



Road Services Division
Transportation Community Relations
 KSC-TR-0824
 201 S. Jackson St.
 Seattle, WA 98104

PRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Seattle WA
 Permit No. 6966

SCOPING NOTICE: KING COUNTY TO UPDATE COMMUNITY ON NOVELTY HILL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Road Services holding scoping meeting and open house on May 5, 2005

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON THE NOVELTY HILL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

King County DOT Road Services holding public scoping meeting and open house in your area—see inside for details



Produced by Community Relations,
 King County Department of Transportation,
 April 2005.
 Designed by King County Graphic Design and Production Services.
 50218jc.p65

Alternative Formats Available

206-263-3703
TTY Relay: 711



Scoping Notice—Request for Comments:

King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division, is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Novelty Hill Transportation Improvement project. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Written comments will be received until June 1, 2005. Comments will also be accepted at a public scoping meeting and open house to be held at the Evergreen Junior High School Commons, 6900 208th Avenue NE, Redmond, Washington, on May 5, 2005.

The King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division, is inviting the public to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement when they attend the Novelty Hill Road Transportation Improvement Project scoping meeting and open house, to be held on May 5, 2005. Attendees will be updated on preparations and plans for the project and will have an opportunity to furnish comments to King County. The meeting will feature new alternatives being proposed for the project, and new traffic modeling displays. Road Services Division employees and project consultants will be on hand to answer questions and take comments.

NE NOVELTY HILL ROAD PROJECT

SCOPING MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

Evergreen Junior High School Commons

6900 – 208th Avenue NE, Redmond

May 5, 2005

5:30-7:30 pm

The improvement project is designed to connect areas of planned urban density to employment and service centers in the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, and Seattle. King County is considering work in three alternative corridors to ease congestion. The purpose of the proposed project is not only to provide immediate

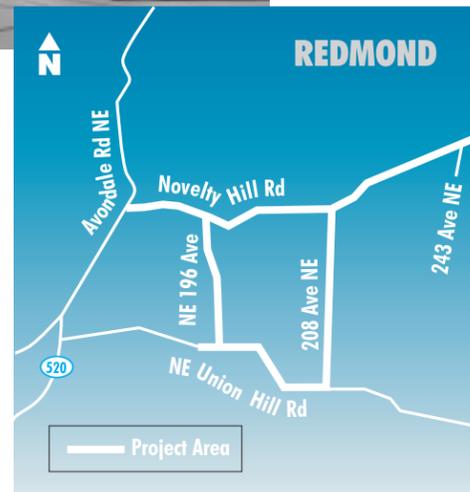
King County
 Department of Transportation
 Road Services Division

Continued on next page



transportation improvements in the Novelty Hill area, but also to meet traffic volume there projected for the year 2030. The project would address current traffic demand and significant growth in nearby urban planned developments, with their associated need for traffic capacity improvements. Two urban planned communities (Redmond Ridge and Trilogy at Redmond Ridge) have already been constructed along NE Novelty Hill Road, and a third is being developed.

The proposed project may include improvements along Novelty Hill Road at its intersections with NE Union Hill Road (above), NE 196th Avenue, and NE 208th Avenue (below). The study area limits extend from 243rd Avenue NE to SR 520 (see map at right).



PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

King County is currently studying four alternative scenarios for the Novelty Hill Transportation Improvement project. The first alternative, which must be considered for purposes of comparison under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is to take no action. The other three alternatives all involve widening NE Novelty Hill Road from two to five lanes. Two of these alternatives also involve different sets of possible changes made to NE 196th Avenue, NE 208th Avenue, NE Union Hill Road, and the various intersections involving those roads and NE Novelty Hill Road. (Please see map at left.)

Because there are so many possible variations under each scenario, King County Road Services urges you to visit the Novelty Hill project web site, at <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/cip/>, and click on the Novelty Hill Road link under **Top Projects**. There you will find diagrams, maps, and other displays that will be available at the May 5 open house. We are continually refining these improvements and the displays may change before the meeting. The exhibits show the possible alternatives and combinations of improvements that are being considered for this project and about which King County is seeking your comments.

DRAFT EIS:	Mid 2006
FINAL EIS:	End of 2007
DESIGN:	Starts as part of FEIS
CONSTRUCTION STARTS:	Major construction late 2009

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- ◆ Public comments in 2001 identified the need for addressing the bottleneck between 243rd Avenue NE and West Snoqualmie Road NE, on the project's eastern terminus. A study showing three alternative routes was finalized in July 2004. The least expensive of these alternatives was estimated to cost around \$40 million. Because this improvement would increase the traffic on Novelty Hill road and because of its high cost, King County decided to continue the project without including this segment. However, the county installed a signal at the intersection of West Snoqualmie Valley Road NE and NE Novelty Hill Road in response to community concerns.
- ◆ The "nickel gasoline tax" approved by the Legislature in 2003 will allow the Washington State Department of Transportation to widen SR 520 to six lanes as it meets Avondale Road NE on the project's western terminus. The design work on this project has started and construction is slated for 2008. King County's analysis shows that this improvement should greatly alleviate traffic backups on Avondale Road NE and consequently on NE Novelty Hill Road. The community expressed concerns about this important connection during public outreach in 2001.
- ◆ The project team is currently preparing background studies in support of the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in compliance with the state and national environmental policy acts (SEPA and NEPA). The approximate schedule has the studies being prepared during 2005, the Draft EIS issued in mid-2006, and the Final EIS issued in late 2007.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions or comments about the Novelty Hill Transportation Improvement project, please contact Barbara de Michele, King County DOT community relations planner, either by telephone at 206-263-3792 or by email at barbara.demichelle@metrokc.gov. You can also visit the NE Novelty Hill Road project web site at <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/cip/>, and click on "Novelty Hill Rd" under the heading, "Top Projects."

