



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

**AB 6876
March 3, 2026
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6876: Island Crest Way Corridor Improvements Trail Easement	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Authorize the City Manager to relinquish a portion of the pathway easement (recording number 7812260677) in exchange for a new wider trail easement, both to be approved by the City Attorney substantially in the form of Exhibits 2 and 3.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Kellye Hilde, Public Works Deputy Director Rebecca Corigliano, Transportation Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Location Map 2. Partial Relinquishment of Pathway Easement 3. Proposed Permanent Easement for Trail
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to request City Council authorization for the partial relinquishment of an existing pathway easement in exchange for acceptance of a new wider trail easement granted by the Mercer Island School District to support the [Island Crest Way Shared Use Path Phase 1 project](#). Pursuant to [RCW 39.33.010](#), the City Council must authorize changes to property interests for all public property, including easements. This agenda item will:

- Provide background on the Island Crest Way Shared Use Path Phase 1 project (Exhibit 1) and the existing pathway easement.
- Describe the request to relinquish the existing 1978 pathway easement and accept a new 10.5-foot-wide trail easement from the Mercer Island School District (Exhibits 2 and 3).
- Explain the need for a new trail easement.
- Describe the mutual benefits of this action for both the City and the Mercer Island School District, including improved pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety along Island Crest Way.

BACKGROUND

The Island Crest Way Shared Use Path Phase 1 project will enhance the connection between the south end of Island Crest Park (SE 60th Street) and Island Park Elementary through the construction of a paved 10-foot-wide shared use path. This project was developed from the [Island Crest Way Corridor Safety Analysis](#), which identified corridor-wide improvements to enhance mobility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Prior projects stemming from the safety analysis include the new crosswalk improvements at SE 63rd Street, SE 62nd Street, and the Island Park Elementary driveway, which were constructed in summer 2024.

The adopted 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program includes design of the Island Crest Way Shared Use Path Phase 1 project in 2025-2026 and construction in 2027. Phase 1 project limits were selected to connect pedestrians with adjacent destinations, including Island Park Elementary, Deane's Children's Park, and Island Crest Park, while improving eligibility for future grant funding. The Phase 1 project received a Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant of \$850,000 in February 2025. Additional phases of the shared use path, as well as other corridor safety improvements, will be proposed in future updates to the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The existing 5-foot-wide easement, granted to the City in 1978 along parcel 192405-9040 (Island Park Elementary), provided for construction of the original pathway but is too narrow to accommodate the wider proposed shared use path. To construct the new shared use path, the City requires a 10.5-foot-wide easement spanning the south 180 feet of the Mercer Island School District parcel, as described in Exhibit B of Exhibit 3.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The Mercer Island School Board approved both the partial relinquishment of the existing easement and granting of the new easement (Exhibits 2 and 3) at their January 15, 2026, meeting.

The new easement and subsequent construction of the new shared use path is mutually beneficial to the City and the School District. The easement allows the City to complete the Island Crest Way Shared Use Path Phase 1 project to improve mobility and safety between Island Park Elementary, Deanes Children's Park, Island Crest Park, and the surrounding neighborhood.

NEXT STEPS

Following City Council approval, staff will conduct final review of the partial relinquishment of pathway easement (Exhibit 2) and new trail easement (Exhibit 3) by the City Attorney and execute and record the easement documents with the King County Department of Records. The final design of the Island Crest Way Shared Use Path Phase 1 project will be completed in 2026 and construction of the shared use path is anticipated to begin in 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the City Manager to relinquish a portion of the pathway easement (recording number 7812260677) in exchange for a new wider trail easement, both to be approved by the City Attorney substantially in the form of Exhibits 2 and 3.