

# What is R.O.W?

Right of Way

## As defined by the St. Helens Municipal Code (SHMC):

SHMC 12.20.010

**“Public rights-of-way”** include, **but are not limited to**, streets, roads, highways, bridges, alleys, sidewalks, trails, paths, public easements, and all other public ways or areas, including subsurface and air space over these areas.

SHMC 17.16.010

**“Right-of-way”** means a strip of land acquired by reservation, dedication, forced dedication, prescription or condemnation and intended to be occupied or occupied by a road, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission lines, oil or gas pipeline, water line, sanitary storm sewer **and other similar uses**.

## City responsibility

A right-of-way is public property and is **held in trust by the government for the benefit of the public**. Thus, cities like St. Helens have a legal obligation to manage their rights-of-way for the benefit of their citizens.

## How is ROW obtained?

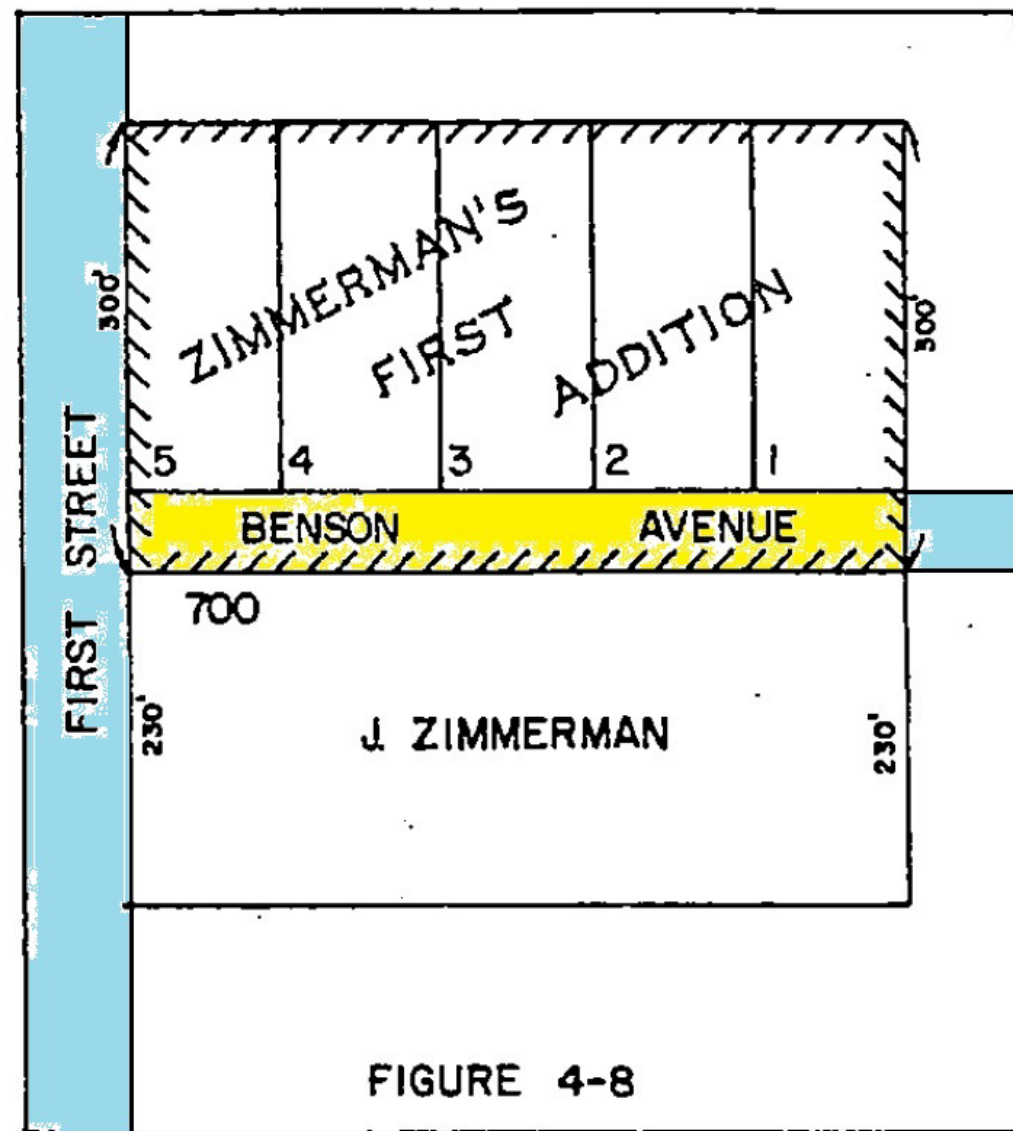
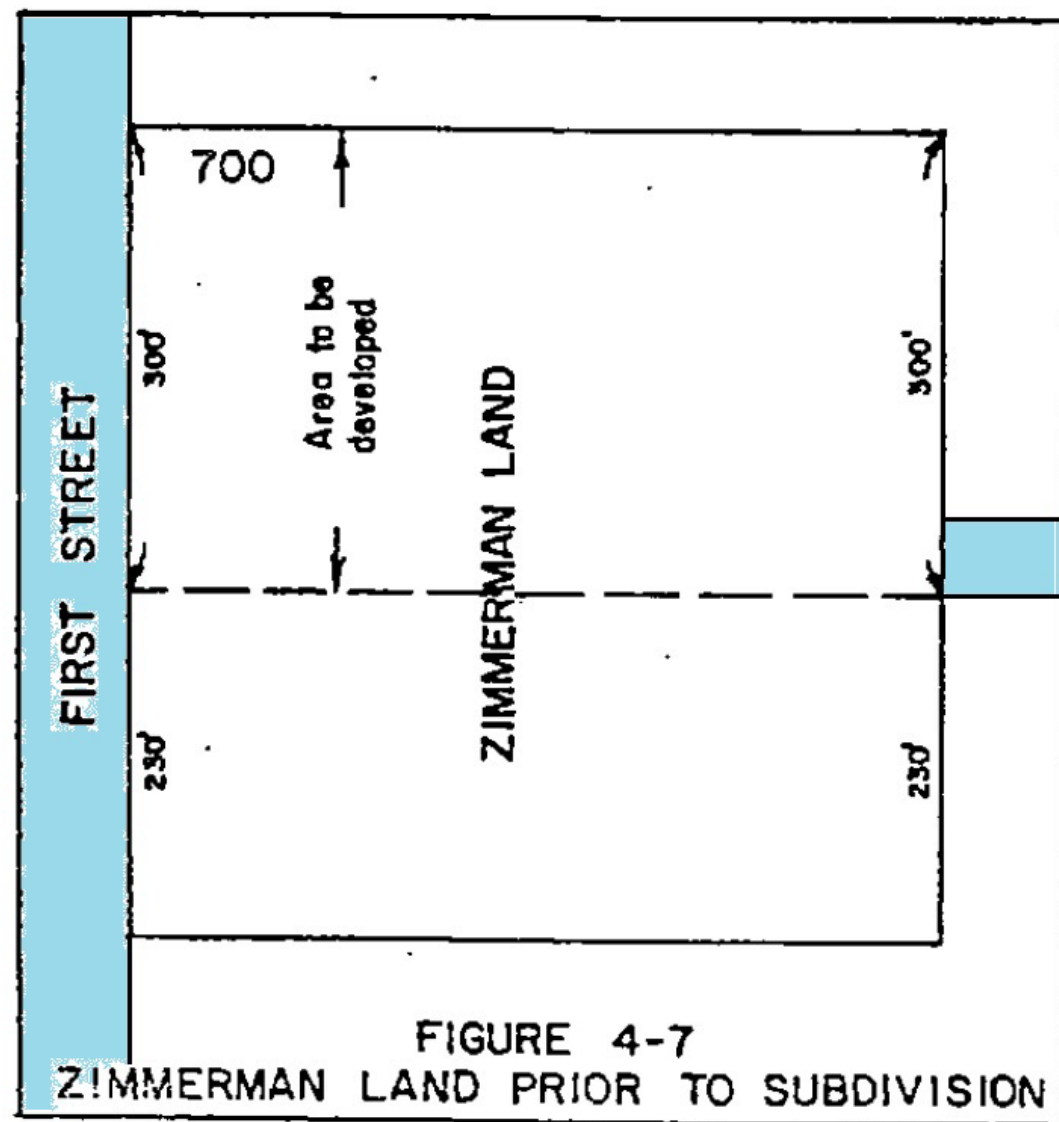
Many ways including but not limited to:

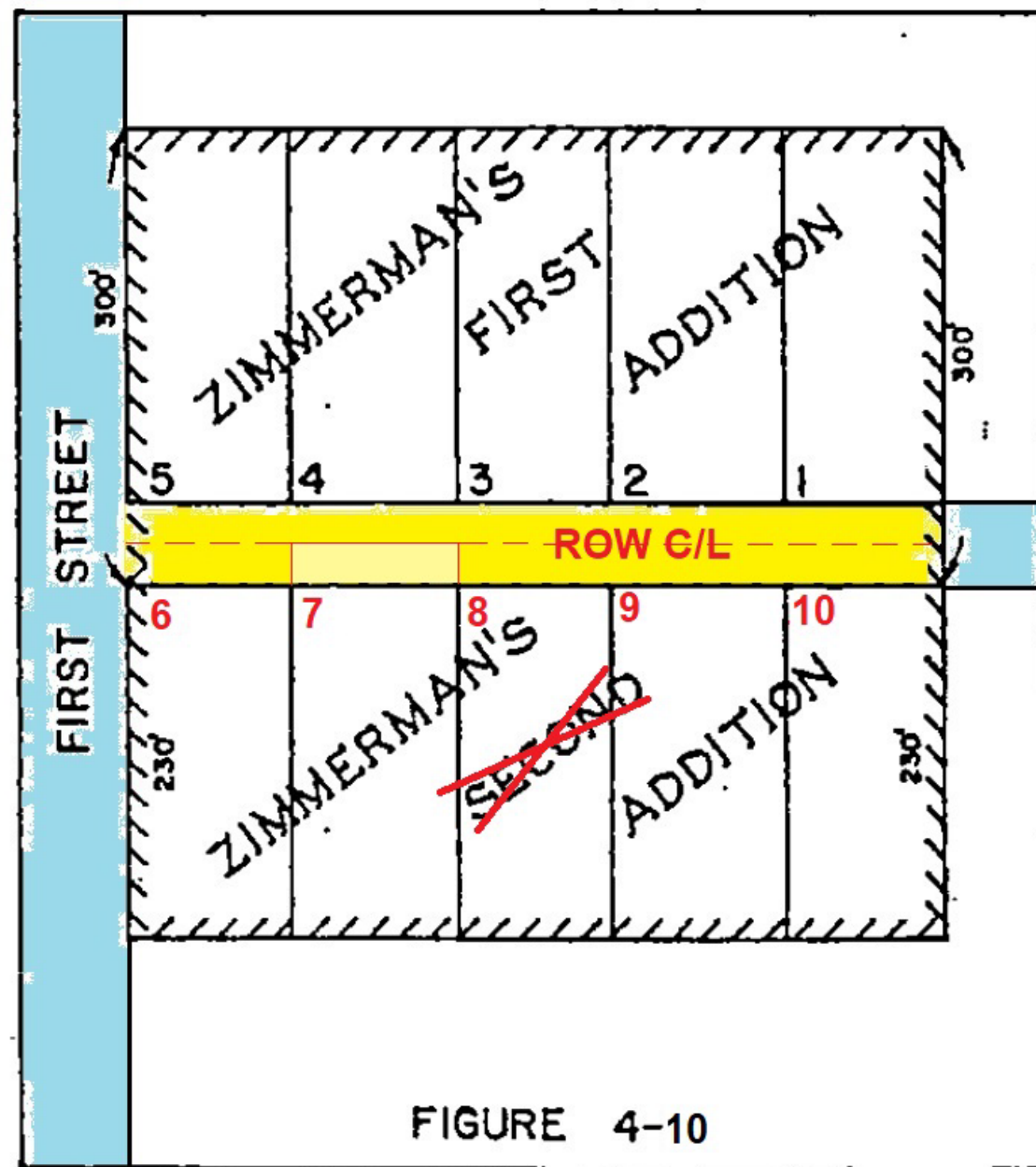
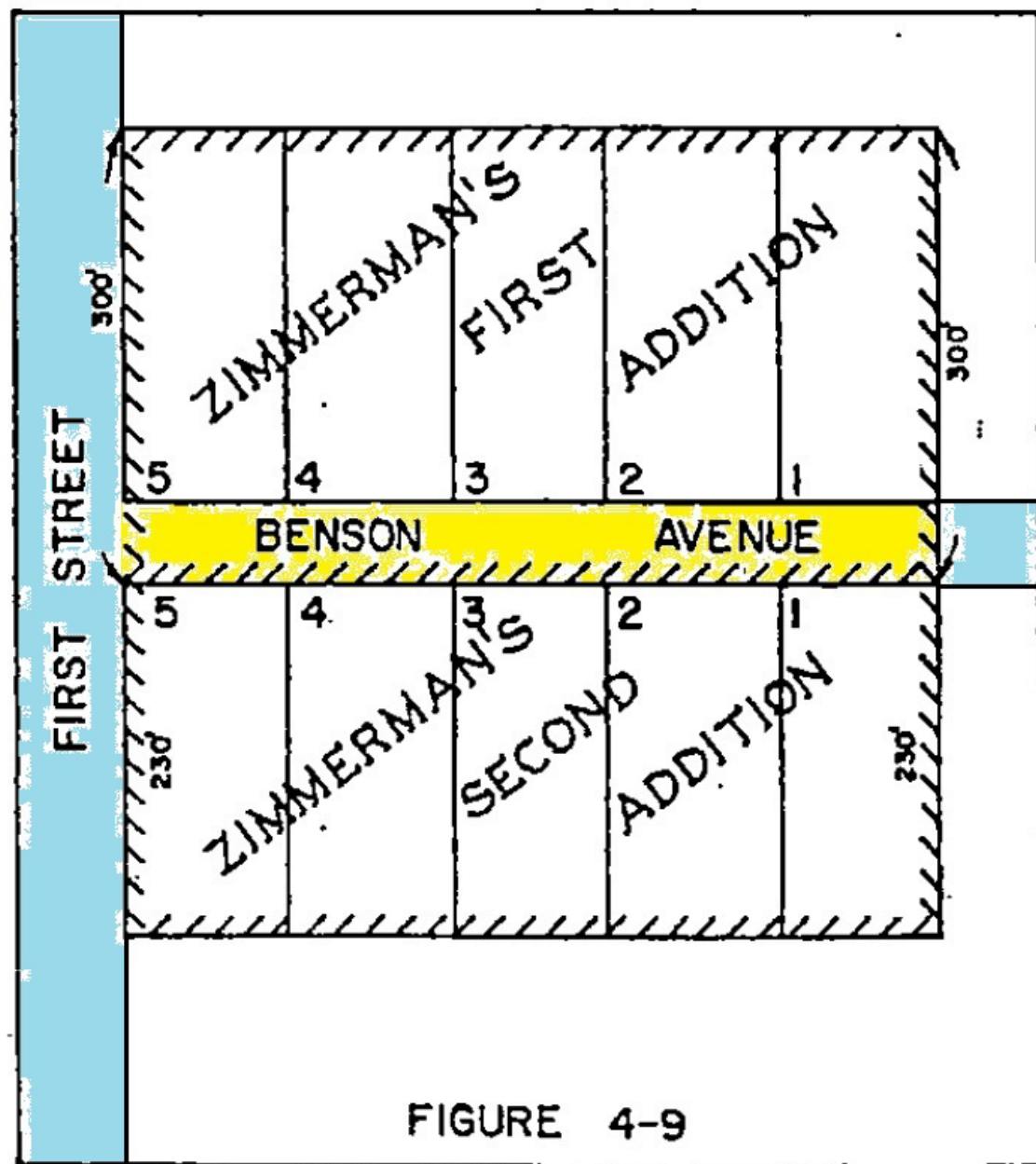
- Dedication by deed
- As a requirement of a land use decision
- As a normal aspect of subdividing property
- Condemnation

## How is ROW returned (given up)?

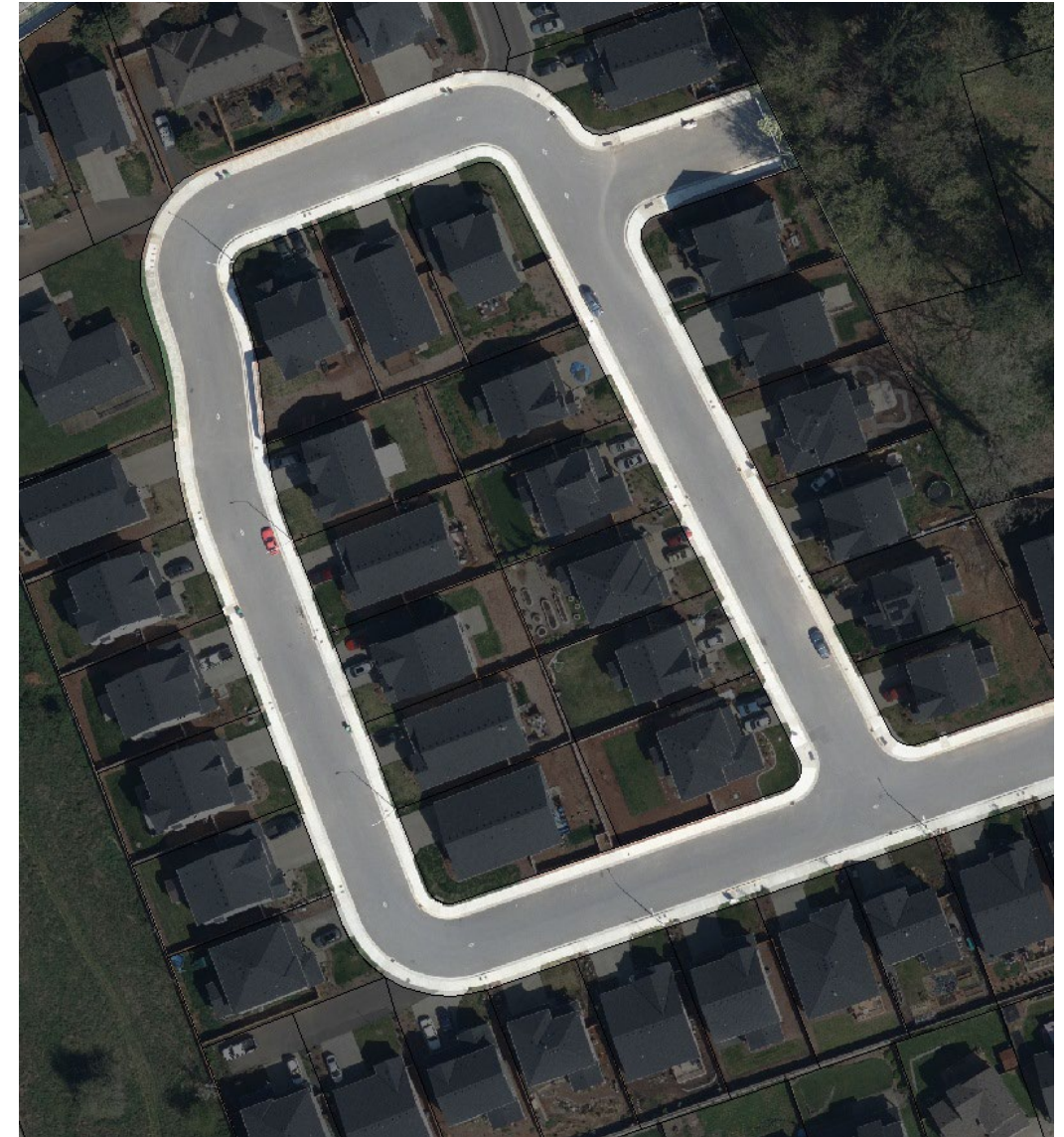
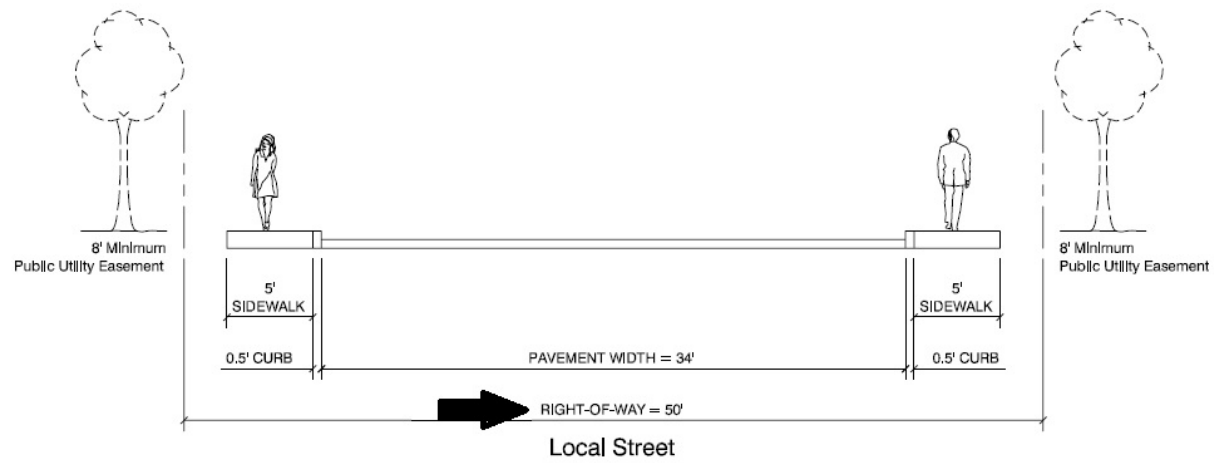
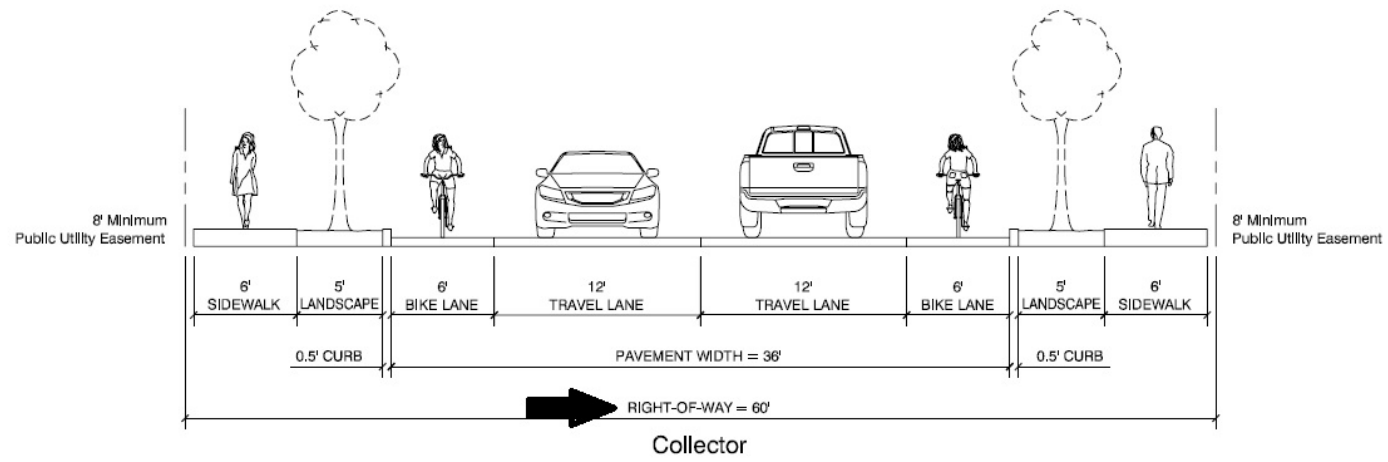
Not so many ways:

- Vacation { A right-of-way vacation is the process which formally removes the public's interest in the control of the right-of-way and returns control of the land to the underlying owners.

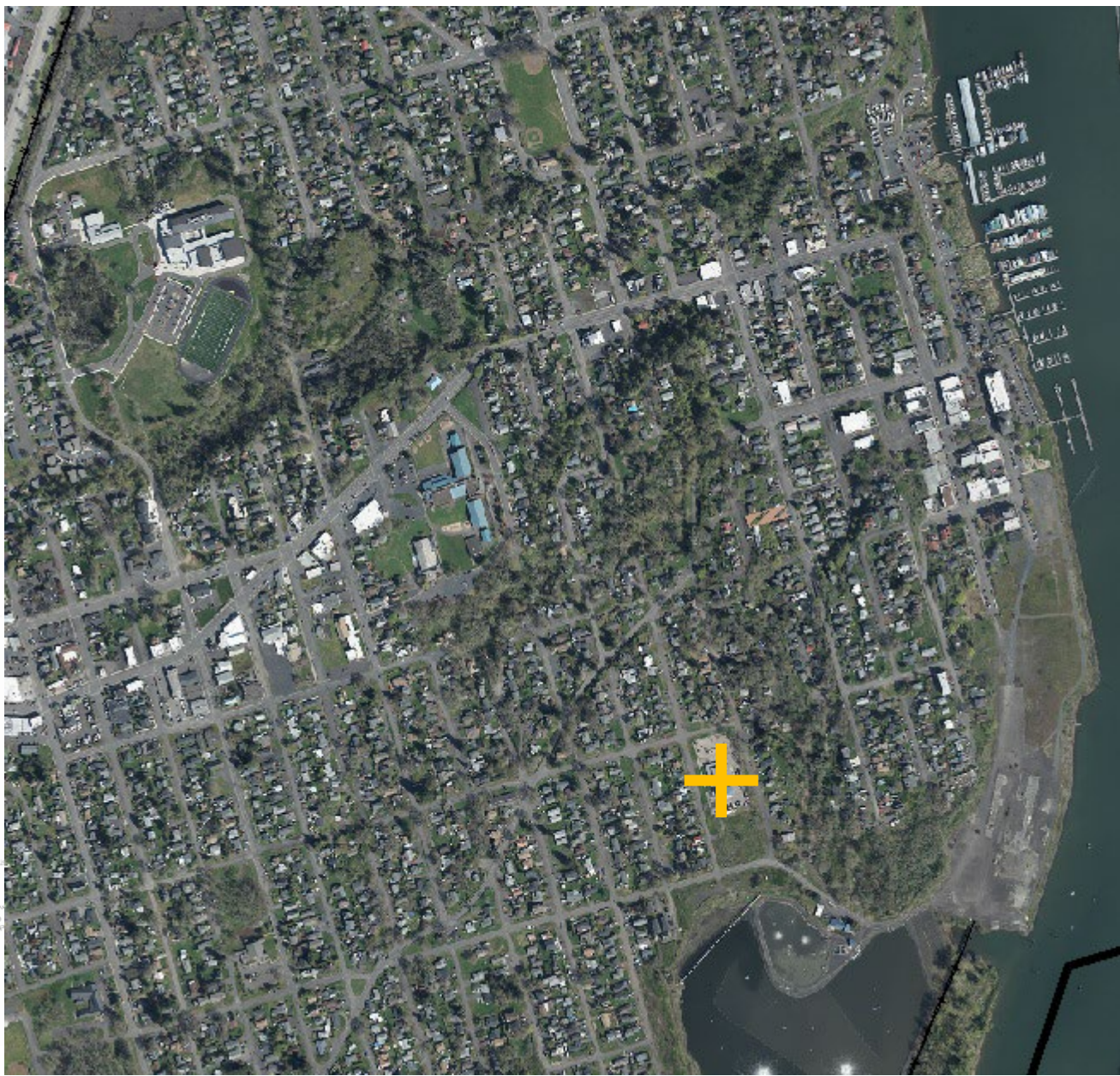






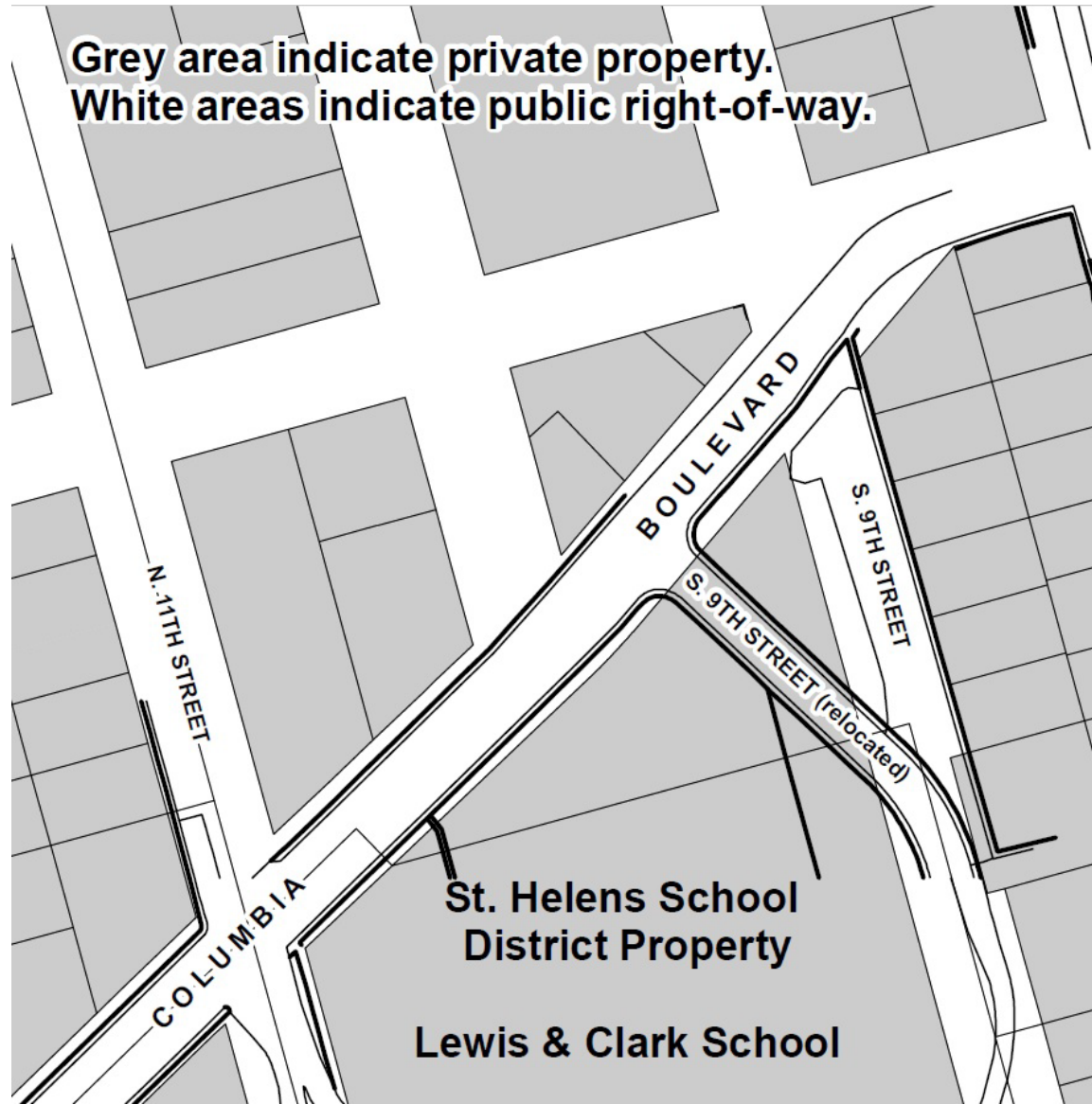








**Grey area indicate private property.  
White areas indicate public right-of-way.**



**S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street ROW dedication from 2018 from School District.**

