

NORTHGATE PED/BIKE BRIDGE

March 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Environmental review for the Northgate Ped/Bike Bridge project will meet federal requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and state requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). NEPA review is required for projects with federal funding and SEPA review is required for City capital projects.

We're completing environmental reports that evaluate impacts to:

- Transportation
- Open space and trails
- Wetlands
- Fish and wildlife
- Cultural resources
- Endangered species

What is the SEPA process and when will SEPA be completed?

SEPA is a process that identifies and analyzes environmental impacts associated with governmental decisions. These decisions may be related to issuing permits for private projects, adopting regulations or policies, or constructing public facilities. The SEPA review process helps agency decision-makers, applicants, and the public understand how the entire proposal will affect the environment.¹ SEPA review also gives the public a chance to provide official comments for consideration. SDOT and the North Seattle College (NSC) have determined that impacts associated with the pedestrian/bike bridge can be mitigated. We'll issue a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance in late March, which will begin SEPA review. This includes a 14-day public comment period followed by a 7-day public appeal period. Unless appealed, SEPA will then be complete.

What is the NEPA process and when will NEPA be completed?

The NEPA process is similar to the SEPA process, and documentation is similar to a SEPA checklist. We expect NEPA review to be completed later this year.

Understanding the project site

On the west side of the project, the North Seattle College (NSC) campus's unique environmental features include a wetland complex, a natural area, open space, and a historic site. Some of these areas are used for passive recreation, including woods and wetlands that contain trails with numerous points of interest, a greenbelt surrounding the campus, and an abandoned ballfield.

At the east end of the project, the bridge meets grade east of I-5 near NE 100th St and 1st Ave NE, using land owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation (a Park and Ride lot) and City of Seattle right of way.

Environmental features in this area include 4 wetlands and 2 watercourses (i.e., brooks, streams or channels).



Green Lake Gardens Company, 1934 (Densho Digital Repository, 2015).



Cranberry Loop (Seattle Department of Transportation, 2016).

PROJECT INFORMATION & CONTACT

NorthgateBridge@seattle.gov, (206) 615-0925
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm



Seattle
Department of
Transportation



¹Washington State Department of Ecology, 2018

Impacts to wetlands and recreational resources

The wetlands complex on NSC's campus is made up of a series of 7 wetlands. A small portion of one wetland on campus will be permanently impacted during the bridge construction and will be realigned after project completion. The buffers of other wetlands will be temporarily impacted during construction. The North Watercourse that runs along NE 1st Ave will be filled to make way for a protected bike lane. There will be no direct impacts to Thornton Creek downstream as a result of the project.

Some recreational resources will also be affected. The bridge will be built on top of an existing trail running through the NSC campus, referred to as the North Berm Trail. This trail will be relocated south of the bridge and continue to serve as a pathway for people moving through the campus. The project will also temporarily impact some trails and an abandoned ballfield during construction, but these will be restored after construction is complete.

What are the mitigation efforts we're proposing?

Mitigation measures include:

- Relocating the North Berm Trail, which will be displaced by the bridge
- Wetland and watercourse enhancement/on- and off-site mitigation
- Safety improvements including security call boxes on the bridge and bridge lighting that provides facial recognition
- Future parking improvements for North Seattle College



Map showing the Greenbelt Trails system at NSC (Angell, Bryony), Secret Urban Wildlife Hikes Around Seattle and the Eastside, 2014. <https://www.parentmap.com/article/secret-urban-hikes-part-two>

SEPA REVIEW AND HOW TO COMMENT

We'll notify the community on our project website and through email updates when the SEPA documents are issued, where to find them, comment period dates, and how to comment.

Please check the project website at:

**[www.seattle.gov/transportation/
NorthgatePedBridge.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/NorthgatePedBridge.htm)**

IF YOU NEED THIS INFORMATION TRANSLATED, please call (206) 615-0925.
Si necesita traducir esta información al español, llame al (206) 615-0925.

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