



West Kitsap Way Planning Study

Online Open House Summary

December 5-30, 2022

Overview

The City of Bremerton is taking a fresh look at the Kitsap Way corridor and how Kitsap Way can better meet the current and future needs of the community. The West Kitsap Way Planning Study will determine the future design of the 1.5-mile-long segment of Kitsap Way between State Route 3 and Chico Way NW. The early stages of this project include asking the community for feedback on how the corridor works for them and how it could better serve them in the future.

Based on that feedback, this study will develop a set of recommendations to improve safety, add pedestrian and bicycle facilities (such as bike lanes and sidewalks), increase access to transit, enhance access to properties, and accommodate future traffic growth. The final study will reflect the desires and needs of the community with detailed plans that can be used for project implementation.

In December 2022 – in conjunction with a virtual presentation that drew 22 participants – the City of Bremerton hosted an online open house for corridor neighbors, businesses, organizations, and other key stakeholders.

Online Open House Event Goals

- Inform the public of how the study will improve safety.
- Raise awareness of what the public can expect during the project's various phases.
- Provide the public with the chance to offer input on solutions and a vision for what they would like to see on the corridor.

The final design and construction of the corridor will occur as funding becomes available. The City of Bremerton may implement the improvements with a phased approach.

Event Promotions

The city promoted the online open house through the following methods:

- Mailers to more than 1,490 study area addresses
- 60 emails to the individuals on the project list
- A-frame signs placed along study corridor
- Project webpage updates
- Announcements on City social media channels
- Sign placed in City Hall Lobby
- Tabling event at Red Apple Market

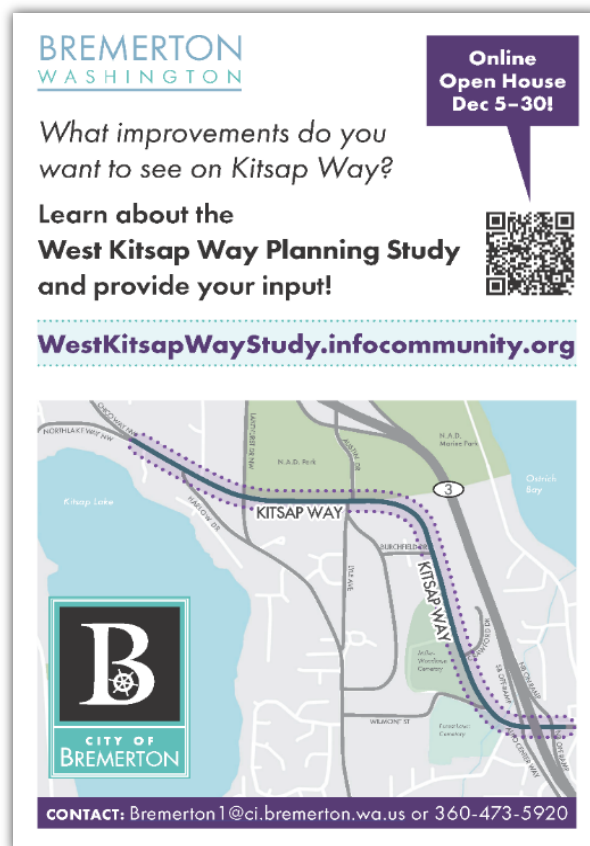


Figure 1- A frame sign placed along corridor

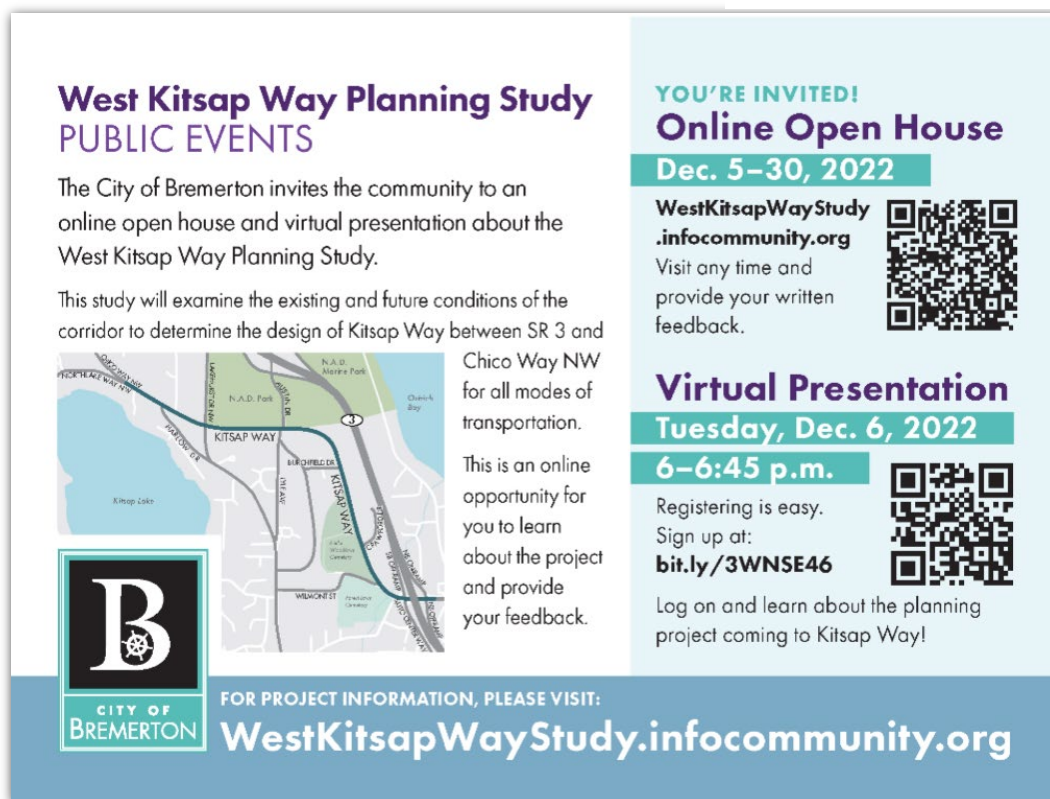


Figure 2- Mailer sent to area residents and businesses

Online Open House Content

The online open house invited the community to learn about the study's purpose, timeline, the corridor's existing conditions, and potential solutions. The platform offered opportunities to contribute feedback along the way. At the bottom of each page, comment boxes encouraged feedback from the community.

The first online open house "tab" (or page) introduced the project and provided context for what needs are being addressed during the planning study. Next, the existing conditions were broken down by category to reinforce the need for potential changes in the corridor that could improve public safety and more. After that, the community was asked four questions based on how they use, interact, or engage with the corridor, and how they would like to see it change in the future. Finally, the next steps of the study and community engagement were listed along with contact information for further information. See Appendix A for the full online open house content.

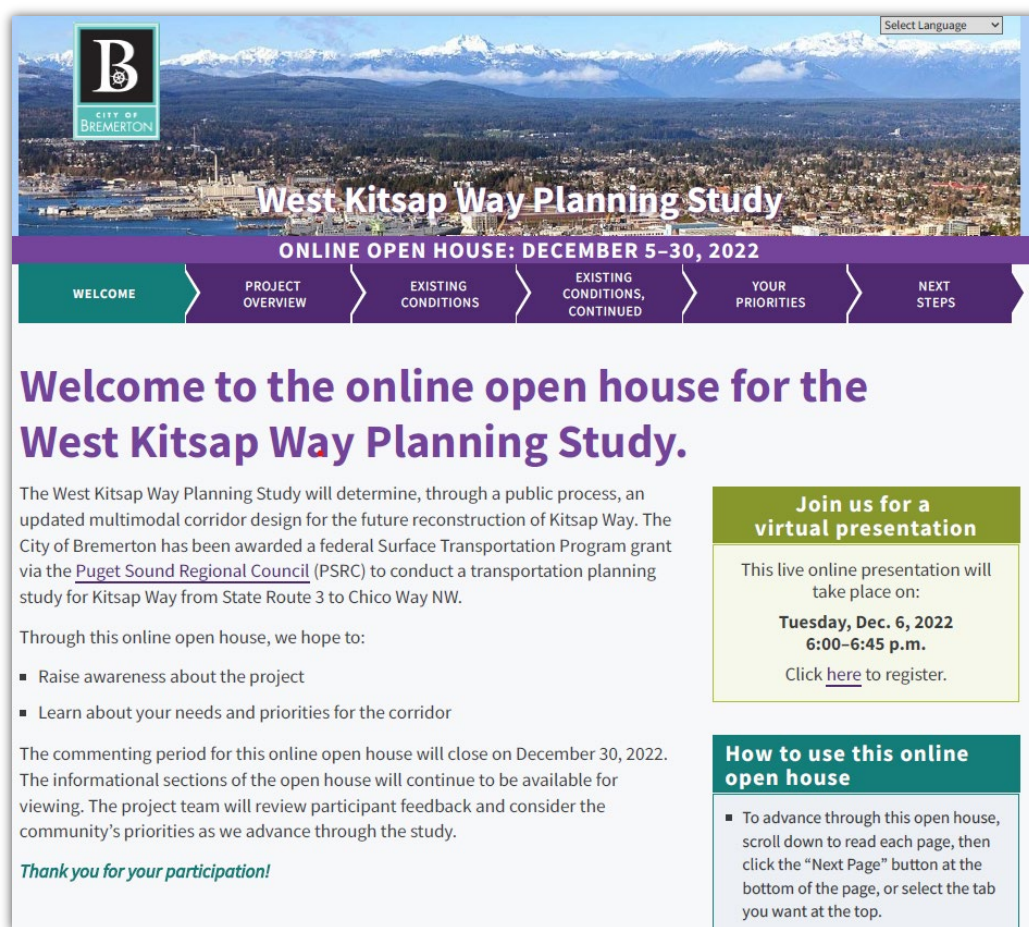


Figure 3- Welcome page to Online Open House

Potential Solutions

- Add sidewalks, bike lanes, or a multi-use trail to separate non-motorized users from vehicle traffic.
- Add features and amenities to make Kitsap Way more attractive and friendly to all users.
- Improve crossings at intersections or near priority crossing locations, such as transit stops.
- Review intersection operations to determine if traffic control changes are needed.



Example of a potential design concept with multiple features for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists (for illustrative purposes only)

Figure 4- Potential solutions presented on the existing conditions page.

Online Open House Community Feedback & Statistics

The online open house had 114 visitors with most individuals spending approximately 3 to 4 minutes going through the site. Below are the total number of comments and responses per each tab:

- Project overview page: 16 comments
- Existing conditions pages: 35 comments
- Priorities page: 147 responses to four questions
- Total: 198 responses

This section identifies themes based on the feedback collected in the online open house. The feedback was qualitative in nature (written) and is not a statistically significant survey.

Within the online open house pages *Project Overview* and *Existing Conditions*, visitors had the ability to write in general comments in response to the content they just read. Below are the comment themes from those pages.

General comments

A majority of comments were concerned about the overall safety for people driving, walking, and biking. Open house visitors suggested new bike paths or bike lanes, sidewalks and pedestrian paths, crosswalks, or multi-use paths. Some of the suggestions were to reduce points of conflict such as adding roundabouts and turn lanes, and support for reducing the speed limit or increasing the speed enforcement in the area.

Themes and topics:

Desired improvements

- New bike paths or bike lanes
- New pedestrian paths, sidewalks, or multi-use paths
- Adding turn lanes
- Adding new signals
- Adding roundabouts
- New crosswalks
- Emphasis on better safety for all modes
- Crash or incident prevention measures
- Reduced speed limit, traffic calming, and more enforcement
- Adding more public transit stops and/or amenities
- Importance of ADA accessibility
- Importance of accessing the businesses and commerce along the corridor
- Parking and driveway access improvements
- Extending improvements beyond the project area
- Zoning changes to promote more businesses and commerce
- Connectors to Kitsap Lake parks and trails

Challenges

- Hazards associated with street parking
- Poor options for walking
- Poor bike lanes
- Concerns about traffic congestion and noise due to construction
- Concerns about water runoff and flooding

Other

- Do not narrow the roadway
- No updates are needed or wanted for the area
- Expand outreach to more community members that travel through this corridor
- Concerns about environmental conditions with any changes

Sample quotes

"Please consider physical barriers to separate cars from bike and pedestrians. Don't necessarily need barriers over the entire route, but intersections and other dangerous sections

do need protection (they were not built on the stretch of Kitsap Way up from 6th, and that's too bad)."

"My biggest concern is the intersection by Red Apple and the Garage. Cars come from Chico, turn left into those businesses using the turn lane going to Northlake Way. I have almost been hit head on numerous times. My neighbors have said this has happened to them as well."

"I'm very interested in a plan that prioritizes bicycles and sidewalks for pedestrians. I would support this over plans that prioritize vehicle traffic flow. I prefer car trips taking longer or being slower if it means that bicycles can ride in protected lanes of minimum 6' width and pedestrians can safely navigate even if they are slower, elderly, or use strollers or wheelchairs."

"Regarding: Reduce vehicle speeds by removing banked curves or narrowing the roadway. Comment: I believe narrowing the roadway would make driving conditions more dangerous for all involved and does not put safety first."

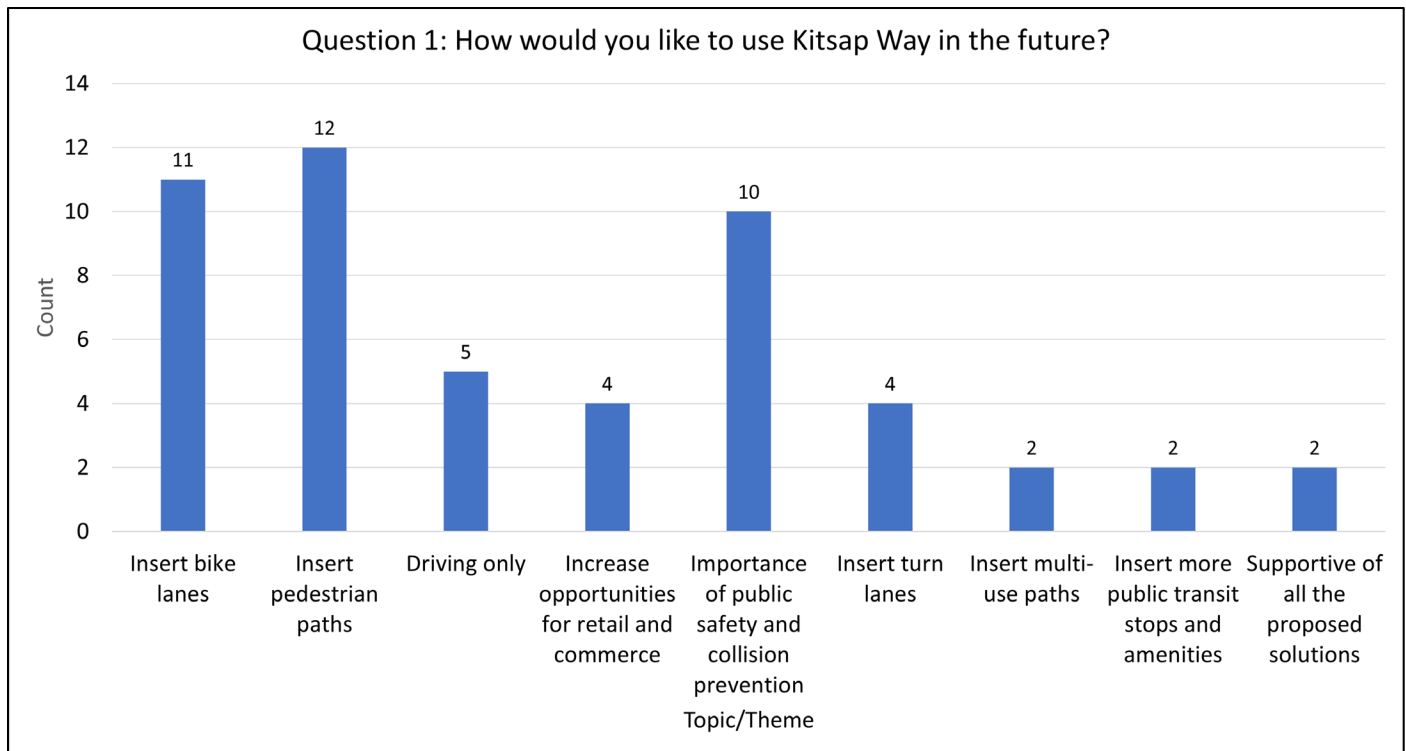
"Please consider rezoning Kitsap Way to allow for high-rise apartments. This is an ideal location if walkability and transit solutions were improved, given the direct corridor to downtown. In addition, doing so would attract more businesses, and give other residents to walk around Kitsap Way - creating a positive feedback loop."

Within the online open house, the City of Bremerton presented write-in questions for the community to respond to. These questions were found on the *Priorities* page of the online open house. Below are the comment themes from those four questions.

Question 1: How would you like to use Kitsap Way in the future?

The general comment themes include many ways to make the roadway more inclusive for multiple modes of transportation and implementing crash prevention measures to increase public safety.

Since many of the community members traveling in this area are doing so by vehicle only, there were many comments eager to make the roadway primarily safer for people driving along the Kitsap Way corridor, as well as making turns, accessing businesses, stopping, or parking in the area. Several responses were supportive of the open house's proposed solutions and are eager to see the changes in the coming years.



Sample Quotes

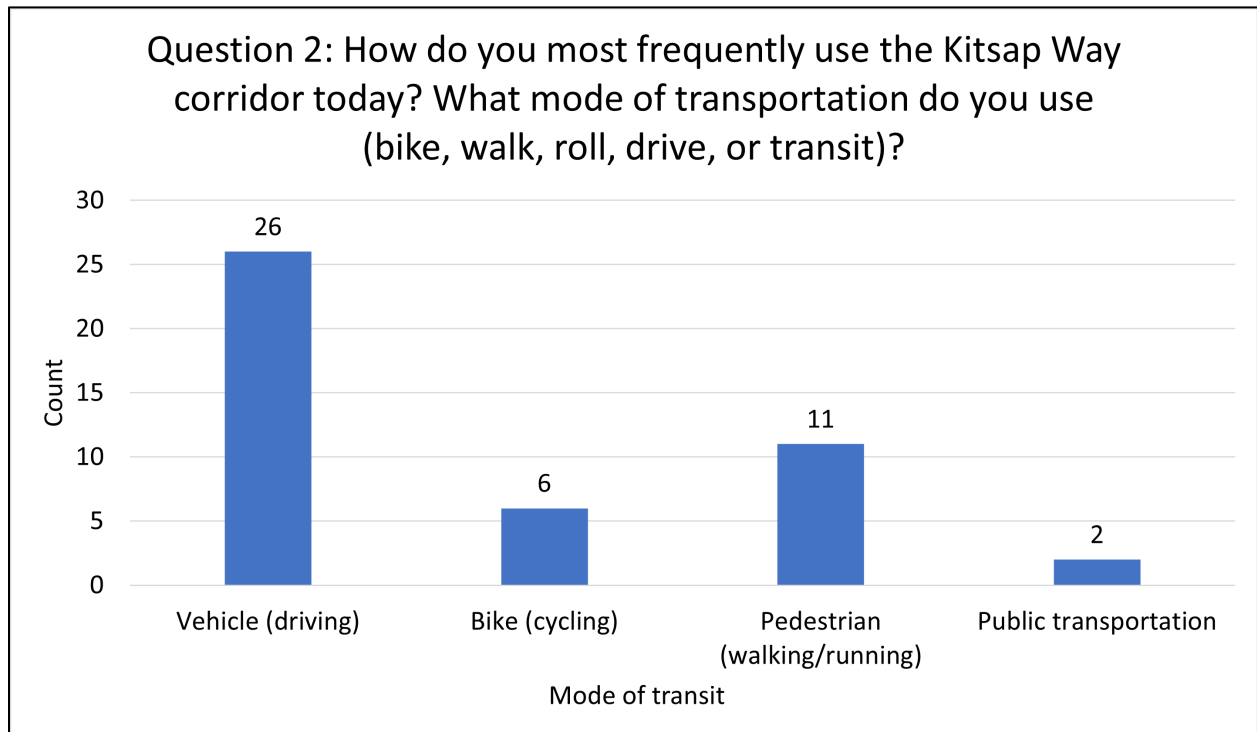
"This project you are proposing will highly promote non-motorized transportation in the City of Bremerton (and in Kitsap County) - both in functional commuting and shopping and in recreational and fitness/health-based purposes. It will open up many doors for the residents and visitors to the west sound, e.g., a destination location. It will continue with the amazing multi-modal transportation Bremerton is truly performing, not just dreaming of."

"I would like to walk along Kitsap Way. I use to walk however due to distracted drivers and speed, I have found alternate routes. I would like to make turns safely without feeling as though someone is going to crash into me due to their rate of speed."

Question 2: How do you most frequently use the Kitsap Way corridor today? What mode of transportation do you use (bike, walk, roll, drive, or transit)?

A majority of respondents said they drive through the corridor daily (65 percent) or many times a week. Nearly 30 percent said they walk or run in the area and 15 percent bike. A smaller proportion of people take public transit. Some people who answered this question indicated they get around using multiple modes.

Responses included using public transit at the NAD Park transit stop, cycling and walking. The people who bike commented that they often feel unsafe traveling on Kitsap Way because of drivers going faster than the speed limit and issues with turning onto local roads without noticing cyclists. Many people who walk commented that they feel unsafe walking down the roads or across roads in the area because sightlines are poor and drivers aren't slowing down for pedestrians.



Sample Quotes

"I live on Kitsap way and have to drive on it everyday and have to make left turns with no turn lane several times a day to get home."

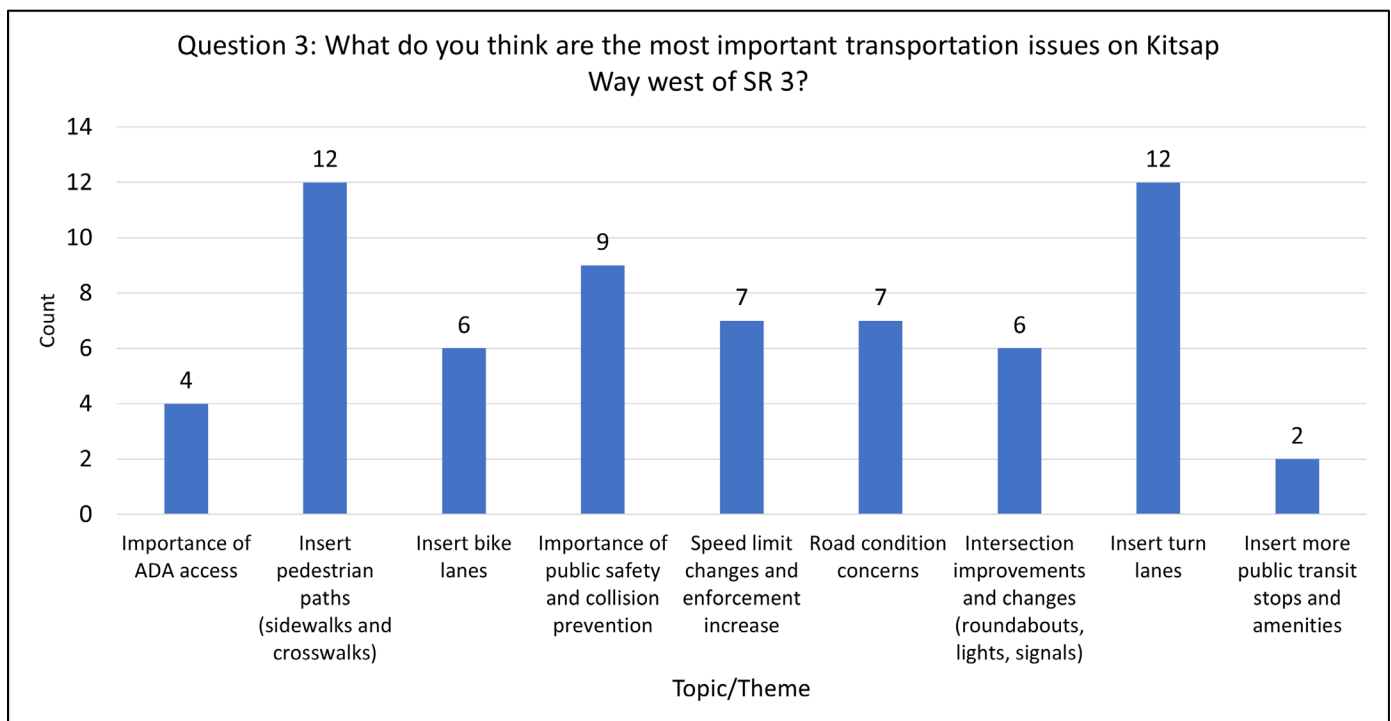
"Car only. Anything else is unsafe"

"I often walk or drive. Walking I really have to pay attention. The road along the North end of the lake needs a sidewalk too. It's very dangerous for pedestrians and I've had several close calls myself"

Question: What do you think are the most important transportation issues on Kitsap Way west of SR 3?

This community expressed general safety improvements were a major value. Reducing the risk of crashes and incidents is a goal they'd like to see. This includes improving safety for people driving, walking, rolling and biking.

A majority of the feedback highlighted solutions for people walking or rolling – like sidewalks and crosswalks – and for people driving – like adding turn lanes and addressing intersection conflicts. People also mentioned that road maintenance (filling potholes or cracks), intersection improvements (roundabouts), adding bike lanes, and addressing speeding are all important issues. Lastly, some commented that better access management to corridor driveways and businesses could improve safety.



Sample Quotes

"Speed, the turn before the cemetery and people trying to take a left hand crossing two yellow lanes. Also the traffic and chaos by red apple area is crazy. People going into wrong lanes, people pulling out in front of others, that area is mayhem."

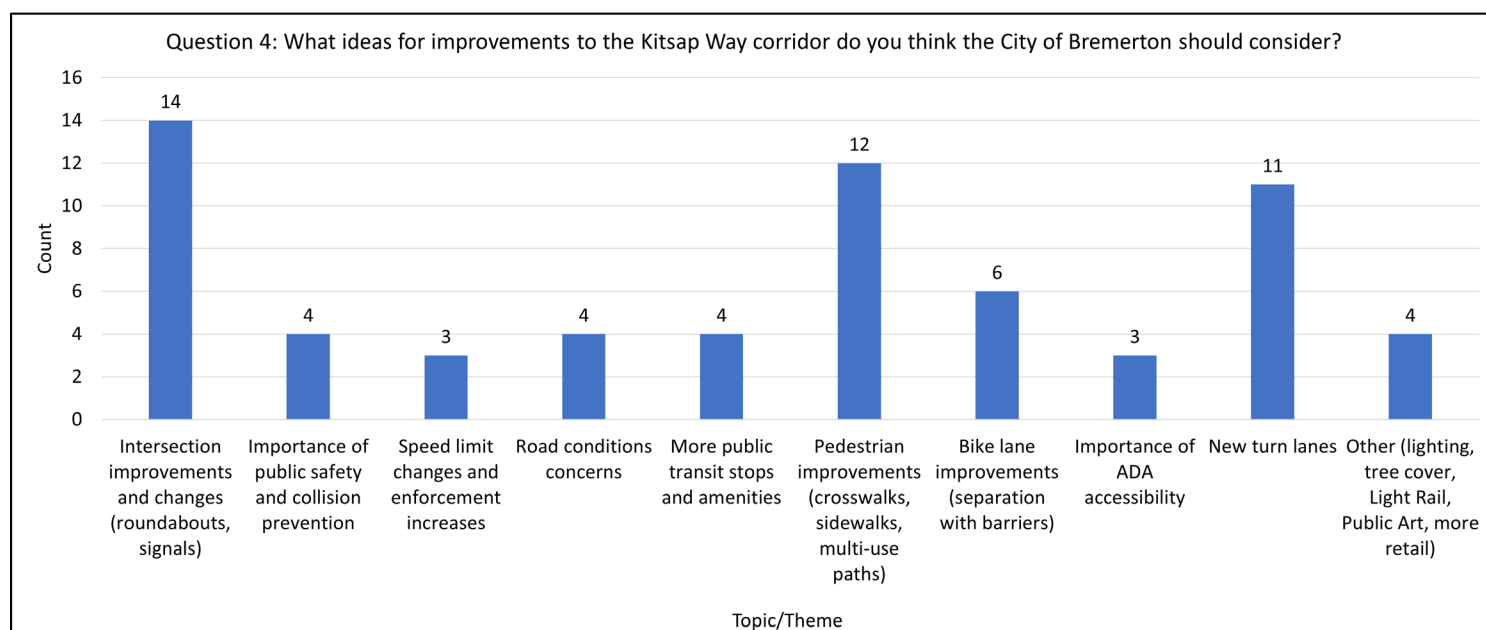
"Blind intersections; no turn lanes; obstructive parking"

Question 4: What ideas for improvements to the Kitsap Way corridor do you think the City of Bremerton should consider?

Most of the feedback was similar to the previous questions, reflecting a desire for improved safety and adding new features that will create a more usable roadway for all modes of travel.

The top themes in the comments included: adding improvements for people walking (crosswalks, sidewalks, and multi-use paths), and adding roundabouts to improve intersections and turn lanes on Kitsap Way.

Several of the comments suggested a new roundabout at either the NAD Park (at Kitsap Way and Lyle or Austin drives) or by the commercial district near the Ralph's Red Apple Market (at Chico Way and Northlake Way).



Sample Quotes

"Bus pull-outs and stops. Adequate space and safe passage for bicycles and for traffic"

"All of the proposed solutions are excellent!! I really really want to see pedestrian-first road design, and extensions of the bike lanes already added to kitsap way. Safe turn lanes would also be an excellent improvement. I'd also like to see more tree cover and better lighting. Right now the road is an unnatural river of concrete that sticks out like a sore thumb. I'd love to see it beautified, and with more natural tree cover."



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West Kitsap Way Planning Study

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE: DECEMBER 5–30, 2022

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Welcome to the online open house for the West Kitsap Way Planning Study.

The West Kitsap Way Planning Study will determine, through a public process, an updated multimodal corridor design for the future reconstruction of Kitsap Way. The City of Bremerton has been awarded a federal Surface Transportation Program grant via the [Puget Sound Regional Council](#) (PSRC) to conduct a transportation planning study for Kitsap Way from State Route 3 to Chico Way NW.

Through this online open house, we hope to:

- Raise awareness about the project
- Learn about your needs and priorities for the corridor

The commenting period for this online open house will close on December 30, 2022. The informational sections of the open house will continue to be available for viewing. The project team will review participant feedback and consider the community's priorities as we advance through the study.

Thank you for your participation!

Join us for a virtual presentation

This live online presentation will take place on:

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022
6:00–6:45 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

How to use this online open house

- To advance through this open house, scroll down to read each page, then click the “Next Page” button at the bottom of the page, or select the tab you want at the top.
- Within this online open house, you will be asked questions and can provide feedback. The online open house will take only a few minutes to complete.

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CONTACT US:

For more information, please contact:

Katie Ketterer, Project Manager

Katie.Ketterer@ci.bremerton.wa.us | 360-473-5334

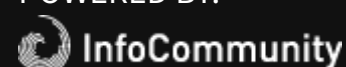
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www.bremertonwa.gov/1262/West-Kitsap-Way-Planning-Study

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Project Overview

About Kitsap Way

Kitsap Way, between SR 3 and Chico Way NW, provides access to homes, businesses, and parks and connects people between Bremerton and locations to the north in Kitsap County.

Originally designed as a highway, Kitsap Way has since been replaced by SR 3, which is a parallel corridor for people driving. Approximately 11,000 vehicles each day travel on this west segment of Kitsap Way.

Today, the Kitsap Way corridor has several transportation issues that limit its benefit to the community:

- the pavement is old and cracked.
- there are limited sidewalks.
- there are no bicycle facilities (e.g., bike lanes).
- it has inadequate crosswalk locations for people walking, rolling, biking, or accessing transit.
- the multiple lanes and wide shoulders encourage people to drive at high speeds.



Cars driving around curve on Kitsap Way



Cars at the intersection near businesses along Kitsap Way

Purpose of this Planning Study

The City of Bremerton is taking a fresh look at the corridor and how Kitsap Way can better meet the current and future needs of the community.

The West Kitsap Way Planning Study will determine the future design of the 1.5-mile segment of Kitsap Way between SR 3 and Chico Way NW. This study will develop a set of recommendations to improve safety, add pedestrian and bicycle facilities (such as bike lanes and sidewalks), increase access to transit, enhance access to properties, and accommodate future traffic growth.

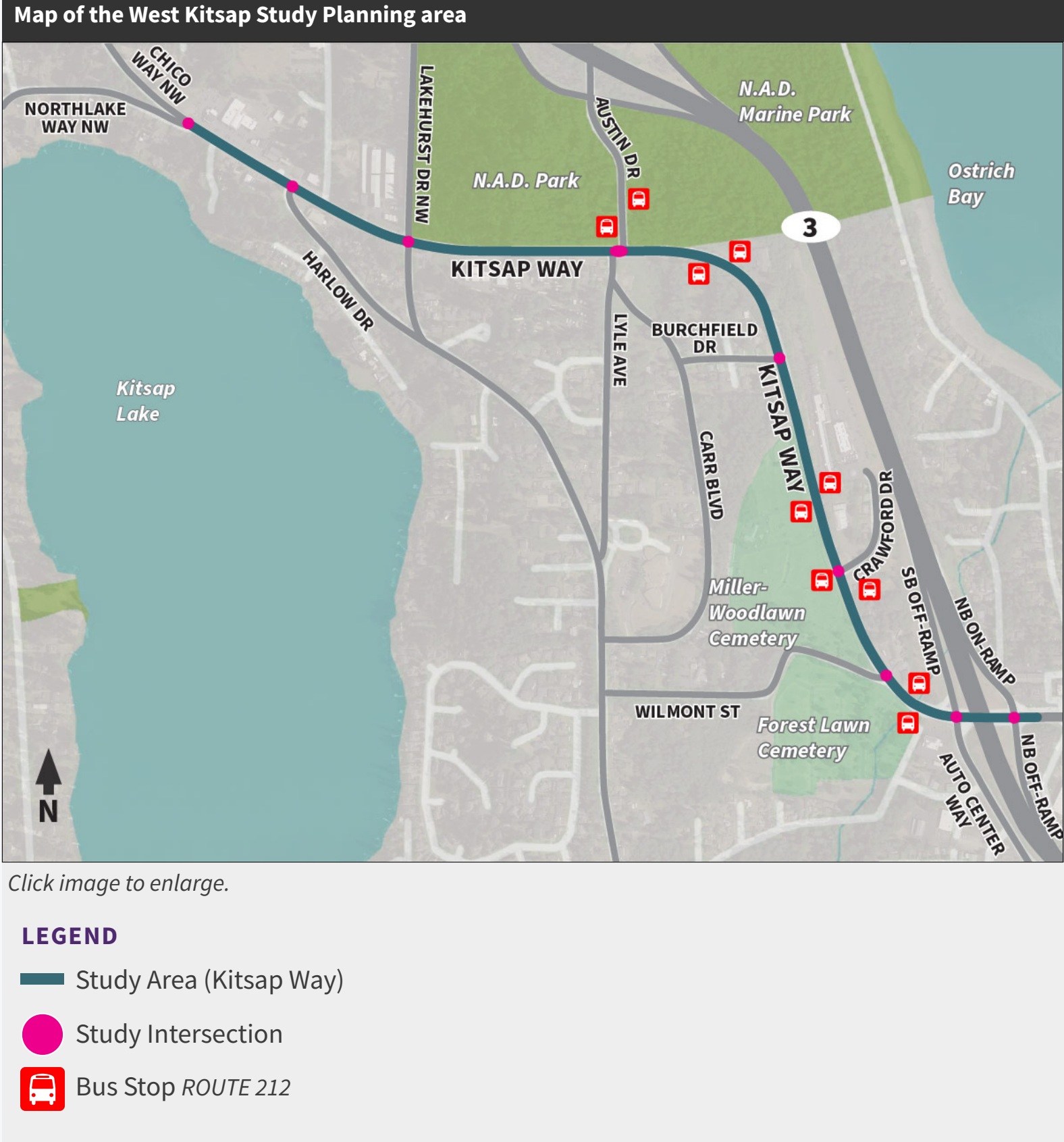
The City of Bremerton was awarded a federal Surface Transportation Program grant via the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to conduct this transportation study to identify and plan for corridor improvements.

Study Considerations

The planning study will consider transportation improvements such as:

- New lane configurations
- Intersection improvements
- Street and driveway access improvements
- Lighting
- Sidewalks
- Crosswalks
- Bike lanes or multi-use paths
- Stormwater improvements

Study Area



Study Goals

The West Kitsap Way Planning Study will:

- Examine existing and future needs of all transportation modes along Kitsap Way between Chico Way NW/Northlake Way NW and SR 3.
- Evaluate and develop solutions that serve all transportation modes and meet the community’s needs along the corridor.
- Develop a preliminary design, a planning level cost estimate, and an implementation plan.

The final design and construction of the corridor will occur as funding becomes available. The City of Bremerton may implement the improvements with a phased approach.

Timeline

- In late 2022, the project team will conduct an online open house, and other outreach activities, analyze existing conditions and model future traffic operations.
- In early 2023, the project team will develop alternatives, begin preliminary design, and develop cost estimates. The project team will present alternatives at a second open house.
- In mid-2023, the project team will present the recommended alternative at a third open house, and then focus on the prioritization and phasing of preferred improvements. A final report will be prepared for the City Council’s approval.
- This project will wrap up towards the end of 2023.

Community Engagement

Along with this online open house, the project team will conduct other outreach activities as we develop the study. These include:

- Future online open houses and virtual presentations
- Direct mailings
- Emails to interested neighbors
- Comment forms
- Information booth at community spaces
- Meetings with business owners
- Community Steering Committee meetings

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the best way to reach your community! Please email Project Manager, Katie Ketterer at Katie.Ketterer@ci.bremerton.wa.us to share additional feedback.

Late 2022	Early 2023	Mid-2023	Late 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Online open house and outreachAnalyze existing conditionsModel future traffic operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop corridor alternativesOnline open house and outreachEvaluate and select preferred alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Layout and refine preliminary designOnline open housePrioritization and phasing of improvementsFinal report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Study completion

Related Projects

The West Kitsap Way Study Planning Study is related to other City planning efforts, including:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE—This plan includes a city-wide look at the transportation system. The results of the West Kitsap Way Planning Study will be incorporated into the next update of the Comprehensive Plan, scheduled to be completed in 2024.

JOINT COMPATIBILITY TRANSPORTATION PLAN—This plan focuses on creating better transportation and parking for the Naval Base Kitsap – Bremerton and the shipyard. The West Kitsap Way Planning Study will review the recommendations that apply to the Kitsap Way corridor.

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PLAN—This 2007 plan provided a city-wide vision for improving pedestrian and bicycle travel within the City of Bremerton. We will build upon the plan’s recommendations by defining the improvement projects that will carry out the vision for Kitsap Way. Recommendations from the West Kitsap Way Planning Study will be incorporated into future updates of the plan.

If you have comments, please provide them here.

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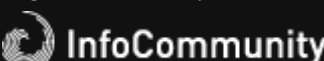
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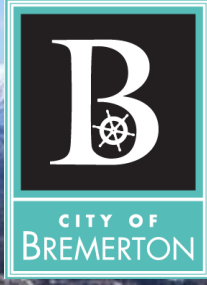
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ONLINE OPEN HOUSE: DECEMBER 5-30, 2022

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Existing Conditions

Kitsap Way is an important corridor within the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County. It connects downtown Bremerton and areas north and west of the city, including the Kitsap Lake and Jackson Park neighborhoods, as well as Naval Hospital Bremerton, Seabeck Highway, and Chico Way NW. The business district in the northwest portion of the corridor offers shopping, dining, and other services to both the neighborhood and surrounding areas.

As the City of Bremerton looks to improve the Kitsap Way corridor, the first step is understanding the current conditions.

The following describes the existing conditions for vehicle traffic along Kitsap Way:

ROADWAY CONDITIONS



Kitsap Way showing deterioration of concrete

- Kitsap Way has uneven pavement panels that are more than 80 years old and have deteriorated in many places.
- Limited stormwater facilities create roadway drainage and water quality issues.
- The corridor has become a maintenance issue and needs to be reconstructed.

TRAFFIC VOLUMES



Turning vehicles on Kitsap Way

- The corridor carries approximately 11,000 vehicles a day.
- The Kitsap Way/SR 3 interchange experiences traffic congestion, particularly during peak travel periods.
- Intersections, such as Austin Drive, Chico Way-Northlake Way, and Auto Center Way, have high volumes of turning traffic.

VEHICLE SPEEDS



Cars driving along Kitsap Way

- Multiple vehicle lanes, banked corners, and wide shoulders encourage high travel speeds.
- The speed limit is 35 miles per hour (mph), and the average vehicle speed is 42 mph, with many vehicles traveling at higher speeds.
- More than 25 speed-related crashes have occurred during a five-year period.

SAFETY



Businesses along Kitsap Way

- Eight severe crashes and three fatalities have occurred along the corridor in the last five years.
- There is no center left turn lane between Lakehurst Drive and SR 3, so left-turning vehicles must wait in the through-travel lane for a gap in traffic – a leading cause of rear-end collisions.
- Within the business district, a lack of defined driveways and parking increases the potential for collisions.

MAP OF SAFETY INCIDENTS



Click image to enlarge.

LEGEND

- More than Five Crashes at Intersection
- Fatality
- Serious Injury
- Minor Injury

Potential Solutions

- Reconstruct roadway and improve intersections.
- Add a center turn lane to improve access to side streets and driveways.
- Reduce vehicle speeds by removing banked curves or narrowing the roadway.
- Formalize driveway access and parking.
- Enhance lighting and stormwater facilities.
- Define the roadway with pedestrian and bicycle facilities (e.g., sidewalks, bike lanes) that can calm traffic.

If you have comments, please provide them here.

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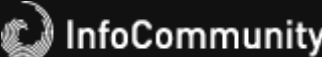
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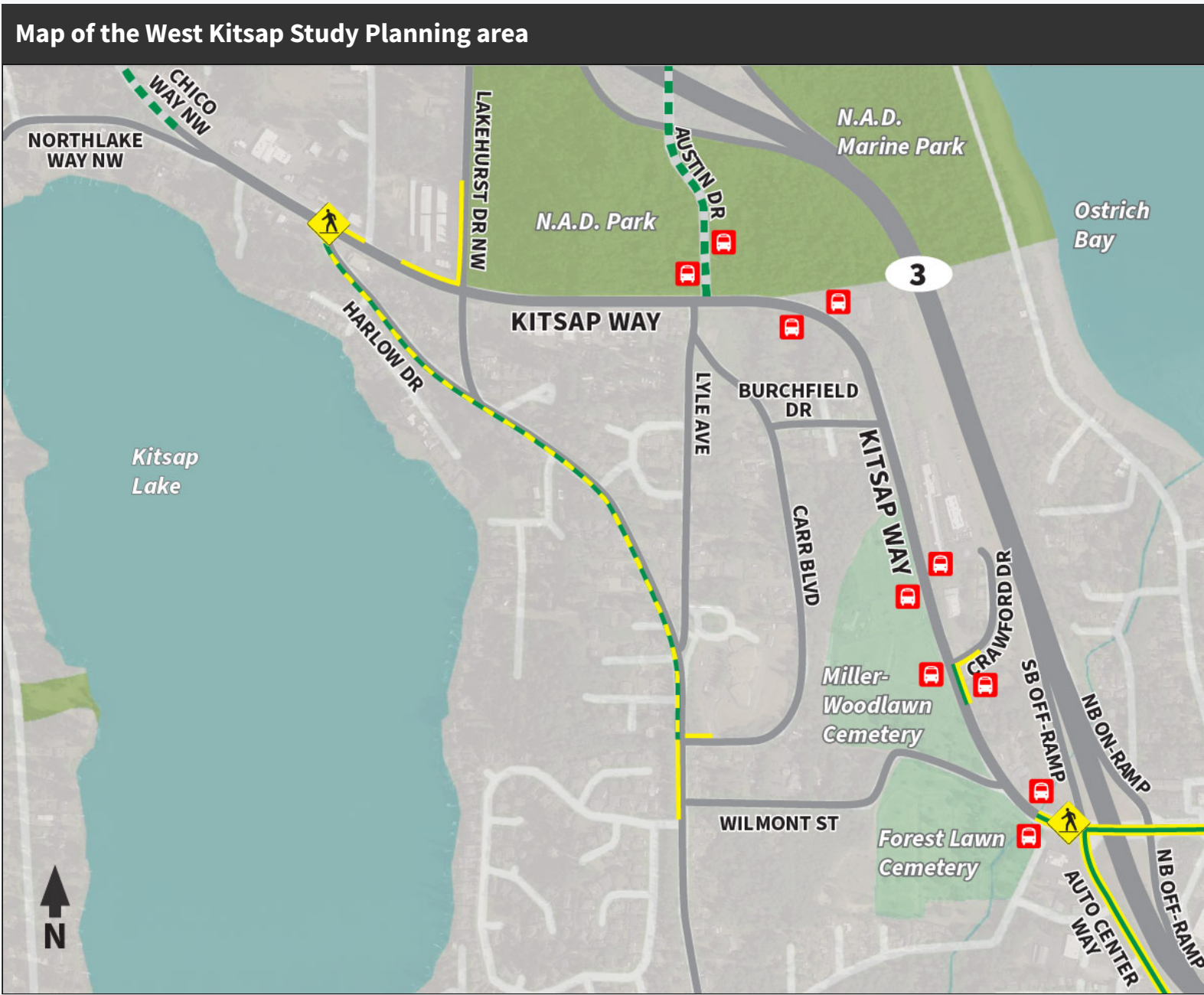
Existing Conditions, continued

Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit

Today, there are extremely limited options along Kitsap Way that support travel for people walking, rolling, biking, or taking transit. The City of Bremerton would like to improve the corridor for all modes as part of this transportation study.

The following describes the existing conditions for pedestrians, bicycles, and transit along Kitsap Way:

- Lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities require people to use roadway shoulders next to vehicle traffic, discouraging people from walking, biking, and using transit.
- Only two marked crosswalks exist along the 1.5-mile-long corridor.
- Undefined driveways and parking areas increase the potential for conflicts between vehicles and bicycles and pedestrians.



Click image to enlarge.

LEGEND

- Sidewalk(s)
- Bicycle Lane(s)
- Shared Use Path
- Bicycle Route SHARROWS / SHOULDERS
- No Facilities
- Crosswalk ACROSS KITSAP WAY
- Bus Stop ROUTE 212

Potential Solutions

- Add sidewalks, bike lanes, or a multi-use trail to separate non-motorized users from vehicle traffic.
- Add features and amenities to make Kitsap Way more attractive and friendly to all users.
- Improve crossings at intersections or near priority crossing locations, such as transit stops.
- Review intersection operations to determine if traffic control changes are needed.



Example of a potential design concept with multiple features for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists (for illustrative purposes only)

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Your Priorities for Kitsap Way

We're at the start of the planning process and are eager to hear your feedback! Please take a moment to complete the questions on this page. This page will be open through December 30, 2022. Thank you for your participation!

How would you like to use Kitsap Way in the future?

Please write your feedback here.

0 of 500 max characters

How do you most frequently use the Kitsap Way corridor today? What mode of transportation do you use (bike, walk, roll, drive, or transit)?

Please write your feedback here.

0 of 500 max characters

What do you think are the most important transportation issues on Kitsap Way west of SR 3?

Please write your feedback here.

0 of 500 max characters

What ideas for improvements to the Kitsap Way corridor do you think the City of Bremerton should consider?

Please write your feedback here.

0 of 500 max characters

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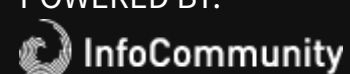
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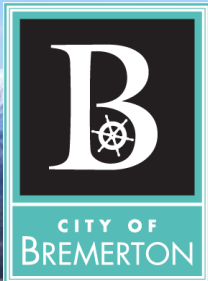
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Next steps

Along with this online open house, the project team will conduct other outreach activities to gather input on the study.

Once the online open house has closed, the City of Bremerton will review your input and share a summary of comments on the study's website. In early 2023, the project team will return to the community, with draft improvement alternatives for your consideration and feedback.

Stay connected!

Please contact Project Manager Katie Ketterer at [360-473-5334](tel:360-473-5334) or by email at Katie.Ketterer@ci.bremerton.wa.us to join the West Kitsap Way Planning Study email list or ask additional questions.

Voluntary Demographic Survey: Title VI Public Involvement

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin (including people with Limited English Proficiency) in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Our annual reporting requires the City of Bremerton to gather statistical data on participants and beneficiaries of the agency's federal aid highway programs and activities. The City of Bremerton collects information on race/color/national origin of attendees of public meetings to ensure inclusion of all segments of the population affected by a proposed project.

Take the [Voluntary Demographic Survey](#).

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CONTACT US:

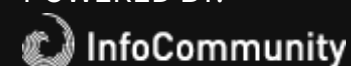
For more information, please contact:
Katie Ketterer, Project Manager
Katie.Ketterer@ci.bremerton.wa.us | 360-473-5334

For additional project information, visit our project webpage:
www.bremertonwa.gov/1262/West-Kitsap-Way-Planning-Study

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