

Elliott Road Project

Sidewalks, Bike Lanes, Drainage and Utility Improvements

WINTER
2021

MAKING ELLIOTT ROAD SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

Elliott Road intersects at one of the few traffic signals along Highway 99W and connects to the south entrance of Newberg High School Student Parking and Sports complex. It also links from Highway 99W to Mabel Rush Elementary, the Chehalem Aquatic and Fitness Center. Elliott Road leads to YC Transit buses and local businesses on OR99W. The planned improvements to Elliott Road are identified in the Transportation System Plan as a high priority. The improvements will create a safer accessible route for all residents no matter their transportation choice.

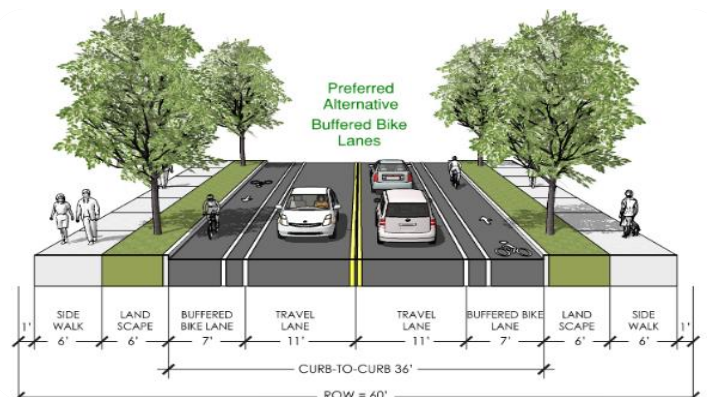


The existing road lacks consistent sidewalks and bike lanes to safely connect everyone within our community.

Project Update

In June 2020, Engineers presented several alternative designs for Elliott Rd improvement to the community and City Council. The majority of Community comments received supported the improvements, preferring narrow travel lanes and sidewalks along both sides. Support for the bike lanes was mixed, but Gas Tax funding requires bike lanes.

City Council reviewed the alternatives and approved this 'preferred' alternative design with the condition that Engineers meet with affected neighbors and collaborate to minimize Right-of-Way impacts. That meeting was held in August, resulting in removing planter the strip areas between Norwood and Redwood plus shifting the roadway 3 feet east. The City is proceeding with independent Right-of-Way appraisals, which will be used to begin negotiations for the additional area needed for the roadway and utility easements.



Timeline

Design: Through Spring 2022

Construction: Beginning in Fall 2022

Completion: Anticipated Winter 2023

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

‘Some parts of Elliott Road are only 24 feet wide, but the new design is 36 feet. Does that mean the city will acquire land?’

Yes. The City currently owns but does not use much of the area near the edge of residents' yards. Of 40 properties in the project area, five will require the city to purchase some right of way land to accommodate the design. The curb-to-curb width for a collector road is 36 feet. This includes the vehicle lane and bicycle space. Sidewalks and planter strip require an additional 24 feet. However, the city engineer, per City Code, may allow reducing or removing the planter strip where needed to avoid damage to existing trees and other sensitive areas.

‘Does State Law require sidewalks and bike lanes?’

Yes. ORS366.514, enacted in 1971, requires that roadways being built, or reconstructed, include both pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

‘Won't we lose street parking in the new design?’

Yes, but technically it was not meant for parking. Years ago, developers left space as they built the houses on the east Elliott Road. This space was intended for the bike lanes required per the Transportation System Plan. Residents have been using that space for private parking. The new design reclaims those spaces for the original public purpose.

Are drivers currently speeding?’

Some drivers are. Radar data (collected south of Haworth) shows most drivers stay close to the road's posted speed limit of 25 mph and the reduced school speed of 20 mph north of Haworth. Most drivers are below 28 mph, though a few speeds reached as high as 54 mph.

‘How will the new design discourage speeding?’

Studies show that narrower lane widths discourage speeding. The new design keeps motor-traffic lanes clearly marked and consistent at 11 feet wide. Curb extensions at each intersection will also discourage speeding.

‘How is this project funded?’

The project is funded with a combination of Stormwater Funds, System Development Charges from developers, and Gas Tax Revenue that must be spent on roadways and bike lanes. No City General Funds are being expended.

‘Are power lines on the west side in the way?’

Yes. Power and telecommunication lines will move underground as required by Newberg Development Code. Underground installations reduce vehicle crashes, reduce the exposure to unhealthy electromagnetic fields, improve the aesthetics of neighborhoods and may increase the assessed value of the properties.

‘Doesn't the road already have streetlights?’

Some of the utility poles have streetlights, but coverage is not uniform, and the type of lighting is older. PGE has scheduled upgrades to energy efficient higher performing lights in Newberg. The new design will have consistent street light placement, especially at the intersections, improving visibility, which makes the roads and sidewalks safer for all users.

‘Will the new design require taking out trees?’

Yes. Some trees will be removed, and the wood donated to a local charity. Those trees will be replaced in the planter strips with properly sized trees. Curb-tight sidewalks may be possible in some locations to avoid removing some trees. An arborist study of the project area has also identified trees that might need special protection during construction. Further design work will take place to establish which trees will be removed or need special protection.

‘Will homes be removed?’

No residences will be removed by this project. There are 24 homes with driveway access on Elliott Road. Those driveways remain and will be able to park standard 18-foot length vehicles..

‘How does this align with City Council Goals?’

The project will make Elliott Road accessible and usable for *all residents* whether they walk, drive, or roll. This is consistent with the 2020 Council goal of developing a culture that adopts **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**. Not all residents drive, but everyone benefits from a street where it is easier and safer for all people, regardless of age, income, or ability, to travel.

Sustainability is a 2020 Council goal. This project encourages safe walking and biking in Newberg. This reduces vehicle use, provides healthy options and limits the impact on the environment. It connects schools and businesses to residents and improves livability.