



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6455
April 16, 2024
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6455: Project Update on 80 th Avenue Sidewalk Improvements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive project update. No action necessary.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Clint Morris, Capital Division Manager Ian Powell, Street Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Project Location Map
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	3. Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to update the City Council on the 80th Avenue Sidewalk Improvements design prior to the project being advertised for construction bids.

- This project (SP0111) reconstructs sidewalks along the east side of 80th Avenue from SE 27th to SE 32nd Streets.
- Street trees have caused sidewalks to heave, crack, and become uneven. Curb ramps and sidewalk landings do not meet current ADA standards.
- Street trees need removal and replacement to repair sidewalk damage and prevent ongoing damage.
- The obsolete street lighting system on 80th Avenue will be replaced.
- This project is included in the six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2023-2024 Capital Improvement Program, with a current budget of \$1,376,000, funded primarily with Sound Transit mitigation funds.
- Construction is planned for Summer and Fall of 2024.

BACKGROUND

Many of the roadways in the Mercer Island Town Center were developed in the 1960’s and 1970’s to include curbs, sidewalks, street trees, and a street lighting system. Most of 80th Avenue dates to this period. During

the 1980's, several blocks along the north end of the Town Center were constructed in conjunction with the I-90 improvements across Mercer Island. One of those pieces was 80th Avenue between SE 27th and SE 28th Streets.

In the mid 1990's, the City undertook a large three-year street improvement project in the Town Center and rebuilt most of the east-west streets, all of 77th and 78th Avenues, and the west side of 80th Avenue from SE 28th and SE 32nd Streets. Improvements included new curbs, wider sidewalks, asphalt paving, a new street lighting system, new street trees, and other sidewalk furnishings. While the west side of 80th Avenue received sidewalk replacements in the 1990's, no improvements were made to the east side of 80th Avenue, and the lighting system along 80th Avenue was not upgraded.

Today, the east sidewalk on 80th Avenue is in poor condition, with many damaged areas due to street trees developing large root masses, causing sidewalk heaving and uneven walking surfaces that do not meet standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The lighting system is a combination of the original 1970's wiring and wood poles interlaced with some newer concrete poles installed over the past 25 years to replace failed wood poles. Lighting coverage from this old system is inadequate and not uniform.

The 80th Avenue Sidewalk Improvements project was first introduced into the TIP in 2018 with an initial limited scope of replacing portions of sidewalks along the east side of the roadway, at a budget of \$500,000. Design work began in 2019 and a 30% conceptual design was developed; however, work on the project was suspended in 2020 due to Covid. Project budget was increased in the 2023-2024 CIP to \$1,376,000 based on a broader assessment of the condition and needs of 80th Avenue. The design work resumed in early 2023.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

As currently designed, this project involves three main elements: sidewalk replacements, street tree replacements, and street lighting.

Sidewalks

The sidewalks along the east side of 80th Avenue between SE 27th to SE 32nd Streets will be replaced, and ADA compliant curb ramps will be installed at street intersection corners. In general, the curb alignments are not changing and most of the new sidewalks will be 5-foot wide. During the design work in 2023, staff added a small segment of 78th Avenue sidewalk improvements to this project. This is on the west side in the 3000 block, along the Newell Court Building. This area has heaved and sunken sidewalk panels due to street trees, very similar to the conditions on 80th Avenue. Staff added this work for the economy of scale of the much larger 80th Avenue project. The 78th Avenue sidewalks are 12-foot wide. Locations are shown in Exhibit 1.

Street Trees

Of the nearly 50 trees within and along the 80th Avenue sidewalk and the small 78th Avenue location, over half of them will need to be removed and replaced. The reasons for removal vary. Some trees have large root masses that cannot be built around, some have poor location within the sidewalk, others have health or structural concerns. Most of the trees affected by this project were assessed by an independent arborist in 2023, and that report documented approximately 20 trees with health or structural deficiencies.

Due to the different street and sidewalk cross-sections involved in this project, staff have developed several solutions for the street trees. Some trees will be retained, and the sidewalk relocated, or the grade raised to go over the existing roots. In some areas, new tree planting cells will be constructed underneath the new sidewalk areas, which will give the new trees ample space for root mass development. Other trees will be

replanted within a planter median between the curb and sidewalk. Staff are still determining specifically which trees will receive which form of tree planting treatment.

Lighting

The existing street lighting system is outdated and inadequate along both sides of 80th Avenue. The new street lighting system will include installation of a control cabinet, conduits, wiring, concrete poles, and light fixtures. It will also utilize conduits on the west side of 80th Avenue installed in the 1990’s and retain most of the existing concrete poles. The level and quality of lighting will be improved on both sides of 80th Avenue from SE 28th to SE 32nd Streets.

Financial Impacts & Budgetary Actions

The current estimated construction cost for the entire project is \$1,820,000. Adding contingency, design, project management, and other soft costs brings the total project cost to roughly \$2,433,000. This is a large increase from the \$1,376,000 in the current CIP and is due to the combination of increasing construction costs across the region and the expanded project scope to include a new lighting system, more extensive tree replanting areas, and the addition of work on 78th Avenue. At construction contract award, staff will request an appropriation to cover these additional costs using Sound Transit Mitigation Funds. See the table below for estimated project costs.

80th Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project Budget	
Description	TOTAL
Total Estimated Construction Cost	\$1,820,000
Construction Contingency @ 15%	\$273,000
Project Design – consultant	\$190,000
Construction Inspection	\$85,000
Contract Admin/Project Management	\$65,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$2,433,000
Total Budget Available for Project	\$1,376,000

Staff will provide a presentation on Tuesday evening that highlights main project elements to set the stage for a discussion about the project.

NEXT STEPS

Staff and the consultant will complete final design and advertise the project for contractor bids in May. The construction contract award is planned for June, and construction will likely occur from July to December. Businesses and residents along the corridor will be notified of the project prior to the start of construction and a Let’s Talk page will be created for ongoing communications throughout construction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive project update. No action necessary.