



## City Center Access Project

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The City of Federal Way is leading the City Center Access project, which proposes to improve access to City Center and the surrounding area by studying solutions to the congestion within the S 320th Street corridor near I-5.

This project will study the current and expected future traffic conditions and environmental impacts associated with enhancing traffic operations, safety, and efficiency on the S 320th Street corridor around I-5.

This Study is identified in the City of Federal Way [6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan \(TIP\)](#) as an environmental documentation study.

The City is doing this study in cooperation with the [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#), [Washington State Department of Transportation \(WSDOT\)](#), [Puget Sound Regional Council \(PSRC\)](#), [Sound Transit](#), [Pierce Transit](#), [South King Fire and Rescue](#), and [King County](#).

### **Why is the city doing this study?**

City and state roadway networks are showing the strain of sustained growth. Anticipated growth and development in the City Center are expected to worsen this strain. Traffic delays during the p.m. peak period are approaching unacceptable levels, even with the expansion of alternative transportation modes, such as mass transit.

The project team is exploring potential local solutions on surface streets and possible interchange modifications with I-5.

### **Project timeline**

The city will lead a feasibility study to define a preferred alternative through 2018. The schedule for completion of environmental documentation and preliminary engineering will depend on the complexity of the alternative chosen.

## Ways to participate

We want to hear from you! Please share your insight and experience, and learn about the project history, current project status, and next steps. You can participate in person or through our online open house.

- Visit our online open house at [federalwaycitycenter.org](http://federalwaycitycenter.org) (April 9 thru 15, 2018)
- Attend the open house:
  - April 11, 2018
  - 4 – 7:30 p.m.
  - Federal Way Community Center
  - 876 S 333rd Street
  - Federal Way, WA 98003

[Directions to the Federal Way Community Center](#)

## Project history

In 2004, the City of Federal Way initiated a similar study to determine what transportation system changes were needed to preserve mobility in the City Center. The purpose of the City Center Access Study was to evaluate current and future mobility in the City Center, and identify a strategy for improving access and circulation.

The first phase of study evaluated strategies for improving access and circulation to the City Center in a three-step screening process. The study evaluated a total of 47 potential solutions, including local improvements and modified or new interchanges. At that time, the majority of traffic flowed to and from I-5, favoring an interchange modification alternative. The first phase of the study identified two preliminary preferred solutions to move forward to environmental review.

After narrowing the options down to three alternatives, the City initiated the second phase of the study. To better understand the strengths and weaknesses of each option, the City of Federal Way, in partnership with FHWA, WSDOT, King County, and the project Public Stakeholder Team, evaluated the results of environmental studies and weighed public interests and concerns. The alternatives included a No Build Alternative and two build options (Alternatives 1 and 2) with proposed modifications to existing interchange ramps and improvements to local roads on and around the South 320th Street interchange near I-5.

In December 2008, the Public Stakeholder Team recommended [Alternative 1, a new interchange modification at 312th Street](#), as the preferred option to deliver faster and safer access to and from City Center. The city also led an outreach process to gather input from the community. In April 2009, the City Council considered stakeholder and community input and selected the No Build Alternative. As a result, the project was put on hold.

Due to continued and anticipated growth and development in the City Center, the City has restarted this project to address a growing problem with traffic delays, safety, and mobility for drivers, transit, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

In 2016, the City of Federal Way restarted the City Center Access Project to improve access within the S 320th Street corridor near I-5. The City has reestablished the Support Team for the project to complete the study and environmental documentation for the project.

## **Growth in the City Center**

This study supports transportation infrastructure needed to support the City of Federal Way's [Comprehensive Plan](#).

Federal Way's City Center is a designated regional growth center/urban center, as discussed in Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan. Concentrating urban development in the City's Center and secondary commercial district preserves Federal Way's primarily residential community and open natural areas. Development activity in the City Center is creating infrastructure and laying the foundation for vibrant neighborhoods where residents have the option of walking, bicycling, or using transit for most of their needs.

Infrastructure has developed at the same time as growth, preserving the community's quality of life. The City is concentrating new multiple-family development in the City Center along the State Route 99 corridor, primarily through mixed-use condominiums and apartments.

Federal Way residents enjoy a wide variety of dining and shopping options, and the pedestrian plazas, parks and civic amenities of the City Center. This study will support the City's effort to move forward with development in thoughtful ways that work for people who live, work, and play in Federal Way.

### **Have questions? Contact us:**

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