall is the odor control stack being installed at the end of 90th Place S.E.?

The odor control stack will be approximately ten to 15 feet tall, pending results of our air dispersion model..

North Mercer Pump Station

Will the North Mercer Pump Station have a sign at the entrance, as the rendering shows?

Yes, there will be a sign at the North Mercer Pump Station, as shown in the rendering.