

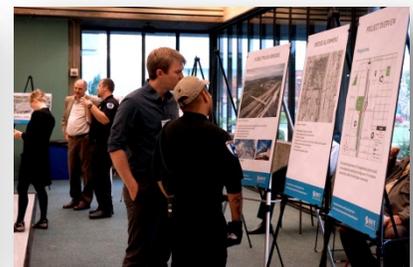
# Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House

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October 15, 2015

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Sandy Lam



Prepared by:



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**OVERVIEW**

**Background**

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) plans to build a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-5 to improve connections within the Northgate community. This will include access to major regional transit facilities east of I-5: the King County Transit Center and the Sound Transit light rail station.

In June 2014, SDOT presented three possible alignment options and bridge types at a public open house for consideration. In November 2014, the project team selected a preferred alignment and tube/truss bridge type.

As part of the design process, SDOT hosted an open house on October 15, 2015 for the public to view the 30% design feature. At the event, project team members answered questions and the public provided feedback.

**Objectives**

Objectives of the open house were to:

- Raise public understanding about the project’s purpose, need, and benefits
- Provide an update on the project design and environmental process
- Provide opportunities for the public to comment on the proposed design features

**EVENT INFORMATION**

Event: Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House

Host: Seattle Department of Transportation

Date & Time: Thursday, October 15, 2015  
5 – 7 PM

Presentation: 5:30 PM

Location: North Seattle College  
College Center – Multipurpose Room  
504 NE 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98115

## EVENT NOTIFICATION

SDOT conducted outreach in the weeks leading up to the open house to notify stakeholders and the general public of the event. The table below provides a summary of outreach methods:

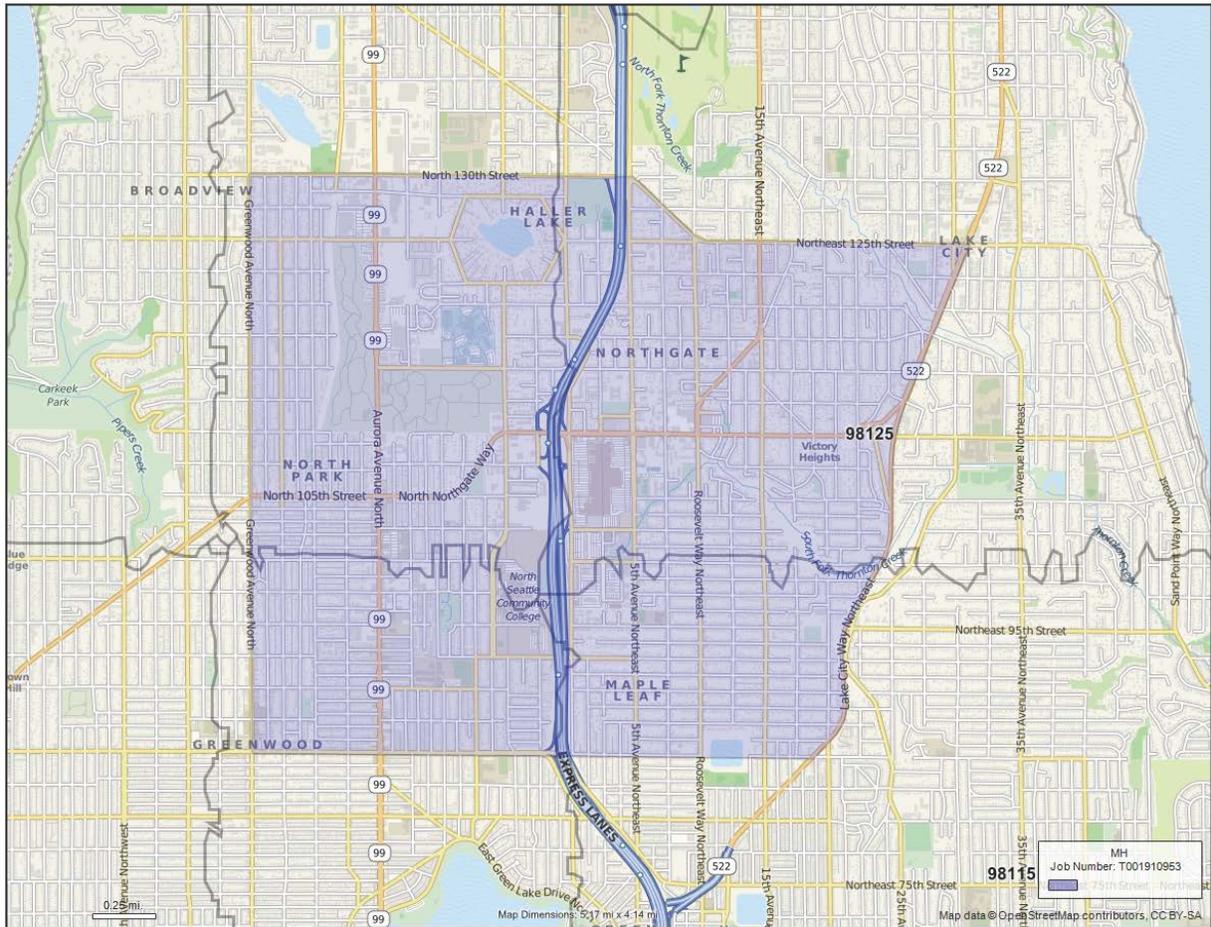
Outreach Tool	Recipients
Mailer	24,142
Email notification	Distribution to project email list (67 recipients)
Project website	<a href="http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm">www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm</a>
Press Release	Distributed October 12, 2015
Community calendars	Posted on 15 online calendars

These outreach efforts are discussed in greater detail on the following pages.



## MAILER

The mailer publicizing the open house was an 8.5" x 5.5" postcard. It was sent to 24,142 residences and businesses in the area bounded by N 130<sup>th</sup> Street/NE 125<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, N/NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street on the south, Greenwood Avenue N on the west and Lake City Way NE on the east.



## EMAIL NOTIFICATION

Prior to the open house, a dedicated project email list and hot line were created to support the project. This information was included on all open house and project materials.

An announcement of the open house was emailed to project stakeholders on the email list. Recipients included residents, community councils, social services, schools, churches, bicycling and pedestrian organizations, and businesses.

Event Summary  
 Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House  
 October 15, 2015

## WEBSITE

The project website (<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm>) has been updated periodically during the design process. The website includes previous open house materials, background materials, a project area map, project presentations to organizations such as the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board and the Seattle Design Commission, a project fact sheet, bridge proposals, a timeline, previous open house invitations, and contact information.

Following the open house, the website was updated with the event's presentation, project factsheet, and display boards.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Through community calendars and contacting neighborhood organizations, 10 public postings were published announcing the open house. The table below details community calendars and other public announcements by neighborhood organizations and community stakeholders.

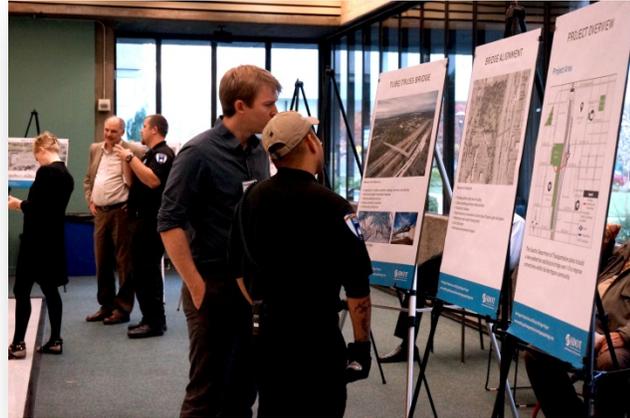
Name	Type	URL
Bitter Lake Community Council	Community calendar	<a href="http://www.broadviewseattle.org/upcoming-events/">http://www.broadviewseattle.org/upcoming-events/</a>
Feet First	Events calendar	<a href="http://www.feetfirst.org/event/design-open-house?instance_id=7125">http://www.feetfirst.org/event/design-open-house?instance_id=7125</a>
Licton Springs Community Council	Facebook post	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Licton-Springs-Neighborhood-176639229029030/posts_to_page/">https://www.facebook.com/Licton-Springs-Neighborhood-176639229029030/posts_to_page/</a>
North Seattle College	Events announcement	<a href="https://news.northseattle.edu/northgate-ped-bridge-meeting">https://news.northseattle.edu/northgate-ped-bridge-meeting</a>
Ravenna Blog	Twitter post	<a href="https://twitter.com/ravennablog/status/646524353392152576">https://twitter.com/ravennablog/status/646524353392152576</a>
Seattle Bike Blog	Events calendar	<a href="http://www.seattlebikeblog.com/event/northgate-ped-bike-bridge-open-house/">http://www.seattlebikeblog.com/event/northgate-ped-bike-bridge-open-house/</a>
Seattle Neighborhood Greenways	Events calendar	<a href="http://seattlegreenways.org/events/calendar/">http://seattlegreenways.org/events/calendar/</a>
Victory Heights Blog	Events calendar	<a href="http://victoryheights.org/">http://victoryheights.org/</a>
Wedgewood Community Council	Neighborhood blog	<a href="http://wedgwoodcc.org/the-northgate-pedestrian-bridge">http://wedgwoodcc.org/the-northgate-pedestrian-bridge</a>

## OPEN HOUSE

The open house drew over 70 area residents, students, and faculty from North Seattle College, as well as representatives of neighborhood organizations and partner agencies.

Open house attendees were able to speak with key project team members and review seventeen display boards that covered the following topics:

- Project background
- Design process and timeline
- Funding
- Bridge alignment of type
- Approaches and landings
- User experience
- Environmental considerations
- Proposed Northgate area pedestrian and bicycle improvements
- Public art



In addition to the display boards, participants could view two at-scale models that showcased the bridge as a whole and from the inside. The models provided stakeholders with a physical visualization of what the bridge would look like and how it would function.



Art Brochet, SDOT Project Communications Lead, delivered a PowerPoint presentation that began with an overview of SDOT's goals, missions and values, agency partners, project timeline and funding. Stephen Van Dyck, an architect on the project, continued the presentation by reviewing project requirements and elements of consideration during the design of the project. After the presentation, members of the public were encouraged to visit display boards for any further questions.

The sign-in table was staffed with comment forms and a comment box for feedback, in addition to a project factsheet. A race and social justice form was available for voluntary feedback.

Partner agencies, including King County Metro and Sound Transit staffed tables to share information on their projects related to the Northgate area. Sound Transit provided information about the future Northgate light rail station and King County Metro provided information about the future Northgate Transit Center.

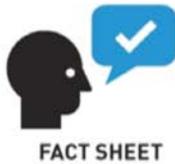
### PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

- Art Brochet, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Barbara Lee, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Kyle Rowe, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Michael James, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Sandy Gurkewitz, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Jason Huff, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture
- Fred Young, ALTA
- David McMullen, KPFF
- Brianna Holman, LMN Architects
- Scott Crawford, LMN Architects
- Stephen Van Dyck, LMN Architects
- Anna O'Connell, Swift Company
- Barbara, Swift Company
- Charles Sowers, Project Artist
- Emily Mannetti, Stepherson & Associates Communications
- Lauren Wheeler, Stepherson & Associates Communications
- Sandy Lam, Stepherson & Associates Communications

## MATERIALS

Attendees received the project factsheet and a comment form as they signed in.

## FACTSHEET



# NORTHGATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE PROJECT

Connecting communities on the west and east sides of I-5 in Northgate  
October 2015



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is building a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Interstate-5 (I-5) to improve connections within the Northgate community, including access to major regional transit facilities east of the freeway: the existing King County Transit Center and the Sound Transit Link light rail station (which opens in 2021).

The Northgate area is one of the Puget Sound region's major residential and employment centers. The existing transit center currently serves over 6,000 passengers a day, and the future light rail station is expected to serve over 15,000 passengers per day. The new bridge would reduce walk times from North Seattle College to the light rail station by about 20 minutes.

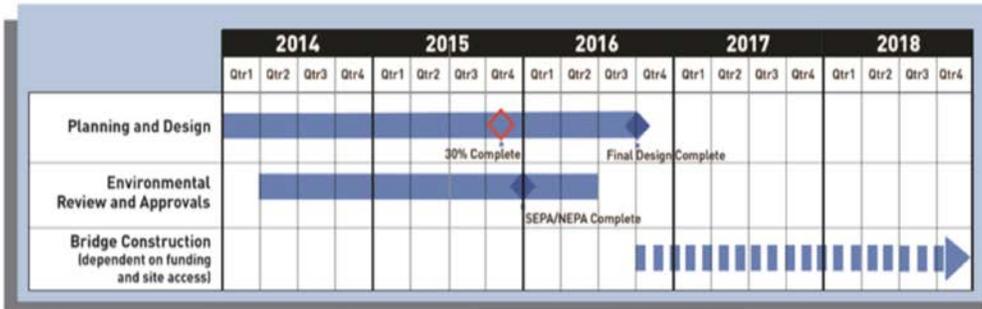


### PROJECT BENEFITS

- Create a new connection between east and west sides of I-5
- Provide a better connection for students and transit users to Northwest Seattle including Licton Springs, Maple Leaf and North Seattle College
- Provide important access for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Increase ridership at the King County Transit Center and future light rail station

*The proposed bridge will be a truss/tube structure with the main span crossing I-5 and will use ADA-compliant approach ramps to touch down at North Seattle College near N 100th Street on the west side and at NE 100th Street on the east side. SDOT will provide a direct connection to the future Northgate light rail station mezzanine level over 1st Avenue NE from the east side approach ramp.*

### PROJECT SCHEDULE



### PROJECT FUNDING

Project funding committed to date totals \$20 million. Sound Transit and SDOT have each committed \$5 million to the project. In addition, the Washington State Legislature approved the Transportation Improvements Budget, which includes \$10 million for this project.

Funding for the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge project is included in the 2015 Move Seattle Transportation Levy. In addition, SDOT has applied for 2015 federal TIGER Grant funding.

### OTHER PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS



The Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge is one of many improvements being proposed in the area. We will create a more walkable and bikeable Northgate through investments that benefit all ages and abilities. The map to the right highlights bicycle and pedestrian improvements.



#### INFORMATION & CONTACT

NorthgateBridge@seattle.gov, (206) 684-8766  
<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm>  
 For translation & interpretation services, please call (206) 733-9990



## COMMENT FORMS

Open house attendees received a printed survey/comment form upon check-in. Eleven forms were completed and returned at the event.

### Comment form:

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
October 15, 2015    Open House



## Comment Sheet

NAME (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?    Yes            No

Thank you for your interest in the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge project. We welcome your feedback. Please share any comments below and leave the form in the comment box at the sign-in table.

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Other ways to comment:  
Email: Send your comments to:  
[NorthgateBridge@seattle.gov](mailto:NorthgateBridge@seattle.gov).

Mail: Send your comments to:  
Art Brochet, Seattle Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124-4996

## ONLINE MEDIA COVERAGE

A press release was sent to the media prior to the open house; however any online coverage about the project became a part of articles focused on the Move Seattle Levy.

Date	Publication	URL
10/2/2015	The Seattle Times	<a href="http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/seattle-plans-to-take-over-expand-pronto-bike-sharing-network/?#038;#038;">http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/transportation/seattle-plans-to-take-over-expand-pronto-bike-sharing-network/?#038;#038;</a>
10/4/2015	The Columbian	<a href="http://www.columbian.com/news/2015/oct/04/seattle-to-expand-bike-sharing-network/">http://www.columbian.com/news/2015/oct/04/seattle-to-expand-bike-sharing-network/</a>
10/7/2015	The Seattle Times	<a href="http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/ask-me-anything-excerpts-of-district-5-candidates-session/">http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/ask-me-anything-excerpts-of-district-5-candidates-session/</a>
10/12/2015	Mass Transit Magazine	<a href="http://www.masstransitmag.com/news/12124999/will-seattles-big-money-transportation-levy-move-voters">http://www.masstransitmag.com/news/12124999/will-seattles-big-money-transportation-levy-move-voters</a>
10/14/2015	Capitol Hill Times	<a href="http://www.capitolhilltimes.com/2015/10/city-negotiating-bike-share-takeover/">http://www.capitolhilltimes.com/2015/10/city-negotiating-bike-share-takeover/</a>
10/15/2015	The Stranger	<a href="http://www.thestranger.com/blogs/slog/2015/10/15/23017914/guest-editorial-the-lets-move-seattle-will-modernize-our-citys-transportation-system">http://www.thestranger.com/blogs/slog/2015/10/15/23017914/guest-editorial-the-lets-move-seattle-will-modernize-our-citys-transportation-system</a>

## WHAT WE HEARD

Event Summary  
Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House  
October 15, 2015

In total, 11 comment forms were received at the open house. Generally people were supportive of the project. Participant feedback included the following themes:

**Environmental Impacts:**

- Appreciative that the city is following an environmental process
- Modifying existing drainage systems on the college to handle bridge runoff is important
- Not disturbing wildlife as much as possible during construction is important

**Project Costs:**

- The bridge will cost too much. SDOT should focus on building something more practical at a lower cost
- The city needs to find a way for other agencies to contribute more towards funding

**Bridge connections:**

- Providing direct access to the transit center at all hours is crucial to ensure full benefits from the bridge
- Stairs need to be built on the west approach in order to provide adequate connection to North Seattle College

**Channelization:**

- Providing delineated modes of traffic on the bridge would be important in ensuring traffic management success

**DISPLAY BOARDS**

# NORTHGATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

WELCOME!

환영합니다!

Bienvenidos

환영합니다!

Kính Chào Quý Khách



October 15, 2015

5:00 - 7:00 PM .....Open House  
5:30 PM .....Presentation

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## Project Area



The Seattle Department of Transportation plans to build a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-5 to improve connections within the Northgate community.

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



# TRAVEL TIME COMPARISON



The two existing crossings of I-5 add nearly 20 minutes to the average walk time to the light rail station site, and one of those existing crossings is complicated by freeway entrances. People biking would cross the bridge in about 3-4 minutes.

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



# PROJECT FUNDING

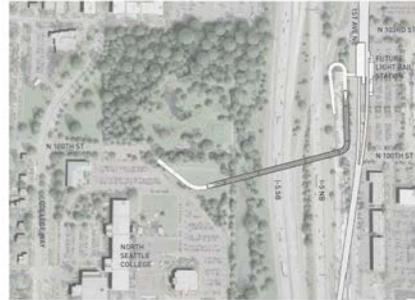
Committed	
\$5M	Sound Transit
\$5M	City of Seattle
\$10M	Washington State
Potential Additional Funding	
\$15M	Federal TIGER Grant (out of a total \$25 million grant)
\$10M	Move Seattle Levy (out of the \$15 million designated in levy)

Planning-level project cost estimate: \$26.3 million

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



## BRIDGE ALIGNMENT



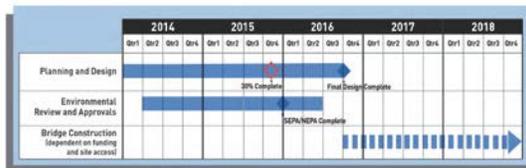
**Reasons for Selection:**

- Provides better sight lines for safety
- Links to existing and future bike facilities
- Proximity to campus
- Ideal elevation at connection to future Sound Transit Light rail station
- Minimizing ramp length/crossing time
- Site Constraints
- Minimizes environmental impacts

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



## PROJECT TIMELINE



Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



## TUBE/TRUSS BRIDGE



**Reasons for Selection:**

- Integration of safety systems: railings, barriers, and lighting
- Structural depth minimizes ramping
- Constructability and cost
- Unique aesthetic qualities
- Community preference



Examples of truss bridges

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)



**Main Span: View East above I-5**

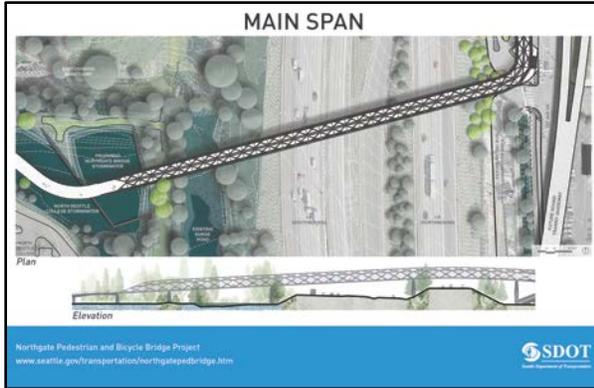


Leaning railing with integrated lighting

Throw barrier

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)





### USER EXPERIENCE: LIGHTING

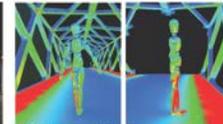


*Overall lighting intent: provide a continuously lit pathway that allows facial recognition*

*Concept for bridge lighting: incorporated within the handrail and reflect up from the light colored deck*



Example of lighting system



Lighting analysis

## USER EXPERIENCE: ALL USERS KEEP RIGHT

View looking west toward North Seattle College

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm

## PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS

*The Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge is one of many pedestrian and bicycle improvements being proposed in the area. This map highlights proposed improvements.*

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

**Overview**

We are examining the environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project. When the evaluation is complete (by the end of 2015) we will submit National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to the Washington State Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration for approval and issue a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist. The checklist will be available at that time for public review and comment. Some preliminary results from our studies are described below.

**Preliminary Results**

**Visual/Aesthetics**

- Views from I-5, the North Seattle College campus and Bartonwood
- New lighting elements

**Recreational Facilities**

- Ballfield
- Bartonwood trails

**Historical/Cultural**

- Potential to find historic artifacts
- Potential to find/disturb Native American artifacts

**Transportation**

- Bicycle/pedestrian connections
- Parking

**Wetlands/Drainage**

- Wetland/watercourse modifications
- Potential mitigation measures

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

**Define Existing Conditions**

- Collect current information to set an environmental baseline

**Identify Environmental Impacts**

- Review environmental studies completed for projects in the area
- Solicit concerns from the public
- Review early designs to minimize impacts

**Document Findings**

- Prepare technical reports for areas that will be impacted (e.g., wetlands, water quality, fish and wildlife, cultural resources, transportation, economic, and community)
- Develop documentation for SEPA and NEPA
- Submit completed NEPA documents to WSDOT and FHWA for approval
- Prepare SEPA checklist and solicit public comments

**Obtain Permits and Approvals**

Permits and approvals that may be required:

- Section 404/401 Nationwide Permit
- Section 7 Endangered Species Act
- Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act
- Coastal Zone Management Consistency
- Construction Stormwater General Permit
- Hydraulic Project Approval
- Seattle Critical Areas Review
- Seattle Building Permits

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm

## PROJECT ARTIST: CHARLES SOWERS

### Previous Work



### Biography

Charles Sowers is an artist whose practice links art, science, and physical phenomena. An exhibit developer at the Exploratorium in San Francisco since 1998, he has created numerous works that directly engage the viewer. This has led to the creation of a kind of aesthetic/scientific instrumentation that reacts to a site and allows us insight into normally invisible or unnoticed phenomena. Through such work he hopes to engage people in an unexpected dialogue with their locale and provoke a desire to take notice of the beauty and curiousness of the world around them.

This artwork project is commissioned with SDOT 1% for Art funds.



Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project  
[www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm)

