



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6037
March 15, 2022
Study Session

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6037: Island Crest Way Corridor Safety Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report. No formal action required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer Lia Klein, Transportation Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Island Crest Way Safety Analysis
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to introduce the results of the Island Crest Way Corridor Safety Analysis (see Exhibit 1) to the City Council. The one-mile section of the Island Crest Way corridor from 90th Avenue SE to SE 68th Street was analyzed by the consultant team (DKS Associates) with input from City staff, the community, and school district staff.

- The City Council added the Island Crest Way Corridor Safety Analysis to the Six-Year TIP last year and directed staff to present the results and recommendations in Q1 2022.
- DKS Associates was hired in October 2021 to perform the analysis.
- The analysis included assessments of traffic operations, safety needs/crash history, community engagement, and findings/recommendations.
- The results of the analysis will inform Public Works maintenance activities and future planning of capital improvement projects along the corridor to maintain and enhance safety.
- Public Works Right-of-Way crews have begun implementation of some short-term recommendations.

BACKGROUND

The City Council added the Island Crest Way Corridor Safety Analysis to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) last spring. The intent was to assess and analyze existing safety conditions along a one-mile segment of Island Crest Way from 90th Avenue SE to SE 68th Street (ICW Corridor) and to present

results and recommendations to the Council in Q1 2022.

Island Crest Way is an arterial street running down the spine of Mercer Island. The area focused for this report includes routes to several public schools in the area, including Island Park Elementary School, Islander Middle School, and a private high school (Northwest Yeshiva High School). It is also a route to several parks - Island Crest Park, Deane's Children's Park, Pioneer Park, and the South Mercer Playfields.

DKS Associates was hired in October 2021 to perform the analysis. The assessment included:

- Review of existing traffic operations,
- An evaluation of safety needs which included the review of existing crash data, lighting, vegetation, signage, and pavement markings.
- A community survey to solicit feedback on their experience and identify concerns along the corridor
- Findings and recommendations



The results of the analysis will inform Public Works maintenance activities and future planning of capital improvement projects along the corridor to maintain and enhance safety.

Staff and DKS will provide an overview of the analysis and recommendations during the Study Session.

ANALYSIS COMPONENTS

The analysis contained three primary components/phases. The first involved an assessment of existing traffic operations. The second involved an assessment of safety needs including a public survey from users regarding their experience and concerns about Island Crest Way. The analysis concluded with development of findings and recommendations informed by the results of the previous phases. These are compiled in Exhibit 1. The following provides additional information regarding the components of the study.

Traffic Operations

A detailed assessment of traffic operations along the corridor was completed, focusing on intersections (SE 53rd Place, SE 54th Street, and SE 68th Street), pedestrian crossing locations, and parking lot access near Island Park Elementary School. Traffic volume and speed data was used to develop a traffic model detailing the existing “level of service” (an established metric for the delay experienced by road users) for each major intersection along the corridor. Field observations were made during both the morning and evening peak traffic periods and school pick-up/drop-off times to verify the results of the model and to further document traffic issues in the area.

Safety Needs & Community Engagement

A comprehensive safety analysis was conducted, including an investigation of historical crash data, discussions with relevant stakeholders (e.g., school officials), and field observations. Locations and characteristics of the collisions that occurred in recent years were analyzed to determine potential safety issues. Conversations with school district staff and site visits were conducted to gather additional information about current conditions.



The City published a survey on [Let's Talk](#) to gather feedback from the community on their experiences and concerns along the corridor. The survey was posted on Let's Talk from December 3, 2021 to January 3, 2022. It was promoted via email, the MI Weekly, through the Island Park Elementary School, on social media (Facebook and NextDoor), and on a portable message board along the Island Crest Way walking trail. The City received 499 submissions to the survey, which were used to identify and develop priorities for the corridor. A summary of the survey results are available to on the [Let's Talk page](#).

Findings and Recommendations

The results of the safety analysis were used to create a comprehensive list of short-term and long-term potential improvements to provide both spot improvements to enhance specific locations and corridor-wide improvements to address the needs of the entire corridor. The proposed safety improvement (called "countermeasure"), estimated cost, location and next steps are described in Exhibit 1 for each potential safety treatment. Staff and DKS will provide an overview of the analysis and recommendations at the study session.

LOOKING AHEAD

City staff have begun the process of evaluating and addressing many of the short-term recommendations in-house through work completed by the Public Works Right-of-Way team. Additional analysis and planning for larger scale, longer term improvements will be proposed by staff as part of the annual update of the Six-year Transportation Improvements Program (TIP). The public hearing and City Council preview of the draft TIP will be on May 3.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report and provide initial comments and feedback. No formal action required.