

11th Ave NW & 12th Ave NW Paving & Safety Project

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

September 2023

Why do we need to do this project?

The 11th Ave NE and 12th Ave NE Paving & Safety project will pave 11th and 12th Aves NE and install accessible curb ramps in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This project is part of our Vision Zero initiative to end traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

Although this may not seem like a typical Vision Zero project, it is an important part of our work to reduce traffic collisions by ensuring people walking and rolling have safe access to/from the sidewalk network and improving intersection and crossing operations. In the 5-years between 2017 – 2022, the project area has experienced 144 collisions, of which 51 resulted in injuries.

To address the collision history and safety, we gathered community feedback, analyzed traffic and parking data, and reviewed the freight, transit, bike, and pedestrian master plans for recommendations.

How did this project get chosen?

This project was originally included as part of the [RapidRide J Line](#) project. In 2020, as Covid-19 reduced budgets, the RapidRide J Line was amended to stop service at the U District light rail station instead of the Roosevelt station as originally planned. Updates were proposed for a new street design for 11th and 12th Ave NE based on community feedback during outreach for the J Line project.

With the shortening of the RapidRide project, we moved the safety and maintenance elements of that project into a separate paving project. Design and construction of our paving projects, as well as the safety and mobility improvements, are funded by the Levy to Move Seattle, approved by Seattle voters in November 2015. We also seek additional funding through grants, when available.

How are you communicating with businesses and residents to ensure this project is responsive to community needs?

Through the Bike Master Plan and RapidRide J projects, community members suggested safety elements and a protected bike lane, which are now elements of the 11th Ave NE & 12th Ave NE Paving & Safety Project. We are communicating with neighbors throughout the design and construction phases of this project, including calling key stakeholders, delivering project information to nearby businesses and residents, and meeting with neighborhood groups and members of the public to learn how we can best accommodate travel needs and minimize construction impacts. Our outreach team is available to address any questions or feedback from the community. We are committed to continually share more information about the project as it becomes available. Please continue to visit the project [webpage](#) and [sign up](#) on our project listserv for updates about construction and potential impacts.

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Was there a parking study conducted for this project?

Yes. As part of the previous work within the Rapid Ride J project, data were collected and analyzed along 11th and 12th Aves NE and one-two blocks on either side of these streets, including the blocks between NE 70th and NE 43th Streets. On-street parking is well used, and there is capacity available. [Click here to read the full report.](#)

How is the City addressing impacts from parking removal?

Seattle is a built-up city and most transportation projects affect the curb lane. City policy is to address the delivery needs for goods and services, Solid Waste, other critical building services, and those drivers with limited mobility needs. The SDOT Curbside Management team have been actively supporting this project to identify the delivery load zone needs for businesses and other buildings along the corridor. This will lead to relocating load zones to nearby locations prior to construction starting. For street parking, the Curb team has identified potential blocks where new curb management signs can help create more turnover, primarily in the Roosevelt business district. Overall, to build and maintain a climate-friendly, safe and equitable transportation network in Seattle, we have to make tough decisions about the best use of the limited right-of-way space. In this project area, our priority is providing a safer bike connection. Visit our project webpage to see changes in parking in the project area.

Is it possible to offer parking outside of the project area to mitigate parking impacts from this project?

The Curbside Management team is looking at blocks in the Roosevelt business district to add paid parking or other signs to encourage better vehicle turnover and therefore provide more capacity for short-term access to businesses nearby.

How are you enhancing safety along the project corridor?

We will pave 11th and 12th Aves NE to make it safer and more comfortable to travel on, and to extend the useful life of the street. Project elements include:

- Street paving of 11th and 12th Aves NE between NE 43rd and NE 67th Streets, including accessible curb ramps along the corridor
- New protected bike lane on the east side of 11th Ave NE & 12th Ave NE, to build out the neighborhood's bike network. The eastside protected bike lane also reduces parking removal.
- Raised protected bike lanes at bus stops allowing for a continuous protected bike lane at bus stops along the corridor
- Spot sidewalk repair along the project corridor, making it easier to walk or roll on sidewalks in the neighborhood
- Enhanced crosswalks and traffic signals throughout project corridor to improve safety for people walking, rolling, and biking. This includes new crosswalks at NE 55th St, NE Ravenna Blvd, and NE 62nd St

When is construction expected for this paving project?

Construction is expected to begin in winter 2023 and continue into 2025.

Will this project require businesses to close during construction?

No. Businesses in and around the surrounding project area can remain open and entrances will be accessible. We encourage neighbors to continue shopping and using their services. We are committed to working with business owners and staff to address their concerns and potential construction impacts.

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When construction starts, what will the impacts be to my home and for how long?

We do our best to minimize impacts to residents during construction. You will always have access to your home. At times, we may need to restrict driveway access and will communicate directly with affected residents prior to any driveway closures. Construction time varies by location and needs.

Will my bus route be impacted by construction?

There may be temporary bus stop relocations during construction. We will do our best to provide notice about any upcoming bus service changes, but we also recommend you sign up for King County Metro's [Rider Alerts](#) to stay up to date on the latest information.

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