



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

**AB 6499
June 18, 2024
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6499: Adoption of 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program, Continue Public Hearing from June 4 Meeting	<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:	Adopt the 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Matt Mornick, Finance Director Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer/Deputy Public Works Director Clint Morris, Capital Division Manager Rebecca O’Sullivan, Transportation Engineer Ian Powell, Street Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Summary of Public Comments Received by June 11 2. Street Fund Forecast, as of May 2024 3. Detail of Proposed Expenditures 2025-2030 4. Project Descriptions 5. Map of Proposed Roadway and Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities Improvements 6. Map of Mercer Way Shoulder Improvements
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	3. Make once-in-a-generation investments to update and modernize aging infrastructure, capital facilities, and parks.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to continue the public hearing opened on June 4, 2024, regarding the 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and for the City Council to adopt the TIP.

- The 2024 public comment period is March 20 through June 18, 2024. A public hearing was opened during the June 4, 2024 City Council meeting ([AB 6468](#)) and continued to the June 18, 2024 City Council meeting.
- 14 additional comments have been received on *Let’s Talk* since the June 4, 2024 public hearing and are incorporated into Exhibit 1.
- At the June 4, 2024, meeting, the City Council directed staff to evaluate:
 1. Accelerating the timeline and increasing the scope of work (93rd Avenue SE to East Mercer Way) to the 2029-2030 Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements (90.25.0030) ahead of Gallagher Hill Sidewalk Improvements (90.25.0009);
 2. Converting 71st Avenue SE on First Hill into a one-way street; and
 3. The feasibility of installing a rectangular rapid-flashing beacon (RRFB) at the intersection of 72nd Avenue SE and SE 29th Street.

- On June 18, 2024, the City Council will receive a presentation and review staff's recommendation on the Island Crest Way shared use path (AB 6503) alternatives. Following the presentation, Council will vote on their preferred alternative to include in the TIP for adoption.

BACKGROUND

The six-year TIP is a planning tool used to identify specific projects that serve to maintain, preserve, and maximize use of the existing roadway and pedestrian/bicycle facilities. It forecasts revenues and expenditures within the Street Fund over the six-year period.

RCW 35.77.010 requires cities to formally adopt a TIP annually and submit it to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) by July 1, 2024. Once the TIP is adopted, projects are budgeted and funded through the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) during the biennial budget process.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Public feedback was solicited through the City's various outreach platforms, including *Let's Talk* from March 20 to June 18, and was incorporated in the final development of the 2025-2030 TIP. All public comments received by June 11 are included in Exhibit 1.

The City Council reviewed the 2025-2030 TIP materials on June 4, 2024, and directed staff to analyze three topics. Each topic is discussed below.

1. Accelerate Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements (90.25.0030) Project Timeline and Extend Limit to East Mercer Way

The likely impacts of this change are:

- 1.1. The draft 2025-2030 TIP shows this project starting design in 2029 with construction in 2030 following the completion of underground utility projects planned between now and 2029 on Mercerwood Drive. The utility projects include an asbestos-cement (AC) water main replacement and a pressure reducing valve (PRV) station replacement.

Performing pedestrian improvements ahead of underground utility improvements is contrary to the City's approach to capital project planning and could result in damage to the pedestrian facilities during the utility construction projects. Keeping Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements design in 2029 allows the underground utility projects to be completed prior to any roadway surface improvements.

Staff does not recommend moving up the scheduled underground utility projects due to the prioritization and competing needs of other utility work in the subsequent years.

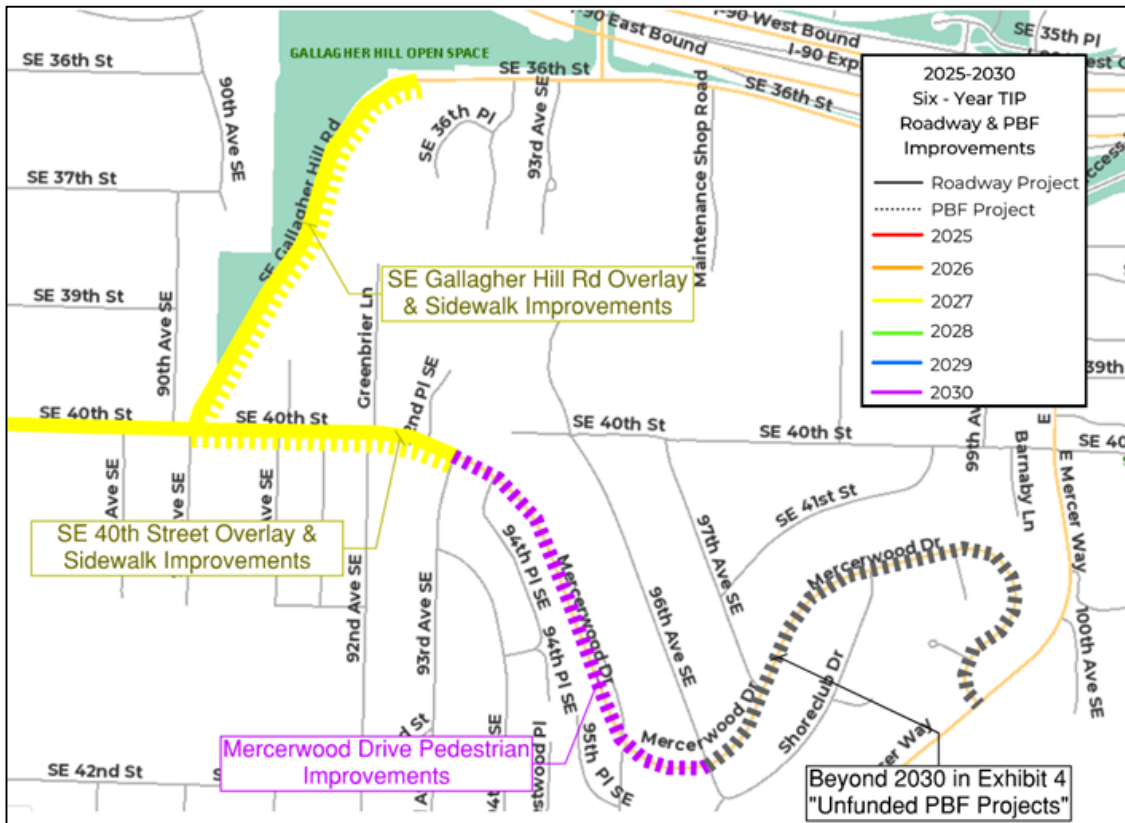
- 1.2. The limits of Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements – 93rd Avenue SE to 96th Avenue SE – are currently proposed for 2029-2030. This segment is prioritized by the Mercer Island School District to extend a new sidewalk from its planned terminus on 93rd Avenue SE (as part of 2026-2027 SE 40th Street Sidewalk Improvements, 90.25.0006) and lengthen the existing safe route to school for students.

Extending the limits from 96th Avenue SE to East Mercer Way will increase the project cost by approximately \$1.7M and requires delaying a combination of other pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements in the draft TIP to help maintain a positive Street Fund balance. Other projects that could require delay include:

#	Project ID	Title	Total Cost
1	90.25.0006	SE 40 th Street Sidewalk (Gallagher Hill to 93 rd Avenue SE)	\$1,156,658
2	90.25.0007	78 th Avenue SE Sidewalk Improvements (SE 32 nd to SE 34 th Street)	\$958,357
3	90.25.0011	SE 32 nd Street Sidewalk Improvements (77 th to 78 th Avenue SE)	\$439,834
4	90.25.0012	76 th Avenue SE Mid-Block Crossing (SE 27 th Street)	\$341,145
5	90.25.0016	East Mercer Way Roadside Shoulders – Ph. 11 (SE 79 th Street to 8400 block)	\$550,589
6	90.25.0034	North Mercer Way Sidewalk (Fortuna to SE 35 th Street)	\$166,732
7	90.25.0020	81 st Avenue SE Sidewalk Improvement (North Mercer Way so SE 24 th Street)	\$237,950
8	90.25.0025	84 th Avenue SE Pedestrian Improvements (SE 33 rd Place to SE 36 th Street)	\$328,202
9	90.25.0028	SE 24 th Street Sidewalk Improvements (72 nd to 76 th Avenue SE)	\$812,473
10	90.25.0029	78 th Avenue SE Sidewalk Improvements (SE 40 th Street to West Mercer Way)	\$406,237
11	90.25.0031	Island Crest Way Crosswalk Enhancement (SE 46 th Street)	\$672,555
12	90.25.0032	SE 27 th Street Sidewalk Improvements (74 th to 76 th Avenue SE)	\$1,069,871

1.3. The estimated cost of Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements (93rd Avenue SE to 96th Avenue SE) is over \$1.8M for design and construction (Exhibit 3). Accelerating Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements reduces opportunities for staff to secure grant funding.

The map below shows the project limits and completion timelines of the draft TIP projects.



On this basis, staff recommends:

- Keeping the Mercerwood Drive Pedestrian Improvements project timeline in 2029-2030 with project limits from 93rd Avenue SE to 96th Avenue SE.
- Completing the pedestrian improvements on Mercerwood Drive from 96th Avenue SE to East Mercer Way after 2030. If REET revenues significantly increase beyond current projections, project timing could be reconsidered along with revisiting other project timelines in the TIP.
- Maintaining Gallagher Hill Road Sidewalk Improvements (90.25.0009) design in 2026 and construction in 2027, following scheduled underground water utility work on Gallagher Hill Road. The Gallagher Hill Road Sidewalk Improvements project is a safe route to school and completes a gap in the City’s sidewalk network by connecting destinations on SE 40th Street (including schools, the PEAK, churches and Mary Waite Pool) with adjacent neighborhoods. The sidewalk project is linked to the roadway overlay project, which staff also recommend keeping the design in 2026 and construction in 2027 for an economy of scale. Gallagher Hill Road pavement condition index (PCI) is in the “fair” range and staff anticipates that by 2027 its rating will decline to the “poor” range following the utility construction.

2. 71st Avenue SE One-Way Street Conversion

City Council requested the staff team to analyze the possibility of converting 71st Avenue SE between SE 24th Street and 70th Avenue SE into a one-way road.

Several residents on 71st Avenue SE spoke during the TIP public hearing, expressing concern for safety, roadway width, and street sweeping. 71st Avenue SE residents also provided a petition during the public comment period (Exhibit 1). Staff responded to the petition by accelerating 71st Avenue SE resurfacing from 2026 to 2025 (due to roadway PCI) and recommend planning a safety evaluation in 2024-2025 prior to street resurfacing.

Converting 71st Avenue SE from a two-way road to a one-way road requires a thoughtful and thorough evaluation. Such an evaluation cannot be adequately performed in the limited time between the TIP preview and adoption. This evaluation will be performed during the safety evaluation. Staff is aware of the street sweeping requests on 71st Avenue SE and continue to balance sweeping needs city-wide.

3. 72nd Avenue SE and SE 29th Street Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Feasibility

This intersection currently has a raised crosswalk with signage and pavement markings. Staff contacted the family who made the request to the City Council to understand their concerns. Staff reviewed the existing crosswalk conditions and vehicle data, and concluded this location does not currently meet the City’s criteria for RRFB installation.

Staff will further analyze the crosswalks at this intersection, and other existing crosswalk locations on 72nd Avenue SE. Based on the analysis, staff will install appropriate enhancements through the Neighborhood Traffic Program. Enhancements could include additional warning signage, reflectorized post-sleeves, and pavement markings. Staff will also conduct a lighting analysis to ensure crosswalks are adequately lit on 72nd Avenue SE.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program as shown in Exhibit 3.