



# North Aurora Initiative Pop-In Parties



*Figure advertising the North Aurora Initiative Pop-In Party Community Connections occurring over two dates, one at Robert Eagle Staff Middle School on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM to 7:30 PM and one at Bitter Lake Community Center Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 1:30 PM.*

## Event Summary

The City of Seattle and partner organizations held two Community Connections Pop-In Parties at Robert Eagle Staff Middle School in Licton Springs on May 27, and Bitter Lake Community Center on June 6, as part of the North Aurora Initiative. Community members were invited to pop in, meet City departments and organizations doing work along North Aurora, and share their feedback to guide future planning in North Aurora.

**Food:** Local food from Mendoza’s Market and Lotus Pond Vietnamese Cuisine was provided, and community members were invited to participate in a raffle for gift cards to local restaurants when they participated in engagement activities.

**Activities:** Artist Natalie Dupille created live visual recordings of planning conversations, projected onto screens for people to see, grow, and change over the course of each event. Community members could share their feedback via a community asset-mapping activity, visioning exercise, and community safety table, and family-friendly activities including; face painting, coloring, Seattle Public Utilities’ interactive “raindrop run” activity, and transportation “mad-libs” from Seattle Department of Transportation Students from University of Washington’s Master of Urban Planning program presented their ideas on

placemaking and mobility options in North Aurora and provided free bicycle tune-ups during the events. Multilingual community liaisons were present to provide translations to non-English speaking community members.

## Participation and Partners

City staff advertised the two events through department newsletters, blog posts, and community flyering, as well as via word of mouth with community partners. Across the two events, roughly 200 community members attended, taking the opportunity to engage with the City about utility and street infrastructure, community planning, and community safety, as well as getting to know community councils and meeting with organizations and students working in the area, including:

- Aurora Reimagined Coalition\*
- Haller Lake Community Council
- Licton Springs Community Council\*
- Greenwood Community Council\*\*
- Aurora Commons\*
- Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery\*\*
- University of Washington Master of Urban Planning, North Aurora Initiative Spring 2026 studio
- City of Seattle, including:
  - Office of Planning & Community Development
  - Seattle Public Utilities
  - Seattle Department of Transportation
  - Seattle Police Department
  - Seattle Parks & Recreation

\*Only at Robert Eagle Staff Middle School

\*\*Only at Bitter Lake Community Center

## Language Access

Handouts from departments were available in the City's seven highest priority languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Tagalog, Korean, and Amharic. At the Licton Springs event, a multilingual community liaison speaking Mandarin was present. At the Bitter Lake event, multilingual community liaisons speaking Mandarin, Arabic, Korean, and Tagalog were available to translate event activities and feedback for non-English speaking attendees.

## Next Steps

City staff will work to synthesize feedback collected at these events, as well as in the North Aurora Visioning Survey and North Aurora Corridor Business Survey, to inform visioning for the Community Action Plan. Engagement summaries of feedback collected on community planning and safety are available on the Office of Planning and Community Development's [North Aurora Community Action Plan webpage](#).

Throughout summer 2026, the City is continuing to engage community with focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Later in 2026 and 2027, the City will host events to present drafts of the community goals and visions that came out of Spring and Summer 2026 engagement. The City will then work to identify actions for the plan with community, which will then be tied into the draft Community Action Plan in 2027.

## About the North Aurora Initiative

The North Aurora Initiative is a City of Seattle multi-departmental effort that partners with community to shape the future of the North Aurora corridor through street and utilities investments, small-scale neighborhood improvements, and development of a Community Action Plan.

Photos from Robert Eaglestaff Middle School Event



ROBERT EAGLE STAFF MIDDLE SCHOOL · 5/27/26 · VISUAL NOTES by NATALIE DUPILLE

The live art topics recorded via illustration at the Robert Eagle Staff Middle School. Using a mixture of illustrated graphics and images, these topics including transportation, safe routes, buses, natural space, tree canopy, community health and safety, cafes, community spaces, housing that is a mixture of single family and higher density.



Attendees receiving face paint in the foreground while others discuss wastewater management with City staff in the background



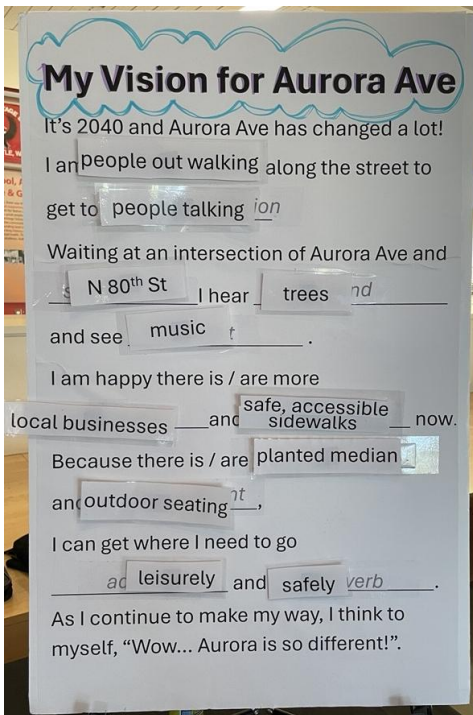
Attendees talking with a uniformed Seattle Police Department officer



Two attendees receiving face paint



Two visitors in the foreground working on a “My Vision for Aurora Ave” poster, in which they insert words into sentences about the future, while other visitors hold discussion in the background



The text of a “My Vision for Aurora Ave” activity poster saying “It’s 2040 and Aurora Ave has changed a lot! I am people out walking along the street to get people talking. Waiting at an intersection of Aurora Ave and N 80th St I hear cars honking and people out walking. I am happy there is/are more open green space and trees now. Because there is/are outdoor seating and safe, accessible sidewalks I can get where I need to go leisurely and safely. As I continue to make my way, I think to myself “Wow... Aurora is so different!”



The live artist working to sketch out community conversations between two neighboring individuals with the sketch projected onto the wall in the background



On the right, the “Stormwater Management: Design Solutions” poster while two attendees discuss with SPU staff on the left

# Photos from Bitter Lake Community Center Event



In the Bitter Lake Community Center event showing approximately 40 people across different stations discussing various topics with City staff and community organizations

**SAFETY:**  
 MORE SIDEWALKS & SAFE WALKING ROUTES, CROSSINGS ON + OVER AURORA

**TRANSPORTATION IS A SAFETY ISSUE!**  
 + CLIMATE  
 - MORE TRANSIT W/ LIGHTING & TRASH CANS @ STOPS  
 - LIGHT RAIL!  
 - FEWER CARS = SAFER, CLEAN AIR!

**IDENTIFYING A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**  
 = STEPS TOWARD:  
 GROWTH/ DEVELOPMENT  
 PREVENTING DISPLACEMENT  
 SUPPORTING COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

**+ CARE TEAM**  
 MORE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES  
 LOCAL BIZ - INVEST IN COMMUNITY BUSINESSES THAT STAY OPEN LATE = SAFER- FEELING

**HOUSING:**  
 MIX OF HIGH, MID, & LOW DENSITY  
 SUPPORT FOR UNHOUSED FOLKS  
 PROVIDE RESOURCES

**MIXED-USE RES. & BUSINESS**

**COMMUNITY AMENITIES:**  
 MORE TRASH/ RECYCLE BINS  
 DOG PARKS!

**GATHERING SPACES!**  
 FOR MUSIC, ART, PLAY, COMMUNITY, VILLAGE FEEL

**KEEP IT LOCAL!**

**COMMUNITY VISION 2026**

**COMMUNITY BUILDING**  
 = VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
 = A CLEANER AURORA  
 = LESS VIOLENCE WHEN WE KNOW EACH OTHER/ EMPATHY

**BITTER LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER · 6/6/26 · VISUAL NOTES by NATALIE DUPILLE**

The live art topics recorded via illustration at the Bitter Lake Community Center, including transportation as a safety and climate issue and wanting safe routes and crossings, buses, natural space, tree canopy, community health and safety, cafes, community spaces, housing that is a mixture of single family and higher density.



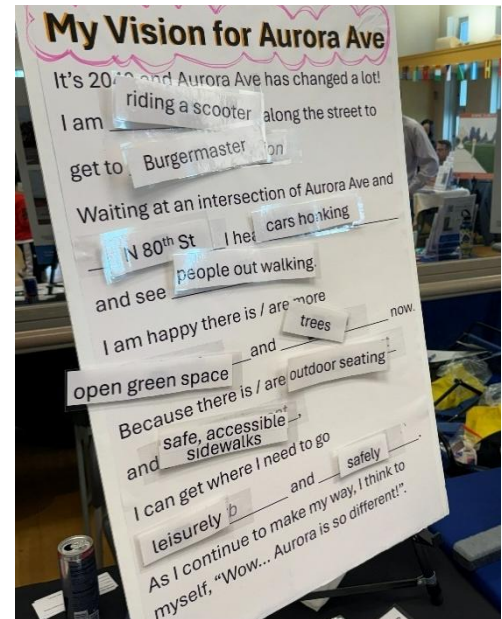
University of Washington students discussing their ideas for transportation interventions with an attendee



A University of Washington student works on a bike tune up with an attendee on either side



Two visitors in the foreground on a "My Vision for Aurora Ave" poster



The text of a "My Vision for Aurora Ave" activity poster saying "It's 2040 and Aurora Ave has changed a lot! I riding a scooter along the street to get to Burgermaster. Waiting at an intersection of Aurora Ave and N 80th St I hear trees and see music. I am happy there is/are more local businesses and safe, accessible sidewalks now. Because there is/are planted median and outdoor seating. I can get where I need to go leisurely and safely. As I continue to make my way, I think to myself, "Wow... Aurora is so different!"



Two City staff welcome an attendee while others discuss their tables with attendees in the background