



## 15th Ave S Improvements

### Online Presentation

October 14, 2020

Q&A – DRAFT

*The project team received and responded to the following questions during the 15th Ave S online presentation on October 14, 2020.*

### Presentation Q&A

#### ***Traffic and construction effects***

**Q: How are you keeping traffic from backing up during construction?**

**A:** We will have uniformed traffic-control police officers and flaggers to help direct traffic. We're also adding video detection cameras at all intersections with traffic lights to improve the responsiveness of the signals.

**Q: Will mail deliveries and garbage pickup be able to happen during construction, and how will those drivers get through if there are detours?**

**A:** Every week, there is a construction project management meeting that includes transit agencies, utilities, hospitals, emergency management, and other services that operate in the area. Together, we review the section that will be worked on next and develop an access plan. The contractor knows that these vehicles need to access properties in the project area, so there will always be a plan to maintain access.

**Q: Will you impede access to businesses during construction?**

**A:** No. We'll create a business access plan that will include pedestrian access and parking. These plans will be provided on our project webpage.

#### ***Construction plans***

**Q: On 15th Ave S, will crews pour new concrete on the road? How thick will it be?**

**A:** Because this is primarily a paving preservation project, we'll dig down about three inches into the pavement and replace the top layer with mixed asphalt. However, there are specific areas along 15th Ave S, S Columbian Way, and S Spokane St that require what we call base repair. This means that the concrete bed under the asphalt is compromised, and we'll have to demolish and replace it. In that case, we are digging down as much as 18 inches.

**Q: What happens when schools open again in 2021?**

**A:** The bulk of the work in the south end of the project, near Mercer International Middle School, is planned to take place in spring 2021. If schools don't open until fall 2021, we don't anticipate any conflict. If schools open sooner, we'll ensure there is safe access to the school. Alternate route options include 16th Ave S, or connecting to the school entrance on S Columbian Way via Beacon Ave S, south of the project area.

## ***Project design***

**Q: There is a lot of bicycle traffic in this area, and this project's benefits include improved bike connections. Are you widening the sidewalks to accommodate that movement?**

**A:** We're extending sidewalk on both sides of Columbian Way S. On the east side of Columbian Way S, we'll fill the planting strip with concrete in order to provide a 10- to 12-foot-wide sidewalk that will act as a multi-use trail (for pedestrians and bikes). The west side of Columbian Way S will be widened by 7 feet to provide a raised bike area, and a bike ramp down onto Columbian Way S. This layout is also meant to provide cyclists access to 15th Ave S and 16th Ave S. Curb ramps along Columbian Way S and on the peninsula will be 8 feet wide (compared to standard 4 feet) to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

**Q: Will the Stay Healthy Street at S Dakota St remain?**

**A:** The Stay Healthy Streets program is a temporary program that is currently being evaluated, so we don't know how this will impact future plans for S Dakota Street. However, the planned improvement to the pedestrian crossing at S Dakota St and 15th Ave S remains part of this project. For questions about Stay Healthy Streets, you can visit [the program webpage](#), or email StayHealthyStreets@Seattle.gov.

**Q: What will the peninsula at 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way look like—will it include any benches or plantings?**

**A:** Because the intent of the peninsula is to improve safety for transit, we are not planning any design improvements to make it a collection point for catching the bus, or a place to hang out. There won't be benches or any greenery.

**Q: Which features of the new design will aim to control the speed of vehicles on 15th Ave S?**

**A:** One of the ways that we're controlling speed is by adding a protected bike lane. We're also improving crossings and the timing of signals, ensuring that the intersections will be more pedestrian- and bicycle-focused. These improvements should help control speeding and traffic distribution for all users.