City of Kenmore

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

W Sammamish River Bridge (Southbound Traffic)

The West Sammamish River Bridge was constructed in 1938, crosses the Sammamish River on 68th Avenue NE (.2 miles south of SR 522), carries southbound traffic only and is located within the City of Kenmore. Over 14,000 vehicles a day (week day traffic) use this Bridge.

Why does the West Sammamish River Bridge need to be replaced?

The bridge is near the end of its service life and is currently categorized as "Structurally Deficient". The current live loads (vehicles) and dead loads (bridge self-weights) on the Bridge are greater than the bridge was designed for and the bridge is showing signs of deterioration such as cracking, leaching, and spalling. Traffic volumes on the bridge continue to increase.

Is the existing West Sammamish River Bridge safe?

Although the bridge is categorized as structurally deficient, it does not mean the bridge is unsafe; rather it means that it has deterioration to one or more of its major components. To reduce further deterioration on the aging bridge, the City placed load restriction of trucks in 2014.

What type of bridge is proposed for the replacement?

The new bridge will be constructed slightly west of the existing bridge in parallel to the Northbound (East) Bridge. The proposed bridge will be much wider than the existing one, about 45 feet wide compared to 30 feet, providing two 10-ft vehicular lanes and one 16-ft multi-use path (both pedestrian and bikes) on the west side. Actual size and features of bridge may vary depending on available funding.

Will the existing northbound bridge be upgraded?

No major upgrades on the northbound bridge are planned at this time but the City will be adding some improvements to the northbound bridge such as replacing the hand railing to match the southbound

bridge railing, a new traffic barrier along the west edge (the current one needs to be removed as part of the southbound bridge construction), and adding new street lights.

Will the new bridge have wider sidewalk?
The current proposal is for the new bridge to have a 16-ft wide multi-path on the west side of the bridge, separated by a concrete barrier from the vehicular lanes. The proposed multi-path will be delineated for an 8-ft pedestrian and an 8-ft bike pathway using different color and/or texture finished concrete. Actual widths and features may vary depending on location along the corridor.

How the construction of the bridge will affect the traffic on 68th Avenue NE?
The new bridge will be constructed in stages and we will attempt to maintain two lanes of vehicular traffic in both directions as much as possible during the construction but it is anticipated that significant traffic delays will occur throughout construction. Construction during the summer will be quite heavy with some work requiring full closure of the southbound bridge resulting in one lane in each direction on the northbound bridge. There will be lane closures and temporary bridge (southbound) closures throughout the construction period. We will attempt to keep closures confined to non-peak traffic periods, at night times, and weekends as much as possible.

What is the project cost?
The total project cost, including design and construction, is estimated at approximately $35.8M.

How is the Project funded?
The Project is funded by the FHWA's Highway Bridge Programs for $12M, Transportation Improvement Board funding for $6.9M, federal STP funds of $1.6M and the Connecting Washington State fund for $8M. Local Kenmore funds, Northshore Utility District, and other utilities within the project limits will also contribute to the project funding.

How can I get more information about the Project?
Please contact the City Engineer:
John Vicente at (425) 984-6154 or at jvicente@kenmorewa.gov.

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