



King County

Road Services Division

Department of Local Services

Evaluation Summary

Vashon Highway SW

Begin 45 mph Zone South of SW Burton Drive to Inspiration Point

At the request of several area residents, a study was conducted to evaluate the appropriateness of the 45 mph speed limit on Vashon Highway SW from the 25 mph zone south of SW Burton Drive to Inspiration Point, about 1.72 miles long.

Vashon Hwy SW is a Principal Arterial and Tier 1 roadway with 8 intersections, 19 residential driveways, and 2 entrances to Inspiration Point lookout. Pavement width varies from 32- to 34-feet, including two 11-foot travel lanes. The roadway has a level vertical alignment for the northern 0.3 miles, then a windy hill-climb alignment for the remaining 1.42 miles to the south. There are curve warning signs throughout the windy hill-climb alignment.

Average speeds within the 45 mph segment range from 40.9 mph near 115th Avenue SW to 42.7 mph near SW 254th Lane. The 85th percentile speed (i.e. 85% of the cars travel this speed *or less*) ranges from 47.6 mph near 115th Avenue SW to 49.2 mph near SW 254th Lane. Only one speed-related collision was reported to have occurred within the Vashon Hwy SW study area between 2015 and 2017, an injury collision involving a vehicle striking a fixed object and overturning on an embankment.

A study of pedestrian and bicycle volumes using Vashon Hwy SW near 115th Avenue SW indicated 10 pedestrians and 6 bicycles on a typical Friday, and 51 pedestrians and 19 bicycles on a typical Saturday. Near SW 254th Lane, the study showed 3 pedestrians and 9 bicycles on a typical Friday and 10 pedestrians and 25 bicycles on a typical Saturday.

The speed limit evaluation concluded that the existing posted speed limit should be reduced from 45 mph to 40 mph. However, the lack of shoulder space, significant number of pedestrians and bicyclists and winding alignment between 115th Avenue SW and Inspiration Point suggest that the speed limit should be lowered further to 35 mph. In addition, the narrowness of Vashon Hwy SW along the Puget Sound waterfront coupled with pedestrian and bicycle volumes suggests that the 25 mph



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speed zone should be extended to include the entire Puget Sound waterfront east of 115th Avenue SW. Engineering judgement contends these revisions are in keeping with the grade and topography of the roadway and the pedestrian/bicycle attraction of the Puget Sound waterfront and retail and marina attractors in the vicinity of SW Burton Rd.