



West Kitsap Way Planning Study

Outreach Summary

May – June 2023

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 Northwest. This stage of the project included asking the community for feedback on three corridor alternatives, which elements of the alternatives may work best, and which alternative elements are less important to the community.

Based on that feedback, this study will develop a preferred alternative 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.

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.

Online Open House Event Goals

In May and June 2023 – in conjunction with a virtual presentation that drew nine participants – the City of Bremerton hosted an online open house for corridor neighbors, businesses, organizations, and other key stakeholders.

- 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 the chance to learn about the study's alternatives and provide feedback.

Local Business Event

The City of Bremerton also hosted an in-person tabling event on May 2, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the AAA Washington – Bremerton on Kitsap Way.


The goals for this event were to ensure corridor businesses learned about each project alternative and how they can participate in the coming phases of the study.

Event Promotions

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

- Mailers to more than 1,550 study area addresses
- Emails to 60 subscribers on the project list
- Project webpage updates
- Announcements on the city's social media channels
- Sign placed in City Hall lobby
- Tabling event at AAA Washington – Bremerton for the business community


SPECIAL INVITATION
West Kitsap Way Planning Study




The City of Bremerton invites the business community to an event about the West Kitsap Way Planning Study.

This study will examine the existing and future conditions of the corridor to determine the design of Kitsap Way between SR 3 and Chico Way NW for all modes of transportation.

This is an informal opportunity for you to learn about the project and preview early design alternatives.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A LOCAL BUSINESS EVENT!
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at AAA Washington – Bremerton
5700 Kitsap Way, Bremerton, WA 98312 | First floor lobby
TIME: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (drop by anytime)



VISIT ANYTIME FOR PROJECT INFORMATION:
WestKitsapWayStudy.infocommunity.org

Mailer sent to businesses along the Kitsap Way corridor

Online Open House Content

The online open house invited the community to learn about the study's purpose, timeline and three alternatives developed for the project area. The platform offered opportunities to contribute feedback and respond to each alternative. At the bottom of each page, comment boxes encouraged feedback from the community.

Appendix A includes a copy of the online open house content.

Online Open House Community Feedback and Statistics

The online open house had 78 visitors with most individuals spending approximately 6-7 minutes going through the site. Below are the total number of comments each alternative received:

- Feedback on alternative A: 11 comments
- Feedback on alternative B: 17 comments
- Feedback on alternative C: 27 comments
- Overall feedback on each alternative: 25 comments

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, visitors had the ability to respond to each of the alternatives with multiple-choice questions and write-in comment boxes. For each alternative, we asked which elements participants liked, disliked, or felt neutral about.

Overall, elements of the alternatives the people liked included:

- Three-lane roadway with center turn lane
- Shared use paths
- Roundabout at Austin Drive
- Downhill bike lane
- Roundabout at Northlake/Chico
- Chicane and stop sign at Northlake/Chico
- Realigned signal at Austin/Lyle avenues
- Public angle parking
- Reconfiguration of SR 3 ramps
- Raised bike lanes on both sides

Overall, elements of the alternatives that people disliked included:

- Roundabout at SR 3 off-ramp/Auto Center Road
- Traffic signal at Northlake/Chico

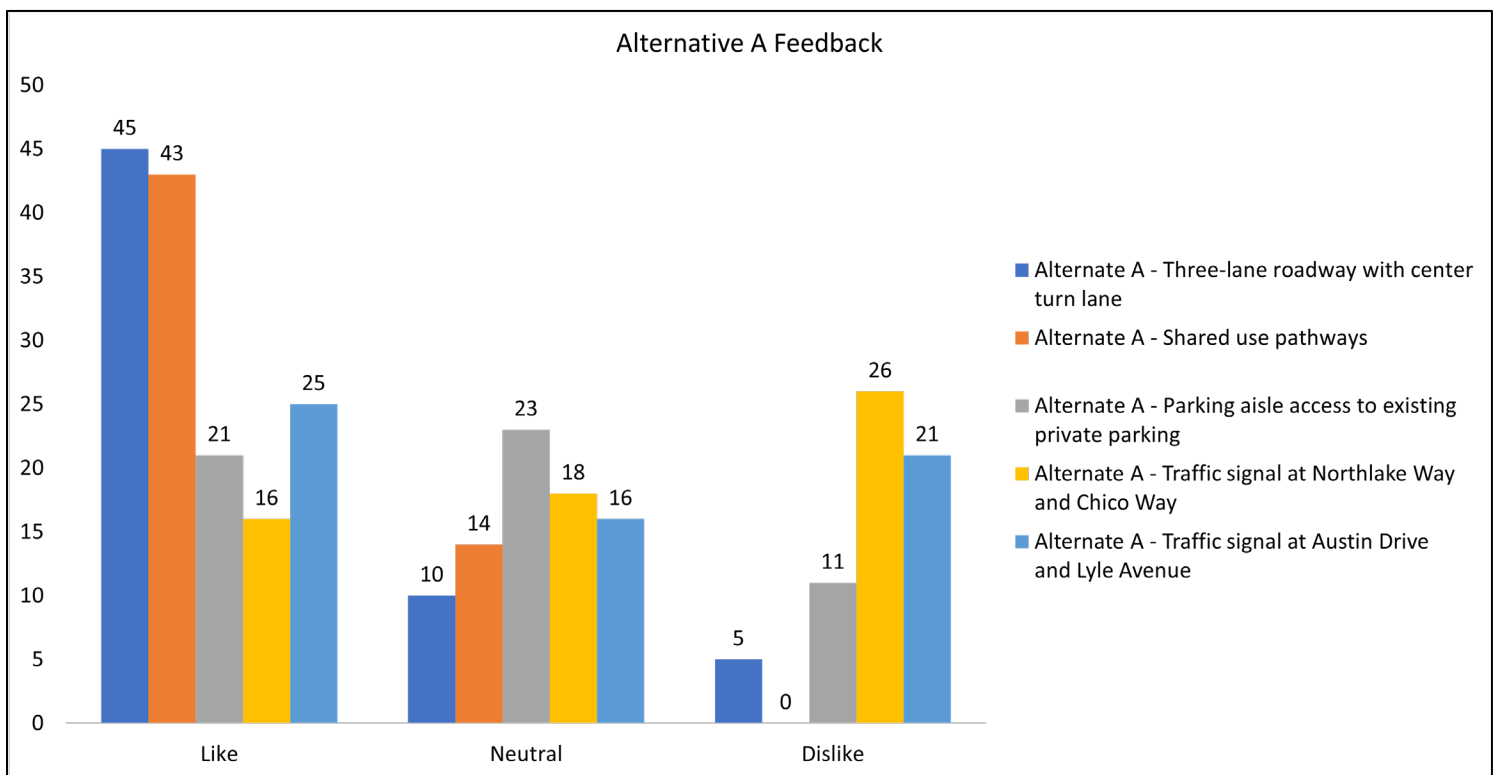
Overall, elements of the alternatives that people felt neutral about included:

- Center hard median
- Parking aisle to private property

Some elements of the alternatives received near equal amounts of dislikes and likes. Those included:

- Offset signal at Austin Drive/Lyle Avenue
- Center hard median Kitsap Junction
- Center hard median Kitsap Way

Alternative A Feedback



Themes and topics from the write-in comments:

Positive feedback

- Supportive of the separate pedestrian and bike path
- Supportive of roundabouts
- Want to maintain the flow of traffic
- Austin Drive and Lyle Avenue should be a roundabout
- Supportive of the crosswalks across Kitsap Way

Negative feedback

- Concerns about the changing intersections and left turns
- Do not want a narrower roadway to make room for the pedestrian and bike path

Other/Suggestions

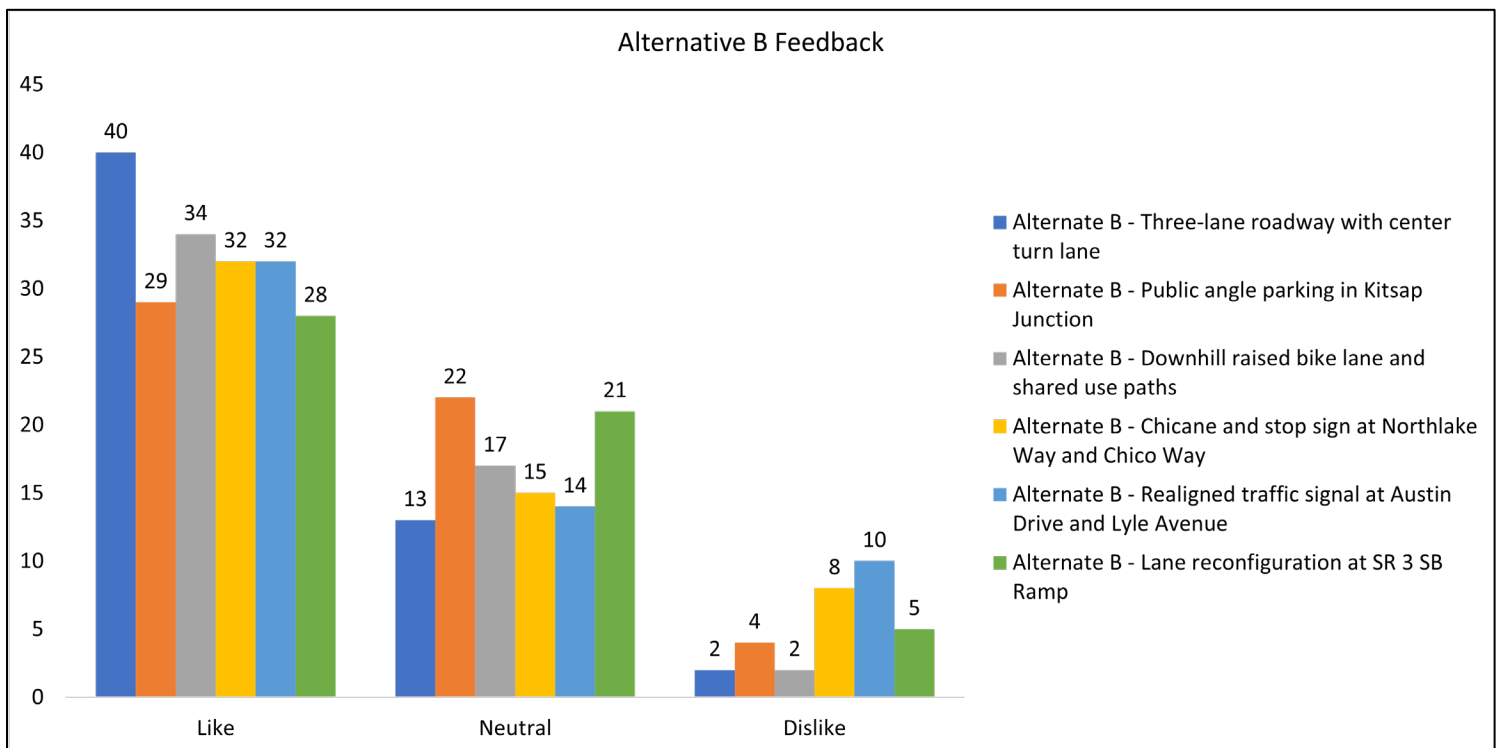
- Explore local roads to inform the future designs
- Using flashing yellow lights for left turns
- Consider coordinating with more cycling groups in the area (example: West Sound Cycling Club)
- Consider different styles of intersection

Sample quotes

"The intersection of Austin Drive and Lyle Avenue should be a roundabout, not a traffic light. This would promote constant movement of traffic in a manner that is better than a stop light."

"A roundabout at Northlake Way and Austin Drive would be vastly superior, allowing a safe continuous flow of traffic in all directions, slower speeds, greater safety."

Alternative B Feedback



Themes and topics from write-in comments:

Positive feedback

- Supportive of the separate pedestrian and bike path
- Supportive of roundabouts
- Want to maintain traffic flow
- Supportive of the parking improvement in the business corridor
- Supportive of the downhill raised cycling path
- Want a roundabout at the off-ramps instead of a light

Negative feedback

- Concerns about the changing intersections and left turns
- Concerns about the roadside debris, homelessness and abandoned vehicles
- Don't want signals to make traffic more confusing
- Don't want any changes to the area
- Concerns for cyclists and drivers moving through the area
- Concerns about the public and private parking changes

Other/Suggestions

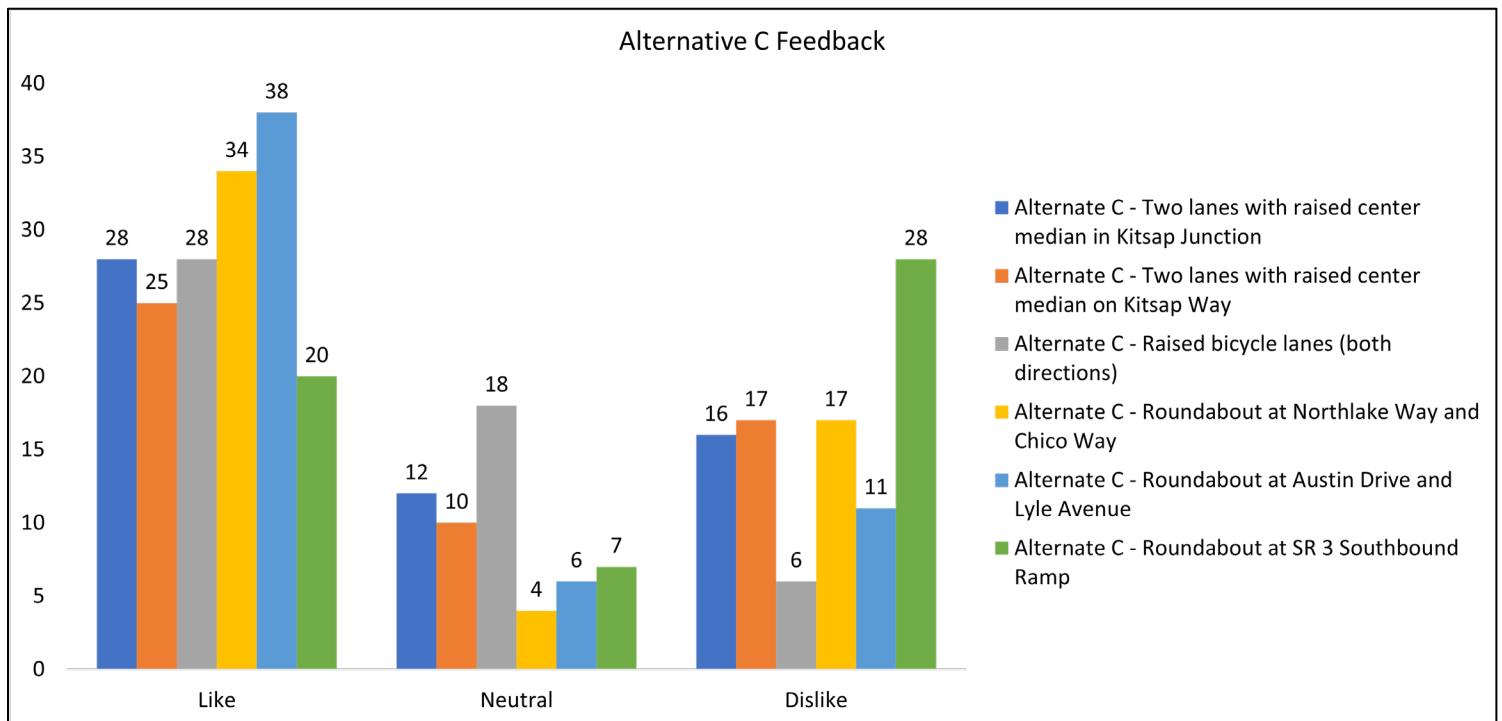
- Combining strategies from Alternative A into Alternative B with a light at Northlake Way

Sample quotes

"The common theme of this alternative seems to be turning intersections into more free-flowing highway-style interchanges. For safety reasons, roundabouts would be a better choice! RE: angled parking, I love the south side design that puts the multi-use path as close to the front doors of local businesses as possible, and removing the conflict between moving vehicles exiting to the roadway & cyclists/pedestrians using the new path. I think the north side should be designed in the same order!"

"Much prefer a roundabout at Austin/Lyle intersection. Downhill raised bike lane a good idea."

Alternative C Feedback



Themes and topics from write-in comments:

Positive feedback

Supportive of the separate pedestrian and bike path

- Supportive of roundabouts at Austin Drive and Lyle Avenue and Northlake Way and Chico Way
- Want to maintain the flow of traffic
- Supportive of trees

Negative feedback

- Concerns about the changing intersections and left turns
- Don't want signals to make traffic more confusing
- Don't want any changes to the area
- Concerns for cyclists and drivers moving through the area
- Concerns about the SR 3 Southbound Ramp changes

Other/Suggestions

- Combining strategies from Alternative B into Alternative C

Sample quotes

"This is hands down the best option. I like being able to turn right from Chico Way to Northlake Way. Love the roundabouts, I waste so much time waiting on those lights at the highway intersections for no reason."

"This option redefines the neighborhood business district as a place to go by walking, biking, and rolling. Awesome option. I'd make roundabout mountable curbs and low-level vegetation."

"Although I like the idea of trees/bushes separating pedestrians and bicyclists from the car traffic, I am nervous about drivers leaving businesses being able to see oncoming traffic as they merge onto Kitsap Way."

"Too many roundabouts. Using the proposed sidewalks in Kitsap junction would be inviting an accident. I would have to cross 3 (or possibly 4) areas where cars might be crossing the sidewalk just to make it from one end of Kitsap Junction to the other (and people who have been slowed down coming out of Seabeck would be in an awful rush going through the junction."
