North Creek Regional Trail

During 2009 Snohomish County began Phase I of its plan to build a section of North Creek Trail between SR 524 and 183rd Street SE, west of Bothell-Everett Highway. The trail is a key link in a coordinated regional system that will eventually connect the Sammamish River/Burke-Gillman Trail in King County with the Snohomish County Regional Interurban Trail in Everett. Phase I of Snohomish County’s portion of the trail consists of identifying and approving an alignment in 2011 and purchasing the necessary right-of-way. Phase I is expected to be completed in 2013. It is funded by King County and managed by Snohomish County as part of an agreement to mitigate the impacts of the Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant.

What you told us at meetings in 2010

During June 2010, Snohomish County Public Works held three public meetings to introduce the North Creek Trail project, to show alternative alignments under consideration at the time and to ask citizens for comments. Approximately 30 citizens attended each of the meetings that were held at Lynnwood High School, Mill Creek City Hall and Crystal Springs Elementary School.

People offered a wide variety of comments and highlighted several issues. Included were questions about safety at road and driveway crossings, speeding vehicles and long-term maintenance of the future trail. Access to natural settings such as creeks, wetlands and wildlife is important for many trail users. Commuters asked for an efficient and direct route to work and local services.

When asked for the most important considerations for choosing a preferred alternative, citizens told us that “connectivity to other walk/bike routes” was the most important. This was followed closely in preference by “fitting with the neighborhood,” and “being safe to use.”

What were the results of the preliminary analysis?

Snohomish County evaluated a number of alignments based on criteria such as trail connectivity, safety, fit with neighborhoods, effect on the natural environment, construction and acquisition costs. The results of our analysis identified one preferred alignment within the northern portion of the project from 183rd Street SE to 192nd Street SE. In the southern portion of the project, two potential alignments were identified. One of these alignments on the east side follows along 13th Drive/14th Drive SE. The other alignment on the west side follows along Sprague Road, Winesap Road and Filbert Drive SE. (see map on reverse side)

You’re invited to an open house

Another series of open house meetings is scheduled to provide an update on project progress since the June 2010 meetings. The same project update information will be available at all three meetings. They have been scheduled for 6:00-7:30 p.m. on different dates and locations to provide the greatest opportunity to attend (see sidebar).
The format will be the same as in the June 2010 meetings—an open house format. Arrive any time that is convenient for you between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. The updated map of the two alignments will be on display at each meeting, along with a comparison of the two southern alternatives under consideration. Depictions of the trail will be shown for the two alternative alignments. Several project staff members will be available to discuss the alignments and answer questions. We would like your comments either at or soon after the last meeting.

**What happens after these public meetings?**

After a final review of all comments and the pros and cons of each route, a preferred alignment will be selected. Preliminary designs and a right-of-way plan will be prepared in 2011 and submitted for County Council approval in 2011 or 2012. The purchase of right-of-way along the chosen trail alignment could be completed during 2013. Snohomish County is continuing to seek grant funding for the permitting and construction phases of the project.