

A Request to Parkway Residents From The Parkway Association Board

You've recently received a flyer from Bellevue asking that you vote on one of five sections of the Parkway for initial improvement. The West Lake Sammamish Association Board would like as many people to respond to a preferred choice as possible to show consensus. This will help move the project along.

The WLSA Board met last Saturday to deliberate the City's request. There were 6 Board members present and 6 residents who attended and provided their input as well.

The Board briefed the guests on the history of the project and the nuances and compromises reached over many years of negotiation. There was a roundtable discussion of the various sections identified in the City's ballot. While there was some concern as to why these sections were selected by the City, it was generally agreed that the southern most section would be best to build first. Some of the reasons being –

- From a construction standpoint, starting at one end or the other is most logical,
- Doing so leaves only one end, not two, “unfinished” (with associated safety and aesthetic issues),
- There is more non-residential traffic in that section than elsewhere,
- There are fewer residences and driveways that would be impacted, and
- This section includes a signal needed at 34th (needed for traffic to get out onto the Parkway).

Discussion regarding the signal led to a consensus that placing a signal there with widening of the Parkway for turn lanes would encourage more through traffic (at least in the AM), since northbound traffic would not have to stop. Much needed gaps in traffic would not be created to the north for residents attempting to exit driveways. A preferred design would be similar to that found at the north end in Redmond at 40th and W. Lake Sammamish Parkway NE.

The Board will lobby the City regarding the signal design at 34th, asking that they not include widening for turn lanes on the Parkway, as this would increase through traffic. In the meantime, we ask that you –

- Vote for the southern section to be improved first, and request

- That the signal not be designed to encourage more through traffic.

If you decide to vote for another section to be improved first, we ask that you do mention doing the 34th signal improvement as part of the first phase. But do vote, please!

Thank you and we hope to see you at the City's project meeting next month.

Your West Lake Sammamish Association Board