Pedestrian crossing of A Street SE and the BNSF Railway would greatly benefit students at these two schools. A 2015 study identified a preferred crossing alternative for future development.

Lakeland Hills Elementary

Encouraging increased walking and biking to this school would provide the greatest benefit for easing traffic congestion and safety concerns. Additionally an onsite parking and access redesign would further reduce school pick up and drop off related congestion.

Chinook Elementary

Sidewalks along Auburn Way South between Hemlock St SE and Academy Dr SE. Additionally intersection improvements have been identified to reduce conflicts and improve circulation for buses.

Accessible Routes of Travel

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all new public, commercial, and institutional developments meet ADA standards. Furthermore, existing public buildings, public outdoor facilities, and public rights-of-way shall be retrofitted to achieve accessibility. An accessible route of travel is designated to accommodate the needs of many different people, including those who are blind, using wheelchairs, pushing a stroller or cart, or injured. The law requires that municipalities have a transition plan in place to address ADA issues. The City of Auburn is in the process of completing that plan, and ADA design specifications can be found in the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards* manual.

Site Design

Pedestrian conditions should be evaluated at the earliest stage of new development. The zone between the development and the public right-of-way needs to contribute to pedestrian network connectivity and continuity. In addition to the public right-of-way, the interior of the site ought to be examined for suitable pedestrian circulation, and how the two are connected. Wherever possible, walkways should be placed along the most direct routes to connect buildings, parking, bus stops, and other attractions. In some cases, walking trails that link residential streets to collectors or arterials can provide a more direct pedestrian connection than travel along the sidewalk network, particularly in neighborhoods without a street grid system, specifically those with cul-de-sacs.

FUTURE SYSTEM

This section describes the City's vision for the future pedestrian system, and identifies programs and initiatives that will enable it to achieve this vision.

Downtown

The downtown is historically the social heart of the community, a place for people to interact. It is considered one of the primary pedestrian-oriented areas in the City. Important existing pedestrian downtown linkages include connections from W Main Street to the transit hub and commuter rail station, and between W Main Street and the Multicare Auburn Medical Center. The *Downtown Plan*, a special area plan adopted in 2001 as part of the City's *Comprehensive Plan*, anticipates high pedestrian oriented developments in this area, particularly around the Auburn Station. The *Downtown Plan* also identifies W Main Street, A Street SW, Division Street, and the alley south of

Main Street as high priority pedestrian corridors. In addition, several recently completed projects have helped improve non-motorized access to the downtown and transit station, including the City Hall Plaza and Plaza Park project completed in 2010, the Division Street Promenade Project completed in 2012 and the A Street NW Extension project, opened in June 2013.

Auburn Station has created demand for new mixed-use development, including commercial and residential elements. The City is committed to focusing new commercial and residential development adjacent to the Auburn Station and has been working on partnerships to bring several mixed-use developments to Downtown. These developments include pedestrian friendly design and streetscape improvements.

A vital pedestrian network that extends beyond downtown is a key element in the revitalization of the downtown core.

Commercial Corridors

The City ~~should~~ encourages major employers to locate near transit routes and stops. Furthermore, pedestrian connections from residential areas to commercial corridors can be enhanced through site design policies that encourage more direct non-motorized connections to major retail locations. Future planning along commercial corridors should also include amenities such as landscaping adjacent to the sidewalk, improved pedestrian crossings, and enhanced bus stops at high use locations.

Auburn has several commercial corridors, most notably Auburn Way North and South, that are frequently traveled by pedestrians. While most of these areas have sidewalks, there is the opportunity to enhance the pedestrian environment by providing additional protected crossings, making improvements to lighting, completing remaining sidewalk gaps and eliminating ADA accessibility barriers. For instance, pedestrian crossing issues arise because pedestrians often cross at uncontrolled or mid-block locations rather than walking to the nearest signalized crossing. This dynamic is partially attributable to the location of bus stops in relation to employment centers. Hence, efforts should be made to locate bus stops so commuters crossing to the opposite side of the road are dropped off and picked up near a signalized intersection.

Residential Neighborhoods

Investment in Auburn's neighborhoods is an essential component of providing a comprehensive and functional pedestrian network. As noted in the needs assessment, sidewalk conditions vary throughout the City. This plan acknowledges the need to retrofit the pedestrian network in many areas of the City and incorporate pedestrian facilities into new development. Financial mechanisms to help accomplish this goal are described later in this chapter.

High Priority Pedestrian Corridors

Map 3-1 identifies High Priority Pedestrian Corridors that are currently lacking a complete sidewalk system. Some of the corridors have sidewalks on one side or for portions of the corridor. Others are missing sidewalks altogether.

These High Priority Pedestrian Corridors were selected based on the following criteria: pedestrian volumes; proximity to schools, parks, transit routes and commercial areas; and where missing gaps can be completed.

The High Priority Pedestrian Corridors are roadway corridors where the City intends to target investment in pedestrian facilities. The City's current half street policy requires sidewalk to be constructed by developers whenever significant improvements are made to a property. This has proven to be an effective means of building out the sidewalk network. However, it is a slow process because it relies on new development or redevelopment to occur, making it difficult to complete whole corridors. By programming specific pedestrian corridors for investment, the City can leverage grant dollars and other resources to more strategically complete gaps in key pedestrian corridors.

The High Priority Pedestrian Corridors identified in Map 3-1 are regularly reviewed for inclusion in the City's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program and for grant funding opportunities.

Auburn Multi-Use Trail

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

The Auburn Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan ~~is currently being~~was updated in 2015 and ~~will~~ identifies~~y~~ specific projects for the development of local and regional trails. T~~hus far t~~he long term list includes:

The Auburn-Pacific Trail provides a multi-use path that improves access from the White River to the Interurban Trail. A planned pedestrian crossing, under the BNSF railroad tracks just north of the BNSF Stuck River Bridge (over the White River), will improve the regional trail system by providing a connection between the City of Pacific and Auburn's White River Trail connection to A Street SE.

Funding is still needed for the Auburn section of the Green River Trail. Planning efforts are also focused on the Auburn Environmental Park and connecting the park to the Interurban Trail. This unique park project shows residents the diversity of the ecosystem along the Mill Creek corridor.

Additional trail planning is underway for connecting the Fenster Natural Park to the Green Valley Road area.

An important component of Auburn's trail system includes trailheads. Trailheads should be inviting to users and provide amenities such as parking, bicycle racks, information kiosks, restroom facilities, water fountains, trash receptacles, and seating facilities. Trailheads should be constructed and improved as Auburn's trail system further develops. See Map 3-2 for existing and proposed trails and trailhead locations.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

Sidewalk Improvement Program

The City of Auburn has an Annual Citywide Sidewalk Repair and Improvement Program to repair damaged sidewalks, tripping hazards, and to complete small missing links in the sidewalk network.

These funds are essential for promoting non-motorized travel and can be used to leverage other funding sources, such as state and federal grants or other city capital projects.

Auburn has identified three principal areas in which sidewalk improvements should be prioritized: corridors that provide access to and within the ***downtown***, ***school zones***, and ***parks*** with a focus on addressing potential hazards and areas of known complaints. Additional criteria for priority access improvement could include, but are not limited to, areas with high concentrations of senior citizens or disabled citizens, areas with high volumes of pedestrian-transit interaction, areas where private improvements such as trees have damaged the public infrastructure, and areas where property owners are willing to financially participate in the construction of sidewalk improvements through a local improvement district (LID). In considering projects, staff also review existing street deferral agreements to determine if the improvements previously allowed to be deferred are now needed and should be completed by the private party.

"Save Our Streets" Program

In November 2004, Auburn residents approved Proposition 1, "Save Our Street" Program, which created a dedicated local street fund. This money was set aside for repair and maintenance of local roadways which can sometimes also include sidewalk repair and rebuild. In 2013, the city council modified the funding source for this program to be from Construction Sales Tax revenues and no longer from property taxes. In 2018, City Council modified the funds for this program, which are currently ~~now~~ provided by ~~the~~ Real Estate Excise Taxs (REET) for 2019 and 2020.

Sidewalks will be prioritized:

- Where hazardous conditions are present;
- On school walk routes;
- Where extensive improvements are needed in a single neighborhood;
- Along streets with curb and gutter;
- Along Downtown pedestrian corridors;
- Where curb ramps are missing; and
- Where they will complete a missing link in a pedestrian network.
- Where property owners are willing to financially participate in the construction of sidewalk improvements through an LID.

"Arterial Preservation" Program

The City also currently implements the annual arterial street preservation program funded by a 1% utility tax. Pedestrian, ADA, and safety improvements are included in many of the arterial improvement projects funded by this program.

Local Improvement Districts

Local Improvement Districts (LID) enable city investment in a specified area by leveraging city funds with contributions from property owners in the district. LID's use limited city resources to improve neighborhood quality and can be used to finance new sidewalks.

Safety Education and Enforcement

Awareness of pedestrian safety issues should be promoted through educational programs and enforcement efforts. This combination helps reinforce key safety issues such as safe pedestrian crossings and speeding. The City will proactively work to identify problem areas and issues. The

following list contains examples of some techniques that can be employed in these efforts.

- Maintaining non-motorized travel information kiosks at key City destinations (e.g. Main Street, Outlet Collection, Emerald Downs, trails).

- Displaying educational information in City publications, on the website, and on TV.
- Maintaining and expanding wayfinding signage to direct pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Partnering with the School District to teach children safe walking and biking behaviors.
- Launching public information campaigns for problematic locations and partnering with the Police Department to provide enforcement.
- Increasing driver awareness of vehicle speeds through the presence of radar speed signs where appropriate.
- Enforcing pedestrian, bicyclist, and driver infractions.

3.2 Bicycle Travel

Bicycle facilities are an important component of Auburn's transportation and recreational infrastructure. Bicycling provides an environmentally friendly travel mode and helps citizens to maintain a healthy lifestyle. It also helps improve traffic congestion and air quality by providing an alternative to driving. Increasingly, bicycle commuting is becoming a more popular alternative, and the City ~~must take~~is taking steps to provide a more functional and attractive network for commute cyclists, in addition to recreational cyclists.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Existing Conditions

The topography in the Auburn Valley is flat and conducive to cycling for a range of skill levels. Areas along the Green and White Rivers provide recreational opportunities for multi-use trails that accommodate bicyclists and~~,~~ pedestrians~~ and equestrians~~. The Interurban Trail is part of a major north- south regional trail system. The Green River trail is also an extension of a north-south regional trail. Therefore, Auburn has a good network of existing or planned north-south recreational trails.
However, there are few existing cross-town connections, and new connections onto the West Hill and Lea Hill are needed.

Cross-town bike connections to the West Hill and Lea Hill areas of Auburn are more challenging due to steep topography. Yet investing in these connections is important because a significant number of Auburn residents live in these areas. Building these connections would improve bicycle access to regional transit, local employment, the regional trail system, and to downtown Auburn. Recreational and commuter cyclists travel along the Interurban Trail to areas north and south of Auburn. Cyclists also frequently ride along S 277th Street to the east side of Green River Road, and down along the Green River to 8th Street NE, or down R Street NE to SE Auburn Black Diamond Road. SE Auburn Black Diamond Road and SE Green Valley Road are popular routes for accessing areas east of Auburn. However, these roads are characterized by challenging cycling conditions and are not suitable for inexperienced cyclists. Once in Auburn, there is especially a need to increase the number of east-west bicycle facilities. Investing in trail connections to improve bicycle access in these areas should also be a priority.

Bicycle lanes are limited on city arterials and collectors, making it difficult both for regional and local riders to navigate for any reasonable distance through the City. Limited bicycle storage is also a hindrance to cyclists. Map 3-2 identifies existing and planned trails and bike facilities in the City.

Auburn Bicycle Task Force

In March 2010, the city formed the City of Auburn Bicycle Task Force. It was intended that the Bicycle Task Force would further refine the City's goals and policies for its bicycle transportation system. The Task Force was comprised of a broad cross section of community members and interested parties that were charged to develop recommendations on bicycle facilities, issues and opportunities centered on the following three principles:

- ***Connections*** – for example, how do bicycle riders get from the north end to the south end of the City or from Lakeland to Lea Hill?
- ***Recreation Opportunities*** – for example, how does the City further build and capitalize on a bicycle network to support and enhance the recreation options for its citizens?
- ***Economic Development*** – for example, how does the City capitalize on the Interurban Trail as a conduit of customers for existing and new businesses?

Bike Improvements Completed and Planned in the Near - Term Future

The work of the task force has informed and guided city decisions on future bike lane and trail improvements and connections. Its work is directly reflected in improvements already made as well as the future bike lanes and trail improvements shown in Map 3-2.

Since 2009 bike lanes ~~have been~~were added to 124th Ave SE, and SE 320th Street near Green River College on Lea Hill, a new bike lane connection ~~has been~~was created by the construction of the new A Street NW corridor. Bikes lanes ~~have been~~were added as part of the new M Street SE BNSF underpass project and sharrows (share the road with bike symbols) ~~have been~~were added to East Main Street.

Bike lanes are part of the new planned West Main Street project and the F Street SE project includes development of a Bicycle Boulevard and Bike Share Program.

Bicycle Facility Classification

The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has developed classifications for bicycle facilities and parking. Bicycle classification is based on the design and exclusiveness of use.

Bicycle Facility Classification

- Separate Facility (Class I) – A non-motorized two-way paved facility, that is physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier.
- Bike Lane (Class II) – An exclusive on street one way lane for bicyclists delineated with signing and striping
- Shared Lanes (Class III) – A lane shared by vehicles and bicycles. Wider lanes that may be delineated with shared use markings and signage.
- Bicycle Boulevard– A bicycle focused roadway designated with enhanced signage and special pavement markings and bicycle-friendly design standards such as wide curb lanes and bicycle safe drain grates. Typically designed to connect key bicycle destinations.

Existing Class I multi-use trails in the City include S 277th St, Interurban Trail, White River Trail, and Green River Trails.

Class II bicycle lanes added since the last major update include;

- Terrace Drive NW (15th to W St)
- A ST NW/B ST NW (3rd to 30th)
- 14th St NW (A NW to A NE)
- R St SE (17th to White River)
- M St SE (3rd to 8th)
- 116th Ave SE (SE 304th to SE 312th)

Class III shared facilities were tested on R St NE/SE, Auburn Black Diamond Road and E Main St. They were well received by the cycling community and continue to be maintained. Shared facilities will continue to be implemented on other appropriate roadways.

Bike parking facilities are classified by length of use: long term, ~~medium term,~~ and short term. The longer bikes are to be stored, the more durable the facility's design must be.

Long term bike storage facilities are available at Auburn Station. The City currently provides short term bike storage throughout the downtown core.

Improvement Needs

Cyclists desire safe routes that make connections throughout the City and to regional points of interests. The existing facilities, while being continuously improved, still fall short of creating a well- connected bicycle network in Auburn. The City plans to build out the bicycle network shown in Map 3-2 and provide better east-west connections. Upgrading bicycle facilities on city streets is an ~~very~~ important component of this plan.

Auburn shall make greater efforts in the future to encourage bicycle use, particularly for commuting purposes, as a form of transportation demand management (TDM). One mechanism of doing so is to ensure that bike lanes and trails ~~which~~ that serve major employers are prioritized. The City needs to take a more aggressive role in programming implementation of the future bicycle network identified in this chapter, ensuring that eventually all residents of and employees in Auburn feel comfortable commuting on bike. In addition, Auburn should seek outlets, including the City's website, to provide up-to-date information on bicycling options within the City and to regional destinations.

The Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program provides a formal mechanism for encouraging these practices, and is required by state law for employers with 100 or more employees arriving at a single location during the AM peak travel time. Auburn's CTR program calls out bicycle storage facilities, lockers, changing areas, and showers as measures employers can take to meet their CTR goals. In addition, Auburn can use the SEPA process to encourage development of these facilities at the time of new development or tenant improvements.

The *Downtown Plan* also discusses the need for improving bicycle facilities in the area. On-street bicycle facilities will be sought in association with planned roadway improvements. In addition, the City should investigate providing bicycle storage and other amenities on City owned properties.

The Work is Easier when Shared

FUTURE TRAVEL

The future bicycle network includes corridors for ***regional***, ***recreational***, and ***cross-town connections***. The regional corridors will provide connections to the Valley communities as well other areas of King and Pierce Counties. Local biking groups have identified the Interurban Trail and Green River Trail as important regional connections. Other planned regional connections will link Auburn to attractions around the Puget Sound.

The Green and White River corridors are multi-functional, providing recreational opportunities for regional and local bicycle trips. Therefore, the City has prioritized the completion of both these trail systems. Also, Auburn will seek to enhance portions of City trail systems whenever possible, by providing amenities for non-motorized travelers such as rest areas, as well as safety improvements including warning signage and grade separated trails. As shown in Map 3-2, the bicycle routes identified for future development will consist of a mix of interconnected local trails and on- street bike facilities linking Auburn's neighborhoods.

The future Bonneville Power Trail will be a separated, hard surfaced trail crossing the Lea Hill area and connecting to the Interurban Trail and West Hill via on-street bicycle facilities. This new bike route is planned from Lea Hill through Isaac Evans and Dykstra Park to connect to downtown Auburn via the new A Street NW corridor. Numerous other on-street bicycle facilities and trails are planned.

The selection of bike facility projects will be based upon safety, route continuity, and connectivity. In addition to new bicycle corridors, spot safety improvements are an important component of the City's future bicycle network. Improvements including flashing beacons have already been made at the Interurban Trail crossing of 15th Street SW, and are planned at the Interurban Trail crossing of West Main Street and C Street SW and Ellingson. In addition, safe access to downtown Auburn and onto West Hill, Lea Hill and Lakeland are a priority for the City.

Typical bicycle route improvements along a Class I facility include purchasing the right-of-way, designing the trail, and constructing the trail and trailhead. For a Class II pathway, improvements include striping lanes, installing warning and directional signage, and painting bike symbols on the pavement. For a roadway where bikes will share the lane with vehicles, it may include the installation of shared use markings and signage.

As this plan is updated in the future, emphasis should continue to be placed on developing a safe and convenient bicycling environment for both recreational and commuter cyclists of all experience levels.

~~3.3 Equestrian Travel~~

~~Auburn citizens have a long history of supporting the planning and development of equestrian facilities. The City intends to increase its network of soft-surface, multi-use trails in more rustic locations with appropriate facilities suitable for equestrian use.~~

~~NEEDS ASSESSMENT~~

~~EXISTING CONDITIONS~~

~~Auburn's equestrian trail system is quite limited. The Parks Department currently manages a two-mile, soft-surface trail, along the White River at Roegner and Game Farm Wilderness Parks. Otherwise, there are no formal equestrian trails in Auburn.~~

~~Horse owners do have informal access to the soft-surface path adjacent to the Interurban trail, as well as large open spaces in the rustic area just south of the White River and east of Kersey Way in southeast Auburn. To reach the open areas, many ride along the edge of roads such as 53rd and 56th Streets SE. These are narrow roads with gravel shoulders. Drainage swales run parallel to many~~

portions of these roads, and while conditions vary, typically there is a narrow unpaved shoulder or grassed area alongside the road where horses can walk.

IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

The lack of equestrian trail miles in the City and connectivity to regional equestrian facilities are two areas that need improvement. As indicated by Table 3-1, there are currently two miles of formal equestrian trails in the City. This is a barrier to most equestrians, particularly those bringing horses via trailer. In order to become a more equestrian friendly community, Auburn must undertake planning initiatives to expand the current network.

Table 3-1 Existing Equestrian Facilities

Facility	Potential Primary Users	Within Auburn City Limits
Soft-surface Trail	Equestrians Off-road Cyclists Pedestrians	2.17 miles

Auburn, as a regional growth center, has elected to become increasingly urbanized. As the City continues to urbanize, it will seek opportunities to include equestrian planning in its infrastructure improvements. Special consideration for equestrian facilities should be given to southeast Auburn and Lea Hill as both have existing equestrian communities.

Loop trail development is one strategy that can be employed to increase the length of equestrian trails in Auburn. Loop trails can be linked to existing linear facilities, thereby increasing network miles.

Opportunities to expand the equestrian trail system should be considered in all future infrastructure planning and development. Features such as busy arterial streets, steep slopes and narrow bridges are barriers to equestrian travel. Hence, equestrian trail planning should go hand in hand with other planning activities the City is undertaking. When planning equestrian trails, other facilities such as trailer parking and directional signage should be accommodated.

FUTURE SYSTEM

The southeast Auburn area, south of the White (Stuck) River and east of Kersey Way, should be designated as an Equestrian District. Future development in this area should be consistent with that designation. Southeast Auburn is particularly suitable as an Equestrian District because it contains a City watershed, shorelines of statewide significance, and numerous critical areas. Equestrian trails may be situated near some of these features, whereas more intense development may be unsuitable. Equestrian trails may also be appropriate for parts of Lea Hill, and should be evaluated. When locating equestrian trails along rustic roads, it may be appropriate to maximize trail potential by constructing a wider shoulder able to accommodate equestrian travel on one side of the road.

Members of the equestrian community in Auburn have emphasized the desire for a trail connection between Roegner Park and southeast Auburn. One potential alignment would be along a route roughly parallel to Kersey Way and 53rd Street SE. The Parks Plan identifies this future trail as the

~~Williams Trail. Potential obstacles include critical area impacts and right-of-way acquisition. The topography along Kersey Way includes steep hillsides and large drainage swales. As trail planning progresses to a more detailed level, other alignments should be evaluated.~~

~~The equestrian routes identified for future development are concentrated along the White River, the Green River, and in the properties in southeast Auburn. These routes are identified as soft-surface, multi-use trails that are suitable for riding and walking but do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Construction costs and the extent of clearing needed are much less for soft-surface trails than for paved trails. Some of the soft-surface trails are proposed to occur in conjunction with a paved trail. Summaries of trails that are appropriate for equestrian use are listed in Table 3-2. Design specifications for equestrian trails will be incorporated into the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards* manual.~~

~~3.4~~3.3 Future Non-motorized System

Auburn's future non-motorized system consists of an interconnected network of sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use trails~~, and equestrian paths~~. The list of proposed projects in Table 3-2 is developed for planning purposes. Map 3-2 identifies the location of the trail projects identified in Table 3-2 and maps the future trail and bicycle network.

Table 3-2 Future Trail Projects

Trail Name	Description	Potential Users
Green River Trail	This paved trail will be part of a regional recreational corridor. King County is the lead administrator of the project but will work in collaboration with the City for the portion of the trail in Auburn. The trail alignment will extend along the west bank of the Green River from S. 277th St., south to Brannan Park. From Brannan Park, the trail will then run south along M Street SE to 22nd Street NE, where it will turn east towards Dykstra Park. It will then cross the river at the Dykstra foot bridge to the east bank of the river. It will then parallel Green River Road and 104th Ave SE. Once across Lea Hill Road SE the trail will follow 104th PL. SE to the dead end. From the dead end the trail will follow the wooded bluff until it reaches a point opposite of Fenster Nature Park. At the alignment of 2nd St. SE the trail will cross at a future bridge location to the west side of the river and into Fenster Nature Park. The trail will continue south through the park and into the King County owned Auburn Narrows area where it will end near the intersection of Auburn Black Diamond Rd. and Green Valley Road.	Bicyclists ~~Equestrians~~ Pedestrians
Auburn Environmental Park Loop	This looped recreational path spurs off the Interurban Trail and will go through the Auburn Environmental Park.	Off-road Cyclists Pedestrians ~~Equestrians, possibly~~
White River Trail	The White River Trail runs along the south side of the White River from Roegner Park to the eastern edge of Game Farm Wilderness Park. Future extensions of the trail are planned from A Street SE to Roegner Park, across the White River via the future BNSF Railroad underpass, on the south side of the river within the City of Pacific, and from Game Farm Wilderness Park to southeast Auburn along the White River.	Bicyclists ~~Equestrians~~ Off-road Cyclists Pedestrians

Trail Name	Description	Potential Users
Williams Trail	These recreational trails are intended to use public or quasi-public lands, including utility corridors. A variety of loop trails may be possible within this large area.	Bicyclists ~~Equestrians~~ Off-road Cyclists Pedestrians
Bonneville Power Trail	This east-west trail will extend from Lea Hill to Dykstra Park Street, where it will connect to downtown Auburn and West Hill via an existing and planned series of bike lanes. There are topographical and environmental challenges that will need to be addressed during the design phase.	Bicyclists Pedestrians ~~Equestrians~~
Academy Trail	The portion of Academy Drive from SR 164 to Green Valley Road is currently closed due to slope failures. However, it has the potential to be re-opened as a multi-use recreational trail.	Bicyclists Pedestrians ~~Equestrians~~
Lakeland Hills Trail	This trail serves the Lakeland community and links Sunset Park and Dorothy Bothell Park via a meandering sidewalk path along Lakeland Hills Way SE.	Pedestrians

This network will provide local and regional connections for a variety of non-motorized modes. The completed portions of the Interurban and Green River Trails connect pedestrians and, ~~,~~ cyclists~~, and equestrians~~ to areas north and south of Auburn, while the White River Trail provides for east-west travel. Additional bike lanes and completion of the paved trail network will guide cyclists safely to points of interests, and through congested areas of the City.

~~The establishment of an equestrian district and trails in the southeast portion of the City permits more opportunities for equestrian travel in scenic areas.~~

Pedestrians will be able to travel more safely and comfortably with upgrades and expansion of the sidewalk network, new crossings and street lighting, and better street design near schools and frequently traveled pedestrian locations. The addition of a BNSF undercrossing, just north of the White River and west of A Street SE, will provide safe passage for pedestrians. A new trail connection along C Street SW will provide pedestrians and cyclists with a safer connection to downtown and the Auburn Station.

White River Trail
Multi-Use Path

PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The City of Auburn envisions a transportation system that will help promote healthy community principles by coordinating land use, the non-motorized transportation system, and transit in a manner that encourages walking and bicycling. The Puget Sound Regional Council has identified several elements, which contribute to the desirability of walking, bicycling, and transit use.[1]

- Concentrating complementary uses such as restaurants, retail and grocery stores proximate to residences and employment.
- Linking neighborhoods by connecting streets, sidewalks, and trails.
- Designing for safe and welcoming pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Enhancing transit opportunities and non-motorized connections to transit facilities.
- Reducing and mitigating the effects of parking.

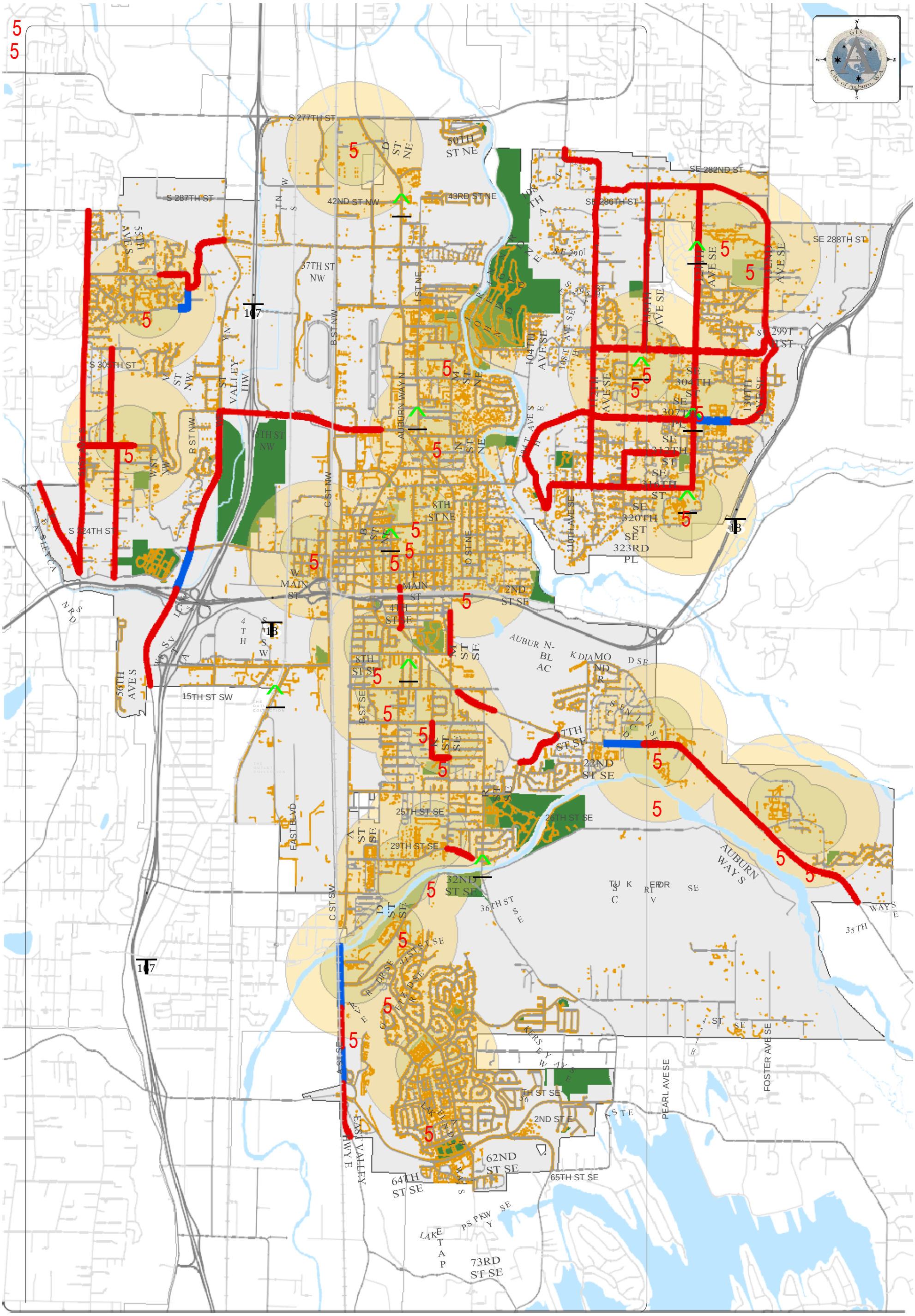
These principles, many of which can be promoted by thoughtful transportation systems planning, encourage healthier communities by increasing physical activity and decreasing air pollution caused by vehicle emissions. Auburn has historically planned for a transportation system that incorporates many healthy community principles, such as transit facility planning and regional trail planning. In addition, the Downtown Plan calls for a mixed-use, high density, pedestrian oriented downtown. Improving the non-motorized system also helps address the findings of the citywide Health Impact Assessment process, which recommended that the City improve sidewalk connectivity, improve the pedestrian environment, eliminate natural and man-made mobility barriers for pedestrian and bicyclists, improve transit access, improve traffic safety, pedestrian safety, and personal security.

In the future, Auburn shall continue to promote these principles through long-range planning efforts, capital facility improvements, development review, and community activities involving active lifestyle elements.

[1] Vision 2040 Update Issue Paper on Health: What's Health Got to Do with Growth Management, Economic Development and Transportation?, Puget Sound Regional Council, December 2nd, 2004.

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

The City ~~has~~ developed policies and identified funding strategies that will help implement the future non-motorized network. They can be found in Chapters 5 and 6, consecutively, of this plan. The planning direction outlined in this chapter shall be used as the foundation for implementing the non-motorized policies and securing funding.



Source: City of Auburn GIS Department

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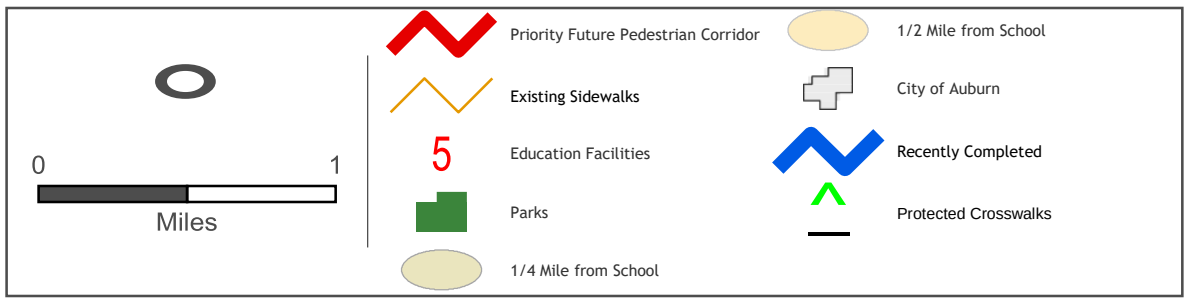
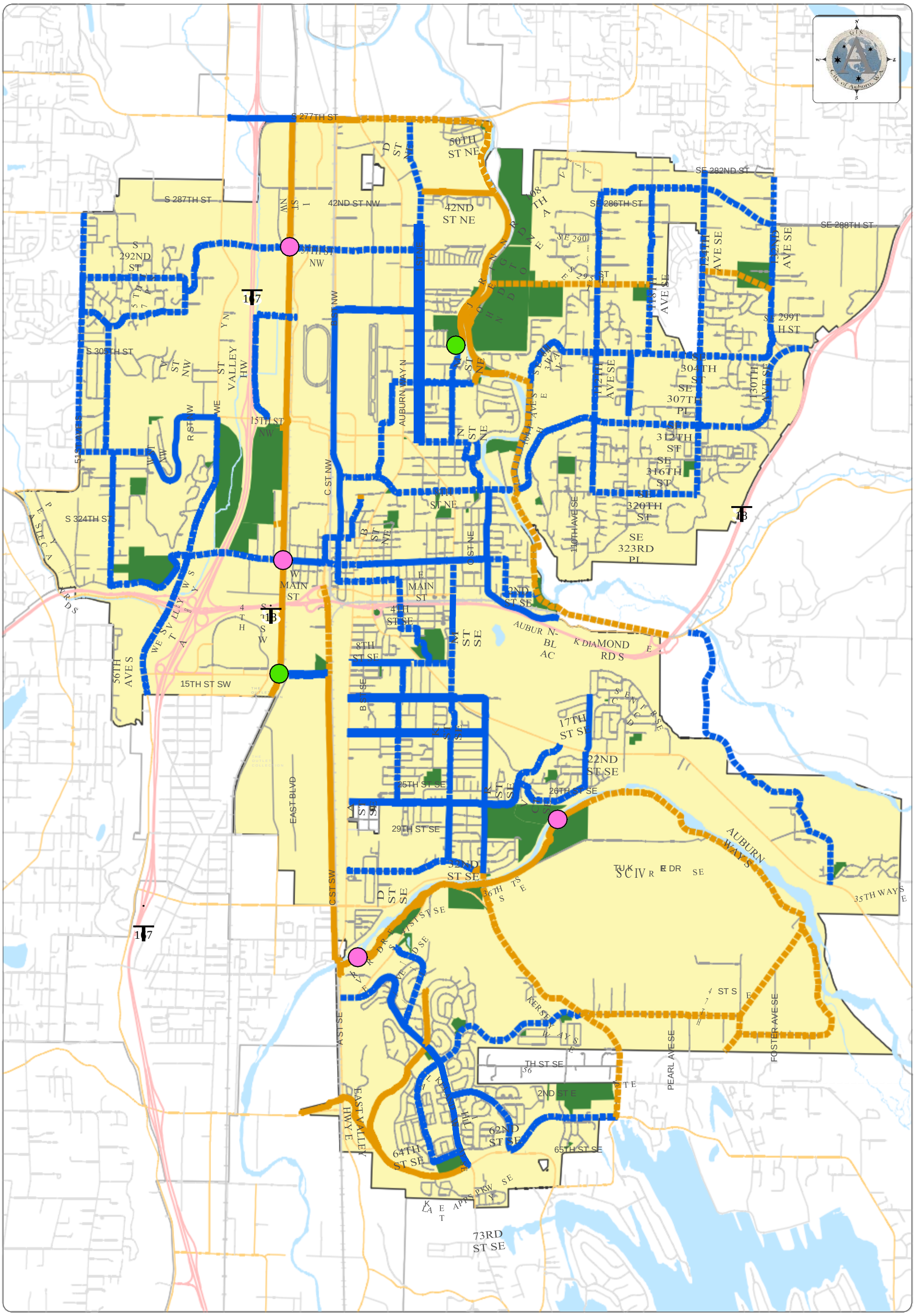


Auburn Transportation Plan

Existing Sidewalks and Future Priority Sidewalk Corridors

Map 3-1



Source: City of Auburn GIS Department

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0 1

Miles

Existing Trailheads

Future Trailheads

Bike Facility

Future Bike Facility

Trail

Future Trail

Parks

City of Auburn

Auburn Transportation Plan

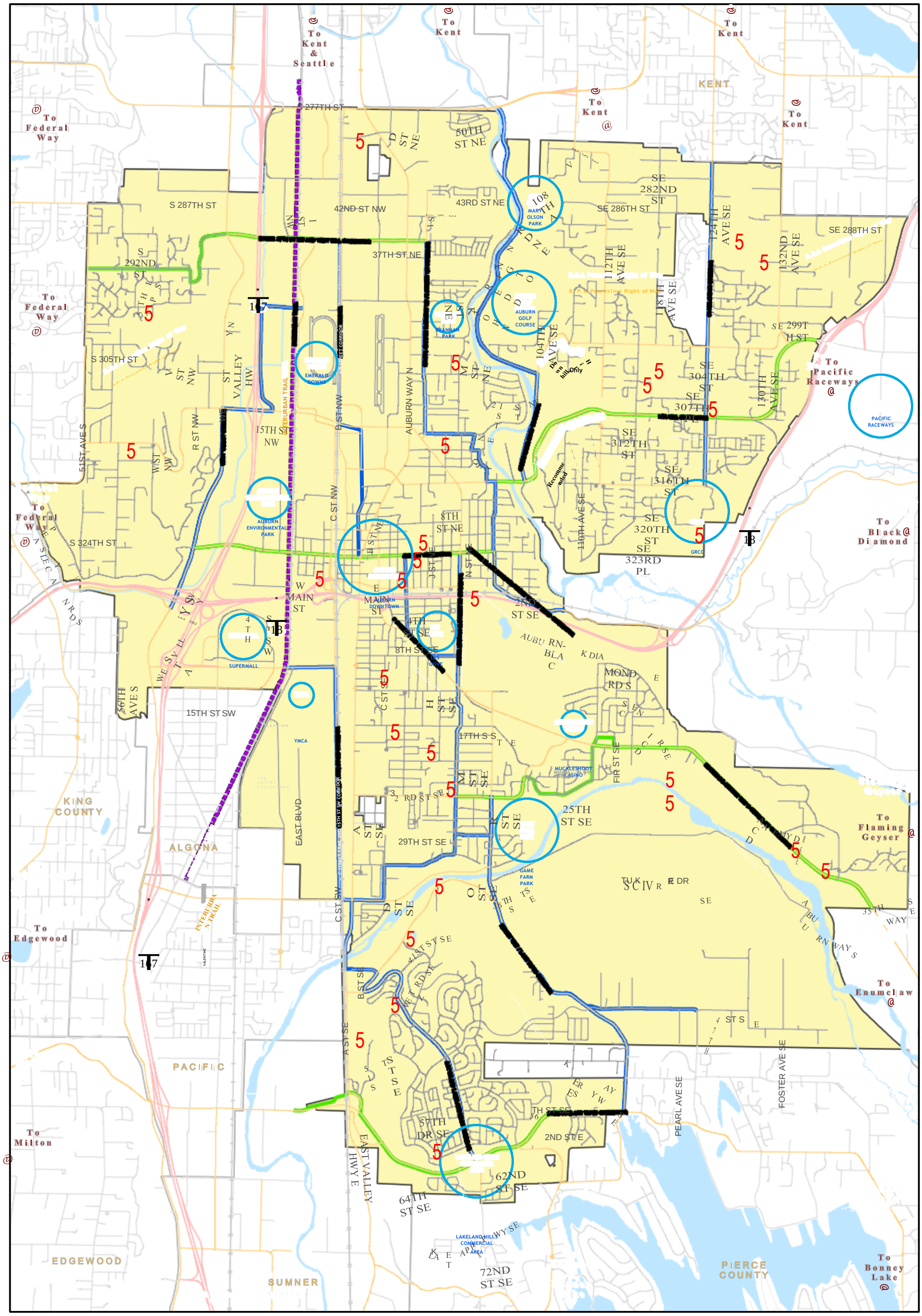
Existing and Future Bicycle Facilities and Multi-Use Trails

Map 3-2

Source: City of Auburn GIS Department

Printed On: 10/6/2015

Map ID: 4604



Source: City of Auburn GIS Department

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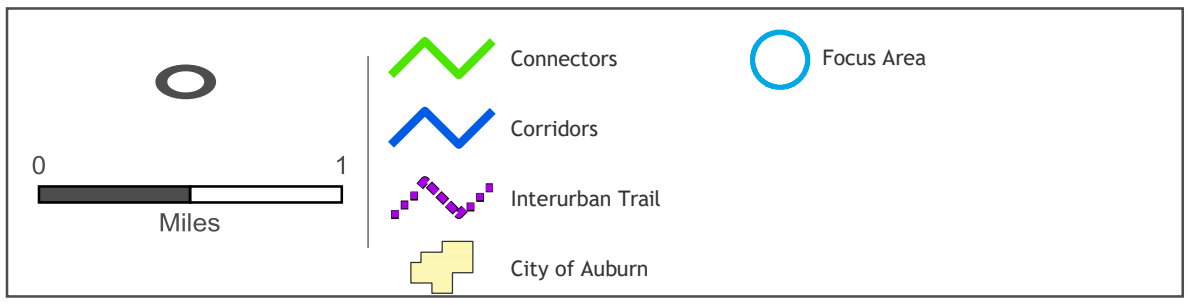


Auburn Transportation Plan

Bicycle Corridors and Connectors

Map 3-3

CHAPTER 4

TRANSIT

Transit service is a key component of Auburn's transportation system, providing mobility within the City and access to and from the City. Unlike the street and non-motorized systems, Auburn does not directly administer transit service. Rather, the City works with local transit agencies to coordinate service in Auburn. The transit agencies are publicly funded and are responsible for providing transit service within their service boundaries.

Today, Auburn is served by local and regional bus, as well as a commuter rail line that runs between Seattle and Tacoma/Lakewood.

Auburn Station

4.1 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

EXISTING TRANSIT SERVICES

The following section provides a brief summary of the public transportation services offered in Auburn. Existing transit service for the Auburn area is identified in Map 4-1 at the end of this section.

KING COUNTY METRO TRANSIT

Bus Service

Metro Transit provides local bus services linking destinations within the community and providing regional connections to the Auburn Station and the 15th Street NW Park-and-Ride. Metro Transit offers the following services in Auburn:

Metro Transit Hybrid Articulated Bus

Courtesy: Metro Transit

Route 164 provides regional service between Kent, Auburn and the Green River College. It connects with the Route 181 at Green River College.

Route 180 provides service daily between southeast Auburn, Auburn Station, and Kent Station, connecting to Route 150, with service to Seattle. Route 180 also serves Sea-Tac Airport and the Burien Transit Center.

Route 181 provides daily service between the Twin Lakes Park-and-Ride, Sea-Tac Mall, Federal Way Transit Center, the Outlet Collection, Auburn Station, and Green River College.

Route 186 provides weekday peak hour service between the Auburn Station and Enumclaw via Auburn Way South. The service is scheduled to meet Sounder Commuter Rail trains at the Auburn Station.

Route 910 is a DART route which was inaugurated in October 2010 in a partnership between Auburn and King County Metro Transit, and functions as a community shuttle circulator service. The route provides weekday and Saturday service between north central Auburn, the I Street NE corridor, downtown Auburn and the Outlet Collection/YMCA on 15th Street SW.

Route 915 provides weekday midday service and some weekend service between the Auburn Station and Enumclaw via Auburn Way South. The route also includes a small portion of Demand Area Responsive Transit (DART) service with limited, variable routing in response to rider requests.

Route 917 provides weekday and Saturday service between A Street SE, 41st Street SE, Algona, the Outlet Collection, and the Auburn Station. Peak hour weekday service is also provided between the Auburn Station and the Social Security Administration and the General Services Administration (GSA). The route offers DART service (limited variable route) in portions of Pacific.

Route 952 is a weekday AM and PM peak hour route specifically designed to serve the Boeing Everett facility. It operates from the 15th Street NW Park and Ride to the Seaway Transit Facility near the Boeing Everett Plant.

~~**Route 910** is a DART route which was inaugurated in October 2010 in a partnership between Auburn and King County Metro Transit, and functions as a community shuttle circulator service. The route provides weekday and Saturday service between north central Auburn, the I Street NE corridor, downtown Auburn and the Outlet Collection/YMCA on 15th Street SW.~~

~~Due to financially driven cuts by Metro Transit, Route 919 was recently discontinued. This was a community focused route, which operated fixed route and some DART between downtown Auburn, the Library, Senior Center, Les Gove Park and southeast Auburn in the Dogwood area where it interchanged with the Muckleshoot Tribal Shuttle. Although service to the area is still available on the Routes 186 and 915, Route 919 operated during the off-peak hours filling gaps in the service offered by the Routes 186 and 915. Metro also discontinued the Route 152 to and from Seattle. Former Route 152 passengers must now use the Sounder train or the Route 190 which they can access at the Star Lake Park and Ride.~~

ACCESS

DART Vehicle

Courtesy: City of Kent

ACCESS Transportation is a King County Metro paratransit service, providing door-to-door, shared-ride van transportation within most of King County. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires curb-to-curb paratransit service for persons whose disabilities prevent use of accessible non-commuter, fixed route bus service. This service is intended to offer a comparable level of service to that provided by regular bus service.

Vanpool Services

Metro Transit sponsors vanpool services that serve residents and employees in Auburn. Vanpool is a shared-ride service that provides group transport for commuters with proximate origins and destinations. Vanpool is a popular and flexible service that provides commuters with an alternative to driving alone and fixed-route transit service. Vanpool will continue to be an important strategy for mitigating peak period congestion throughout Auburn and the region.

Metro Transit Facilities

Metro Transit owns and operates the Auburn 15th Street NW Park-and-Ride with 244 surface parking stalls. Metro also operates into the Auburn Station managed by Sound Transit. Additionally, Metro maintains approximately 177 ~~other~~ bus stops in Auburn, 42 of which contain passenger shelters.

Commute Trip Reduction (CTR)

Under state law, the City is required to administer a Commute Trip Reduction program for all employers in Auburn with at least 100 employees arriving during the peak morning commute hours. The City of Auburn contracts with Metro Transit to provide CTR support services for the CTR affected local employers. Currently, there are 10 CTR employers in Auburn with a total of 5,500 employees. Metro Transit assists employers in complying with state law by providing rideshare support and a host of other incentives aimed at reducing single occupant vehicle travel.

PIERCE TRANSIT

Route 497 is operated by Pierce Transit in partnership with the City of Auburn, and King County Metro Transit. It operates peak hour weekday service between Lakeland Hills and the Auburn Station. As a morning and evening service meeting Sounder trains, the 497 is a commuter - oriented route, but is open to all riders. In the future, the City hopes to expand the Route 497 to serve all peak hour Sounder trips. Because Route 497 primarily serves Sounder passengers, and because it significantly reduces the demand for commuter parking at the Auburn Station parking garage managed by Sound Transit, the city is seeking financial participation from Sound Transit in operating this route and making this a permanent route.

Sounder Train

Courtesy: Sound Transit

Vanpool Services are provided by Pierce Transit similar to those offered by King County Metro Transit.

SOUND TRANSIT

Sound Transit is the regional transit provider for Puget Sound. It provides limited stop, transit services linking Auburn to major regional destinations in King and Pierce Counties. The agency offers ~~both~~ Sounder commuter rail and regional express bus services in Auburn.

Sound Transit Regional Express Bus

Courtesy: Sound Transit

Sounder Commuter Rail

Sound Transit operates the Sounder commuter rail service on the Lakewood-Tacoma – Seattle route via the BNSF Railway. Sound Transit provides weekday peak hour trips northbound to Seattle in the morning~~AM~~ and southbound from Seattle to Tacoma -Lakewood in the ~~PM~~afternoon. Reverse direction trips are also provided in each peak hour with limited mid-day service ~~being planned for future years~~. Some connections are available between south line Sounder trains, which terminate in Seattle, and north line Sounder trains from Everett to Seattle. Additional special event service to and from Seattle for Mariners, Seahawks, Storm, and Sounders games ~~and the Emerald Downs racetrack in Auburn is offered~~ on some weekends.

Currently, ~~eight~~ nine trains operate northbound to Seattle in the morning peak, with an additional train during the mid-morning, and ten trains return southbound during the PM peak. ~~Two~~ Three trains operate southbound to Tacoma/Lakewood in the morning and northbound to Seattle in the early evening. ~~In September 2016 a new round-trip between Lakewood and Seattle will be added. The new round-trip will leave Lakewood for Seattle in the late morning and return from Seattle to Lakewood in the early afternoon.~~

Regional Express Bus Service

Route 566/567 offers daily weekday, limited stop service between the Auburn Station the Kent Station, the Renton Transit Center, the Bellevue Transit Center, and the Overlake Transit Center.

Route 577/578 offers daily limited stop service between Puyallup, Sumner, Auburn, Federal Way and Seattle. The 577 provides service between the Federal Way Transit Center and Seattle during the peak periods when the Sounder trains is in operation. The 578 provides service between Puyallup and Seattle during the off-peak hours when train service is not currently provided.

Transit Facilities

Sound Transit owns and operates the Auburn Station located in downtown Auburn. This full service multi-modal facility provides parking for a total of 633 vehicles in a 6-story parking garage and a surface parking lot. A new parking garage ~~will~~is expected -to be available for transit users in September 2023, offering an additional 525 parking stalls. A number of parking stalls are reserved for carpool/vanpool, and a number of stalls are reserved for paying single occupant vehicles.

The facility currently handles approximately 470 daily bus trips. Approximately 3,000 passengers ride bus service to/from the station on a daily basis. Boardings at Auburn on Sounder commuter rail are approximately 1,300 per day. The facility draws numerous transit riders from outside Auburn including ~~many~~ from outside the Sound Transit taxing District, the geographic area where residents contribute tax revenue to fund Sound Transit.

4.2 Transit User Needs

DEMOGRAPHICS

People use public transportation for two reasons: because they have to ride or because they choose to ride. Carrying the choice rider, such as commuters, often has the greatest positive impact on the transportation system by helping control peak hour traffic demand. But providing a "safety net" of adequate transportation to those who absolutely depend on it is, arguably, public transportation's most important role.

There are a number of ways to identify "transit dependency", but the most effective way is to identify locations with high concentrations of residents who have no vehicle available in their household. An examination of the most recent year 2000 Census data available from the Bureau of the Census shows that some areas of Auburn have a ~~surprisingly~~ high number of households with no vehicle available. This remains the most recent information available with the level of detail necessary to identify needs on a block level. As a comparison baseline, 9 percent of Auburn households have no vehicle available; this percentage is consistent with that of King County (9 percent) and slightly higher than that of Pierce County (8 percent). For the purpose of this analysis, block groups with significant concentrations of residential development in which over 12 percent of households have no vehicle available are considered transit dependent areas. There are eleven census block groups in Auburn in which over 12 percent of households have no vehicle available, nine of which have significant concentrations of residential development and are therefore identified as transit dependent areas. It is also notable that four of the nine block groups with large concentrations of residential development have at least 20 percent of households with no vehicle available. The nine block groups comprising the transit dependent areas had a total of 3,698 households in 2000, 771 (21 percent) of which had no vehicle available. Map 4-2 shows the transit dependent areas and overlays the existing transit service in order to identify if adequate transit service is available to these highly transit dependent neighborhoods.

Comparing the neighborhoods in question to the transit route structure, it is apparent that the vast majority of Auburn's most transit dependent population lives within ¼ miles of a fixed route bus – the distance standard most often identified by the transit industry as a reasonable walking distance to transit. An exception to that rule is the area near Dogwood Street SE north of Auburn Way South where many of the transit dependent residents are located more than ¼ mile from fixed route bus service.

In the future, it will be critical to ensure these areas continue to be well ~~covered~~ served by transit service, both in terms of route and schedule coverage.

SERVICE COVERAGE

Generally speaking, local transit service coverage in Auburn is well planned and well operated. Even ~~so~~ though, there are some areas of the community that do not have adequate local service coverage, as well as some important regional bus links and commuter rail services that have yet to be fully developed.

Local Bus Service

Some of Auburn's most populated neighborhoods are deficient in local bus service, including the West Hill, Lakeland Hills during the non-peak hours, and parts of east and north Auburn. The least served residential area of Auburn is West Hill, an area with approximately 5,000 residents with no transit service. Lakeland Hills, a planned residential community with approximately 3,800 homes has peak hour service to downtown Auburn, but lacks all day service. Lea Hill, a predominantly residential community on Auburn's east hill, ~~does have~~has two transit routes, which predominantly serve Green River College, leaving a large portion of the residents unable to walk to a transit route. In 2014, a license plate survey of the Auburn Station garage indicated that a substantial number of Lea Hill residents utilize transit service at Auburn Station. This suggests that a commuter oriented shuttle serving Lea Hill, similar to the Route 497 shuttle implemented in Lakeland Hills, could be successful.

Additionally, residential areas of east Auburn, east of M Street NE and south of 8th Street NE, and parts of northeast Auburn, east of I Street NE, are also located more than ¼ mile from fixed route bus service. It is difficult for these areas to access transit, both for local and regional trips.

The design of King County Metro's local bus routes in Auburn should be reviewed in relation to future changes in Sound Transit's Sounder commuter rail and regional express bus services to identify opportunities and priorities for productive improvements to transit coverage, frequency, and hours of operation.

Regional Bus Service

The most important unmet regional transit need is for all day, express bus and commuter rail service between Auburn, Tacoma/Lakewood, and Seattle. While the original *Sound Transit Regional Express Bus Service Plan* contained a direct link between Auburn and Tacoma/Lakewood, the connection was discontinued in Sound Transit's later service plans.

Sounder Commuter Rail

Sounder Commuter Rail, a highly popular and attractive service, operates bi-directionally in the peak periods. Most of the trips are operated in the peak direction; northbound during the weekday AM peak and southbound during the weekday PM peak. No midday, evening, or weekend regular service is currently provided, except for the special events times. These services are needed as is additional capacity on some of the currently most popular runs.

Auburn YMCA - Major trip generator

Intercity Passenger Rail

Auburn is an ideal location for a future stop on the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor, which runs from Vancouver, BC to Eugene, OR. A former intercity passenger rail stop and Amtrak city, Auburn is centrally located in South King County at the intersection of SR-18 and SR-167 and is a 10 minute drive from I-5. The Auburn Station is

the only facility in King or Pierce County with direct freeway access and currently serves over 3,000 bus passengers and 1,300 commuter rail passengers and is centrally located within 10 miles of 500,000 people. Amtrak should implement more intercity rail stations in the high density and traffic congested areas of Puget Sound such as at Auburn Station. A new Auburn stop would have great ridership benefits since it is at a station with available overnight parking and is in close proximity to hundreds of thousands of potential new customers. Furthermore the projected schedule impacts of a stop in Auburn could be largely absorbed in the overall route schedule.

TRANSIT SCHEDULING

The scheduling of transit service is often as important as route alignment and coverage in determining the success of the service.

Scheduling to Successfully Serve Employers

One of the most overlooked aspects of transit system design is scheduled transit arrival times versus major employer shift times. While a transit system can physically serve the front door of a business, its actual scheduled arrival times will often determine if anyone rides the system. It is not the intention of this effort to conduct an exhaustive employer shift time analysis of the community. However, an example of the challenge can be found in examining one of Auburn's major employers, the Boeing Company with over 6,000 employees. The company's primary morning shift time arrival occurs at 6 AM, the earliest southbound Sounder train from Seattle, arrives in Auburn at ~~6:41~~6:32 AM. The first run of the day for the Metro Route 181 from Federal Way and Lea Hill arrive near Boeing at approximately 6 AM, making it difficult for employees to meet the shift time. The first runs of the Route 917 which serve the nearby GSA and SSA offices arrive after the Boeing shift time as well. None of the existing bus routes stop close enough to the Boeing facility to allow employees to walk to the facility. This shows how it ~~would be~~is beneficial to continue to coordinate with major employers to offer alternate transit options that can meet various shift times such as dedicated Vanpools or Vanshares.

The lack of transit schedule synchronization with key employers in a community can also negatively impact other opportunities. The City of Auburn in partnership with Metro Transit was the first agency in Puget Sound to create the concept of 'Van Share', a specialized transit service in which vanpools carry employees to their employer's front door from regional transit centers. Where the schedules work, such as in providing a direct link between Boeing's Renton facilities and the Tukwila Station, the concept has been highly successful. On the other end of the trip, the Van Share concept can be successfully implemented to transport employees between their homes and the Transit Station, saving capacity on the roadway and at the Auburn Station parking facilities.

Due to the fact that Auburn's major employer shift times sometimes don't match Sounder and regional bus transit arrival times, Van Share has not yet achieved its full potential in Auburn. However, as Sounder and bus service to the Auburn Station increase, this option may become more viable for major employers in Auburn.

To maximize the investment in public transit service in Auburn, it is recommended that both Sound Transit and Metro Transit conduct an evaluation of their schedules with a focus on improving service to major employers in the Auburn area.

Transit Capacity

A second consideration in scheduling service is ensuring that enough service is available to meet the demand.

Sounder Commuter Rail has also been immensely popular, indicating that increased service is supported by the ridership demand. Daily Sounder boardings at south end stations total around 6,000 riders, the equivalent of a lane of traffic on SR 167 or I-5, emphasizing the importance of expanding Sounder service.

The Auburn Station is a highly successful component of the Sounder service. Total rail boardings at the Auburn Station today average over 1,300 riders per day making Auburn one of the busiest stations on the Sounder route.

URBAN DESIGN

The design of the build environment has direct implications on the quality and availability of transit service. Urban design can either encourage or inhibit the provision of local transit service. Some inhibitors to providing neighborhood service include inadequate street geometry and construction, lack of a satisfactory location for a terminal at the end of the route, absence of a street grid that could be used to turn around a bus, and the absence of a connected sidewalk network. Ideally, new residential developments should be laid out with future transit route alignments in mind and supporting transit facilities. Likewise, retrofits of the existing street network should accommodate transit design considerations

IMPROVING LOCAL SERVICE

Preserving the Route 910

Since 2010 Auburn and Metro Transit have partnered through the Transit Now initiative to implement community shuttle circulator service. The Route 910 shuttle serves Northeast Auburn commercial and activity areas. The service has become steadily more popular, doubling in productivity since its inception. This partnership route between, Auburn and King County Metro has now been extended until 2020.

Add Service to Replace the Terminated Route 919

Currently, a planned expansion of service to the Metro Route 915 is expected to begin in March 2016. This will increase service to hourly, midday on some of the alignment of the former Route 919. The city should continue to look for opportunities to improve service along the route of the former 919.

Preserve and Expand Commuter Connection Bus Routes

Auburn should work with Pierce Transit, Metro Transit and Sound Transit to preserve the Route 497 and add service to the Route to meet all existing and future Sounder trains while encouraging Sound Transit to fund a portion of the Route 497.

Auburn should explore the concept with Metro Transit and Sound Transit of adding a new commuter bus/van service to Sounder from Lea Hill and the west hill of Auburn and encourage Sound Transit to fund a portion of the routes. Similar to the Route 497, these routes would be timed to meet Sounder trains and operate on a direct route and express schedule after leaving the

Lea Hill or west hill areas. These potential services are particularly relevant given Metro Transit's recent focus on the expanded use of Alternative Service concepts for covering areas which cannot support the use of a traditional fixed route bus but which are still in need of public transportation.

TRANSIT FACILITIES

One type of transit facility improvement stands out as the most important ongoing need: parking. Comparing the number of current Sounder daily boardings (1,300) to the available number of parking stalls at the Auburn Station (633) and the number of passengers who transfer daily from bus to Sounder (approximately 150) shows there is a lack of parking for Sounder at the Auburn Station. Additional train trips are currently being planned, including three new round trips, and these will attract more ridership (and result in more parking needs) in downtown Auburn.

Although there is always a desire to have as many people as possible access commuter rail without parking, the reality of the service is that it is usually used by customers who want to start and end their day with a direct, fast trip to and from the station. Only the Route 497 is specifically designed to link commuters to Sounder. It accounts for the majority of transfers between bus service and rail service. Given the strength of the demand for Sounder and the location of many of its users, other lifestyle choices (bike, pedestrian or TOD) will also not be sufficient to ultimately negate the continued demand for more parking.

So, for the foreseeable future, parking will be a continuing challenge at the Auburn Station and even more will be needed as three more Sounder roundtrips are added, as scheduled in 2016 and 2017.

Building the infrastructure to accommodate commuter parking demand is an essential component of making transit an attractive option for commuters. In order to do so, action is essential to clearly identify the future demand and acquire the land needed to build the parking. The plans created in ST2 and ST3 (ST2 is the Sound Transit Plan approved by voters during 2008, ST3 ~~is a proposed ballot measure for~~ was approved by voters ~~to consider~~ in November 2016~~)~~ to build parking should be followed. If this is not done, neighborhoods within walking distance of Auburn Station, particularly those bordering W Main Street, will experience an increase in on-street commuter parking, making it difficult for residents to find parking during the day and early evening. To combat this issue, the City has established a restricted parking zone for residents to the west of C Street NW, however the problem may begin in other locations. Sound Transit should also examine the usage of the Auburn Station garage by people who live outside the Sound Transit Taxing District. The agency should consider requiring those users to pay to park in the Auburn Station garage. In a 2014 survey of the vehicles parked at the Auburn facility over 90 vehicles (15 percent of the parking supply) were registered at addresses outside the Sound Transit Taxing District.

King County Metro Transit is responsible for installing new and maintaining existing bus shelters in Auburn. Both the City and agency should continue to prioritize potential improvements to shelters, benches, pads, bus zones, customer information and pedestrian access. Currently, about 20 Metro bus stops that meet warrants for the installation of shelters have not received them yet and City staff is focused on working with Metro to accomplish that installation.

Pedestrian improvements around existing or planned transit stops, including enhanced crosswalks and pedestrian refuges, should also be examined by the City. The placement of bus stops is driven

by a variety of criteria including transit system operating and design standards, professional engineering field evaluation, and public input.

4.3 Transit System Recommendations

This section contains the recommendations derived from the transit needs assessment, as discussed in the first part of this chapter. Recommendations are organized by lead agency, with the understanding that implementation of any major system improvement will require the collaboration of many agencies.

KING COUNTY METRO TRANSIT

Maintain the operation of the Route 910 in partnership with Metro Transit. Explore partnering with Metro Transit and the Muckleshoot Indian tribe to create a new route combining the best features of the former Route 919 and the MIT tribal shuttle to provide better transit service to the city and the Reservation.

Work with Metro Transit to create new, limited stop AM and PM peak transit services designed for commuters from Lea Hill and west hill to and from the downtown Auburn Station.

Conduct an evaluation of transit schedules; improve service to major employers.

Work with Metro Transit to add service to the Route 497 to meet more Sounder trains.

Work with Metro Transit to implement the Rapid Ride I line which is part of Metro Connects

Work with Metro Transit to introduce new Mobility Options to improve access to Rapid Ride

and other ~~night~~ high capacity transit services, such as Sound Transit commuter rail and regional bus routes

Explore, assist, and encourage the implementation of commuter Vanpool and Van Share, linking Boeing to the Auburn Station, t~~. T~~o meet Sounder and Regional bus routes.

~~Work with Sound Transit and Metro Transit to create additional parking at or near the Auburn Station.~~

PIERCE TRANSIT

Work with Pierce Transit to add service to the Route 497 to meet more Sounder trains.

SOUND TRANSIT

Work with Sound Transit to add service to the Route 497 to meet more Sounder trains and fund a portion of the Route.

Work with Sound Transit to add new commuter bus service to the Sounder from Lea Hill and West Hill and fund a portion of the routes.

Institute midday Sounder service to and from Tacoma/Lakewood and Seattle and plan for evening and weekend service in the near future.

Address the loss of existing parking at the Auburn Station due to the use of the overcrowded Sounder parking facility by Sounder riders who live outside the Sound Transit taxing district and pay nothing for the facility.

~~Begin~~ Continue to work~~ing~~ with the City of Auburn to create additional parking near the Auburn Station, as specified in ST2. ~~and included in ST3, which~~ was approved by voters ~~is scheduled to~~

~~be on the~~ in ~~November 2016.~~ ballot.

CITY OF AUBURN

Partner with local transit agencies to provide transit service similar to the route 497 to serve other areas of Auburn, including the Lea Hill Area. The route would collect commuters to provide them access to the Sounder Station in downtown Auburn. ~~Continue the operation of the Route 910 in partnership with Metro Transit.~~

Explore partnering with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to create a new route combining the best features of the former Route 919 and the MIT tribal shuttle to provide better transit service to the City and the Reservation.

~~Work with Metro Transit and Sound Transit to create a new, limited stop AM and PM peak transit service for commuters from Lea Hill and west hill to and from the Auburn Station.~~

Work with Pierce Transit and Metro Transit to add service to the Route 497 to meet more Sounder trains and encourage Sound Transit to fund a portion of the Route 497 to continue the route in service for multiple years beyond 2016.

Continue to w~~W~~ork with Sound Transit to address the loss of existing parking at the Auburn Station due to the use of the overcrowded Sounder parking facility by Sounder riders who live outside the Sound Transit taxing district and pay nothing for the facility.

~~Begin working with Sound Transit and Metro Transit in partnership to create additional commuter parking at or near the Auburn Station.~~

Auburn Transportation Plan

Auburn Transit Routes
and MIT Shuttle Route

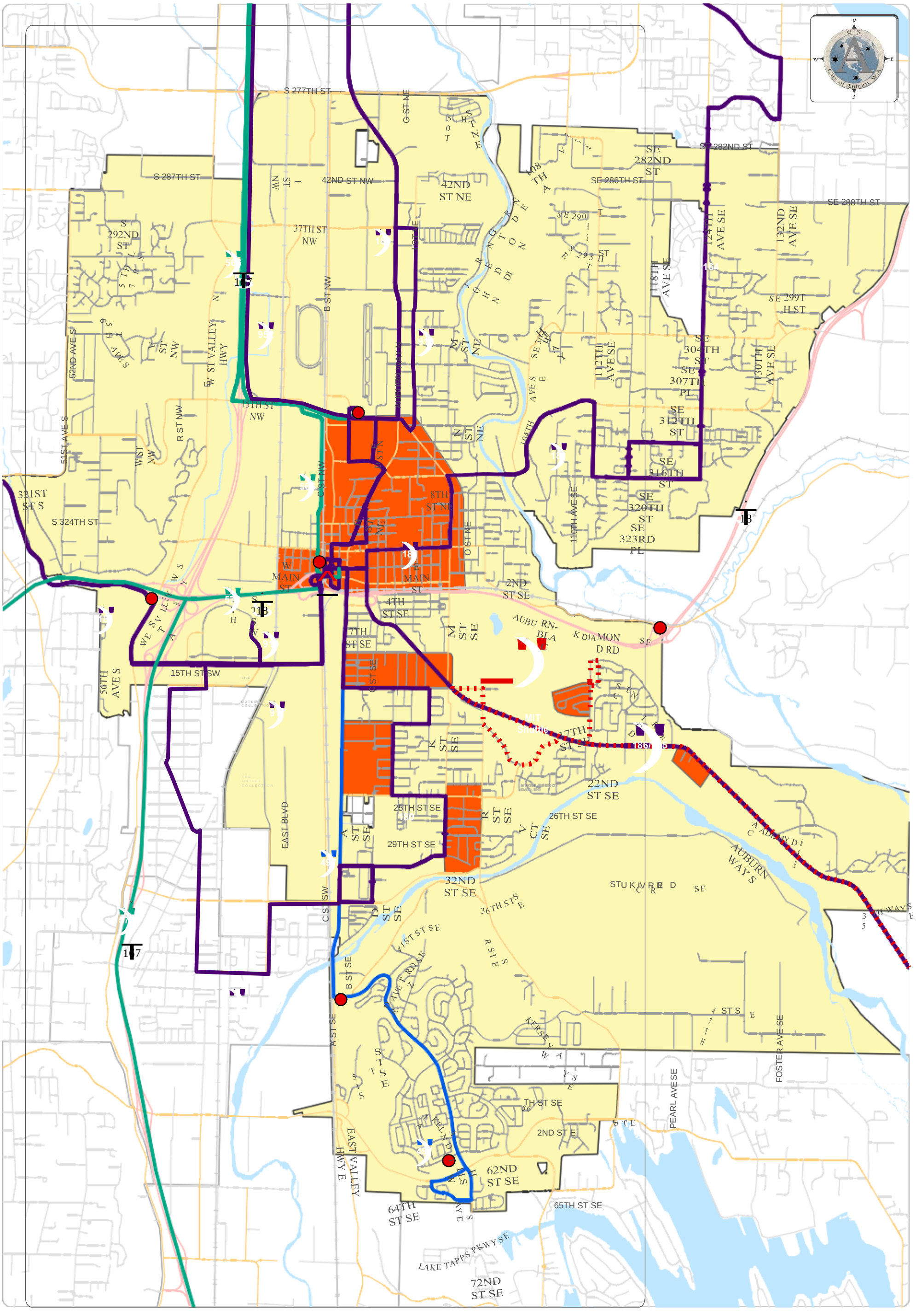
Map 4-1

0 1
Miles

- Auburn Transit Station
- Park & Ride
- City of Auburn
- Metro Transit Routes
- Pierce Transit Routes
- Sound Transit Routes
- Muckleshoot Shuttle Routes

Source: City of Auburn GIS Department

Printed On: 10/6/2015 Map ID: 4510



Auburn Transportation Plan

Auburn Transit Routes and Transit Dependent Areas

Map 4-2

Source: City of Auburn GIS Department

Printed On: 10/8/2015 Map ID: 4684

Public Art on West Main Street

CHAPTER 5.

POLICIES

Transportation objectives and policies establish the framework for realizing the City's vision of its transportation system. Policies provide guidance for the City, other governmental entities and private developers, enabling the City to achieve its goal in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Plan. The policy framework presented below is a guideline, which the City will use to evaluate individual projects and address its infrastructure needs.

The objectives and policies are organized according to five broad headings. The first heading, *Coordination, Planning and Implementation*, addresses the system comprehensively, detailing policies that pertain to the planning and implementation of the system as a whole. The subsequent four headings list policies specific to the following systems: *Street system, Non-motorized system, Transit system*, and *Air transportation*. The analysis of the transportation system, as well as any individual proposals, shall consider all modes of transportation and all methods of efficiently managing the network.

GOAL

To plan, expand, and improve the transportation system in cooperation and coordination with adjacent and regional jurisdictions to ensure concurrency compliance with the growth management act, and to provide a safe and ~~efficent~~efficient multimodal system that meets the community needs and facilitates the land use plan.

5.1 Coordination, Planning and Implementation

OBJECTIVE: COORDINATION

To be consistent with regional plans and the plans of neighboring cities, to encourage partnerships, and not to unreasonably preclude an adjacent jurisdiction from implementing its planned improvements.

Coord-01: Coordinate transportation operations, planning and improvements with other transportation authorities and governmental entities (cities, counties, tribes, state, federal) to address transportation issues. These include:

- Improvement of the state highway network through strong advocacy with state officials, both elected and staff, for improvements to state highways and interchanges;
- Improvements to roadways connecting Auburn to the surrounding region, including SR 167, SR 18, SR 181/West Valley Hwy, SR 164, and S 277th Street;
- Improved access to the Interstate 5 corridor and regional employment centers;
- Transit connections to the Regional Growth Centers;
- Establishing the Auburn Station as a center for multi-modal transportation connections to proposed future intercity rail service;
- Strong advocacy with US congressional members to provide funding to mitigate transportation problems connected to interstate commerce; and
- Proactively pursuing forums to coordinate transportation project priorities among other governmental entities, including proposed future intercity rail service.

OBJECTIVE: LONG-RANGE PLANNING & PROGRAMMING

To continue to plan for the future of the multi-modal transportation system through long-range planning, programmatic planning, and financial planning, in compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Plan-01: The *Comprehensive Transportation Plan* shall be evaluated and amended annually to ensure it is technically accurate, consistent with state, regional, and other local plans, and in keeping with the City's vision of the future transportation system.

Plan-02: The *Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) and *Capital Facilities Plan* (CFP) shall be updated annually to reevaluate project priorities, develop a plan to fund capital improvement projects, and ensure consistency between project priorities and financing plans. Project evaluation criteria shall foster economic development, maximize utilization of city financing to match transportation grants, promote safety, integrate planning of other projects requiring disturbance of pavements, promote mobility, and optimize the utilization of existing infrastructure.

OBJECTIVE: SAFETY

To provide a transportation system that is safe for all users.

Safety-01: A safe and efficient transportation system shall be prioritized over driving convenience.

Safety-02: Utilize education to increase awareness of existing traffic laws and safety issues, especially as they relate to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Safety-03: Engage the community in transportation issues through public involvement and partnerships with organizations such as the Auburn School District.

Safety-04: Identify areas with persistent traffic violations and address these violations, in part, through Police Department enforcement.

Safety-05: Emphasize enforcement of the "rules of the road" for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists whose actions endanger others. Conduct enforcement in a manner that reinforces the messages found in non-motorized education & safety programs.

Safety-06: Recognize the potential effects of hazards on transportation facilities and incorporate such considerations into the planning and design of transportation projects, where feasible.

OBJECTIVE: CONNECTIVITY

To provide a highly interconnected network of streets and trails for ease and variety of travel.

Connect-01: An efficient transportation system seeks to spread vehicle movements over a series of planned streets. The goal of the system is to encourage connectivity while preventing unacceptably high traffic volumes on any one street. Ample alternatives should exist to accommodate access for emergency vehicles. For these reasons the City will continue to plan a series of collectors and arterials designed to national standards to provide efficient service to the community.

Connect-02: Encourage the use of trails and other connections that provide ease of travel within and between neighborhoods, community activity centers, and transit services. Development patterns that block direct pedestrian access are discouraged. Ample alternatives should exist to accommodate non-motorized transportation on arterials, collectors, and local roads.

OBJECTIVE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Minimize the environmental impacts of all new transportation projects and transportation related improvements.

Environ-01: Thoroughly evaluate the impacts of all transportation projects and apply appropriate mitigation measures in conformance with SEPA, the Critical Areas Ordinance, and other city, county, state, and federal regulations.

Environ-02: Identify and consider the environmental impacts of transportation projects at the earliest possible time to ensure planning and decisions reflect environmental values, to avoid delays later in the process, and to reduce or avoid potential problems that may adversely impact the environment and project outcome.

Environ-03: Incorporate Low Impact Development (LID), green technology, and sustainability practices into transportation improvements as primary alternatives whenever feasible.

Environ-04: Support efforts to improve air quality throughout the Auburn area and develop a transportation system compatible with the goals of the Federal and State Clean Air Acts.

Environ-05: Require air quality studies of future major development to assess impacts created by site generated traffic.

OBJECTIVE: LEVEL-OF-SERVICE (LOS) THRESHOLD

To ensure that new development does not degrade transportation facilities to below LOS standards.

LOS-01: New development shall not be allowed when the impacts of the new development on the transportation system degrades the LOS to below the adopted LOS standard, unless the impacts are mitigated concurrent with the development as described in Chapter 2.

LOS-02: The term "below level-of-service" shall apply to situations where traffic attributed to a development likely results in any of the following.

- An unacceptable increase in hazard or an unacceptable decrease in safety at an intersection or on a roadway segment.
- An accelerated deterioration of the street pavement condition or the proposed regular use of a street not designated as a truck route for truck movements that can reasonably result in accelerated deterioration of the street pavement.
- An unacceptable impact on geometric design conditions at an intersection where two truck routes meet on the City arterial and collector network.
- An increase in congestion which constitutes an unacceptable adverse environmental impact under the State Environmental Policy Act.
- An increase in queuing that causes blocking of adjacent land uses or intersections.
- A reduction in any of the four (4) LOS standards below.

1. Arterial and Collector Corridor LOS: The level-of-service standard for each arterial and collector corridor is "D", unless otherwise specified in Chapter 2 of this plan. The City may require a

development or redevelopment to examine a shorter or longer corridor segment than is specified in Chapter 2, to ensure a project's total LOS impacts are evaluated.

2. Signalized Intersection LOS: The level-of-service standard for signalized intersections is "D", with the following exceptions; for signalized intersections of two Arterial roads the level-of-service standard during the AM and PM peak periods is "E" for a maximum duration of 30 minutes and for signalized intersections of two Principal Arterial roads the level-of-service standard during the AM and PM peak periods is "E" for a maximum duration of 60 minutes. The City may require a development or redevelopment to examine individual signalized or roundabout intersections for LOS impacts to ensure a project's total LOS impacts are evaluated.

3. Two-Way and All-Way Stop Controlled Intersection LOS: The level-of-service standard for two-way stop controlled and all-way stop controlled intersections, is "D". If LOS falls below the standard, analysis and mitigation may be required in a manner commensurate with the associated impacts. This may include, among other requirements, conducting a traffic signal warrant analysis and installing or financing a signal or roundabout.

4. Roundabout Intersection LOS: The level-of-service standard for roundabout controlled intersections is "D". The City may require a development or redevelopment to examine to examine roundabout intersections for LOS impacts to ensure a project's total LOS impacts are evaluated.

LOS-03: Establish a multi-modal level-of-service system in the future.

LOS-04: PM level of service is the city standard. AM level of service may need to be analyzed in situations where specialized conditions exist that disproportionately impact AM traffic.

OBJECTIVE: CONCURRENCY

To ensure transportation facilities do not fall below the adopted level-of-service standard, as required by the Growth Management Act.

GMA-01: Require developments to construct or finance transportation improvements and/or implement strategies that mitigate the impacts of new development concurrent with (within 6 years of) development, as required by the Growth Management Act.

GMA-02: New development that lowers a facility's level-of-service standard below the locally adopted minimum standard shall be denied, as required by the Growth Management Act. Strategies that may allow a development to proceed include, but are not limited to:

- Reducing the scope of a project (e.g. platting fewer lots or building less square footage);
- Building or financing new transportation improvements concurrent with (within 6 years of) development;
- Phasing/delaying a project;
- Requiring the development to incorporate Transportation Demand Management strategies; or
- Lowering level-of-service standards.

GMA-03: The denial of development in order to maintain concurrency may be grounds for declaring an emergency for the purpose of amending the *Comprehensive Plan* outside of the annual amendment cycle.

GMA-04: Evaluate city transportation facilities annually to determine compliance with the adopted level-of-service standards and, as necessary, amend the *Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) and *Capital Facilities Plan* (CFP) to remedy identified deficiencies.

GMA-05: Coordinate transportation improvements with the State, Counties, and neighboring jurisdictions to encourage through trips to occur on state facilities, reducing stress on the city street network.

OBJECTIVE: FINANCE

To finance the transportation systems necessary to serve new development, while ensuring the City has the capability to finance general transportation needs.

Funding-01: Require developments or redevelopments to construct transportation infrastructure systems needed to serve new developments.

Funding-02: Actively pursue the formation of Local Improvement Districts (LID) to upgrade existing streets and sidewalks and construct new streets to the appropriate standard.

Funding-03: Improvements that serve new developments will be constructed as a part of the development process. All costs will be borne by the developer when the development is served by the proposed transportation improvements. In some instances, the City may choose to participate in this construction if improvements serve more than adjacent developments.

Funding-04: Revenues for street transportation improvements should primarily provide for the orderly development of the City's transportation system in compliance with the *Comprehensive Transportation Plan*. The basic criterion for such funding should be the degree to which that project improves the overall transportation system and not the benefit that might accrue to individual properties. Where it is possible to establish a direct relationship between a needed improvement and a development, the development should be expected to contribute to its construction.

Funding-05: Encourage public/private partnerships for financing transportation projects that remedy existing and anticipated transportation problems, or that foster economic growth.

Funding-06: Aggressively seek and take advantage of federal, state, local, and private funding and lending sources that help implement the City's *Comprehensive Transportation Plan*.

Funding-07: Maintain a traffic impact fee system based on the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) guidelines, as modified by the City Council, as a means of enabling development to mitigate appropriately for associated traffic impacts.

Funding-08: Reassess the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan if funding for transportation facilities is insufficient to maintain adopted level-of-service standards.

Funding-09: Prioritize funding for projects supporting infrastructure and economic development within the designated regional growth center .

OBJECTIVE: QUALITY OF LIFE

To improve the quality of life for Auburn residents and businesses through design of the transportation system.

QOL-01: Enhance the livability of Auburn through a variety of mechanisms, including the innovative design and construction of roadways, non-motorized facilities, and associated improvements. Apply design standards that result in attractive and functional transportation facilities.

Moving Traffic More Effectively with Intelligent Transportation Systems

OBJECTIVE: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT (TSM)

To efficiently operate the existing transportation system through Transportation System Management (TSM) strategies, thereby maximizing resources and reducing the need for costly system capacity expansion projects.

TSM-01: Use TSM strategies to more efficiently utilize the existing infrastructure to optimize traffic flow and relieve congestion. Examples include:

- Re-channelization/restriping, adding turn lanes, adding /increasing number of through lanes
- Signal interconnect and optimization;
- Turn movement restrictions;
- Access Management; and
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

TSM-02: Support Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) implementation in coordination with Map 2-7. Future ITS corridors will be prioritized using the following criteria.

- Grants, loans, or partner funding can be leveraged to expand the ITS system on a specific corridor(s).
- There is existing infrastructure that would make it easier and more cost efficient to implement ITS elements.
- The corridor(s) completes a logical segment or missing link in the citywide ITS network.
- Significant travel-time savings can be achieved with ITS implementation.
- Corridor supports other City communication and technology needs.
- ITS implementation would have significant safety benefits, including reducing the need for police flaggers in intersections during events.

TSM-03: ITS elements include but are not limited to:

- Operational improvements such as traffic signal coordination;
- Traveler information including traffic alerts and emergency notification;
- Incident management; and
- Traffic data collection.

TSM-04: Require development to contribute its share of ITS improvements as mitigation.

TSM-05: Program signal timing to encourage specific movements and the use of travel routes that are underutilized.

OBJECTIVE: TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM)

To utilize transportation demand management strategies to lessen demand for increased street system capacity, help maintain the LOS standard, and enhance quality of life for those who use and benefit from the transportation system.

TDM-01: Encourage the use of high-occupancy vehicles (buses, carpool, and vanpool) through both private programs and under the direction of Metro and Pierce Transit.

TDM-02: Promote reduced employee travel during the daily peak travel periods through flexible work schedules and programs to allow employees to work part-time or full-time or at alternate work sites closer to home.

TDM-03: Encourage employers to provide TDM measures in the workplace through such programs as preferential parking for high-occupancy vehicles, car sharing, improved access for transit vehicles, and employee incentives for using high-occupancy vehicles.

TDM-04: In making funding decisions, consider transportation investments that support transportation demand management approaches by providing alternatives to single-occupant vehicles, such as transit, bikeways and pedestrian paths.

TDM-05: Recognize emerging TDM strategies such as tolling, variable-priced lanes, and car sharing may be effective in certain situations.

TDM-06: Coordinate with Metro and other jurisdictions to enhance Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) programs for CTR employers in Auburn.

TDM-07: Lead by example through implementation of a thorough and successful Commute-Trip Reduction (CTR) Program for City employees.

OBJECTIVE: PARKING

To ensure adequate coordination of parking needs with traffic and development needs and support development of a regional park-and ride lot system by Metro Transit, Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Parking-01: On-street parking should be allowed only when consistent with the function of the street and with traffic volumes.

Parking-02: New developments should provide adequate off-street parking to meet their needs.

Parking-03: Develop and maintain regulations, which foster a balance between meeting the need for public parking and ensuring developers provide adequate parking to meet the demand generated by new development.

Parking-04: In certain cases, such as in the Regional Growth Center and in areas with high pedestrian and transit use, it may be appropriate to reduce the developer parking obligation to achieve other community benefits or employ innovative parking strategies such as the use of "park & walk" lots, where people could park their vehicles and walk to nearby destinations.

Parking-05: The City shall evaluate new residential subdivisions with constrained space for driveways, utility services, street lights, street trees, and fire hydrants and the resultant impact on the provision of adequate on-street parking. Where appropriate, the City shall require the subdivision to provide dispersed locations of on-street parking (or street accessible parking) to meet their needs in addition to the zoning code required off-street parking.

Parking-06: Encourage park & ride lots on sites adjacent to compatible land uses with convenient access to the Auburn Station, SR 18, SR 167, and all regional transportation corridors.

Parking-07: Work proactively with Sound Transit, WSDOT, Metro Transit, and Pierce Transit to ensure the adequate supply of park & ride capacity in Auburn.

OBJECTIVE: RIGHT-OF-WAY

To retain and preserve existing right-of-way, and identify and acquire new right-of-way as needed to achieve the City's objectives.

ROW-01: The acquisition and preservation of right-of-way is a key component of maintaining a viable transportation system. Methods used to acquire and preserve right-of-way include:

- Requiring dedication of right-of-way as a condition of development;
- Purchasing right-of-way at fair market value; and
- Acquiring development rights and easements from property owners.

ROW-02: Preserve and protect existing right-of-way through the issuance of permits such as ROW Use permits and franchise and public way agreements, by monitoring and responding to right-of- way encroachments and safety impacts, and by limiting vacations of public right-of-way.

ROW-03: Vacate right-of-way only when it clearly will not be a future need or to support economic development.

OBJECTIVE: MAINTENANCE AND PRESERVATION

To maintain the City's transportation system at a level that is comparable with the design standards applied to new facilities.

Prsrv-01: Establish programs and schedules for the level and frequency of roadway and non-motorized system maintenance.

Prsrv-02: In order to help ensure the long term preservation of the city street system, the City shall prohibit non-local trip heavy vehicles from traveling on city streets , unless the City permits such travel via the issuance of a temporary haul permit that requires appropriate mitigation.

Prsrv-03: Establish standards of street repair and seek to obtain sufficient financing to attain and maintain a safe system in good condition.

Prsrv-04: Continue to implement the "Save Our Streets" program for maintenance and rehabilitation of local streets.

Prsrv-05: Continue to implement the arterial/collector streets maintenance and rehabilitation program.

Prsrv-06: Develop and implement operations and maintenance procedures to ensure ongoing effectiveness of LID infrastructure.

Prsrv-07: In order to help ensure the long term preservation of the city street system, the City may prohibit trenching or cutting into newly constructed or newly overlaid pavements for a period of 5 years. Overlays of up to the full roadway width of affected pavement surface should be required as mitigation in the event cuts into new pavements cannot be avoided.

Prsrv-08: City shall notify and coordinate with all private and public utilities within the City limits when planning to complete pavement overlay's or reconstruction.

5.2 Street System

Save Our Streets - Patching Treatment

Save Our Streets - Overlay

OBJECTIVE: COMPLETE STREETS

Ensure Auburn's transportation system is designed to enable comprehensive, integrated, safe access for users of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, transit riders and operators, and truck operators.

Helping those with Special Needs

Street-01: Plan for and develop a balanced transportation system, which provides safe access and connectivity to transportation facilities for users of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, transit users and operators, and truck operators.

Street-02: Plan for, design, and construct all transportation projects, whether City led or development driven, to provide appropriate accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users in a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, except in situations where the establishment of such facilities would be contrary to public health and safety or the cost would be excessively disproportionate to the need.

Street-03: Ensure the transportation system meets the requirements outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Street-04: The *Auburn Engineering Design Standards* is the primary vehicle for executing the Complete Streets Objective and should include standards for each roadway classification to guide implementation.

Street-05: Context and flexibility in balancing user needs shall be considered in the design of all projects and if necessary, a deviation from the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards* may be granted to ensure the Complete Streets Objective and supporting policies are achieved.

OBJECTIVE: STREET NETWORK

To provide an integrated street network of appropriate classes of streets designed to facilitate different types of traffic flows and access needs.

Street-06: The city street system shall be made up of three classes of streets:

- Arterials - a system of city, county, and state streets designed to move traffic to or from major traffic and activity generators. Arterials should be adequate in number, appropriately situated, and designed to accommodate moderate to high traffic volumes with a minimum of flow disruption.
- Collectors - a system of city streets that collect traffic and move it from the local street system to the arterial street system.
- Local streets - a system of city streets, which collect traffic from individual sites and conveys the traffic to the collector and arterial systems.

Street-07: The Functional Roadway Classifications Map shall serve as the adopted standard for identifying classified streets in the City of Auburn and the potential annexation areas.

Street-08: Ensure all eligible streets classified in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan are federally classified.

Street-09: Street standards shall be developed, modified, and implemented that reflect the street classification system and function. The design and management of the street network shall seek to improve the appearance of existing street corridors. Streets are recognized as an important component of the public spaces within the City and should include, where appropriate, landscaping to enhance the appearance of city street corridors. The standards should include provisions for streetscaping.

Street-10: The classification standards adopted in the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards* are considered the City's minimum standards for new streets. In cases in which the City attempts to rebuild an existing street within an established right- of-way, the City Council reserves the authority to determine if additional right-of-way should be obtained in order to realize the improvement.

Principal Arterial: 15th Street NW

Preservation of neighborhood continuity and cohesiveness will be respected.

Street-11: The standards for residential streets may be modified in cross section to provide better relationships between the different components of the street including, but not limited to, on-street parking, the landscape strip, and the sidewalk. Among other objectives, this may be done to balance the need to provide adequate parking and buffer pedestrians from traffic.

Street-12: These minimum standards do not limit or prevent developers from providing facilities that exceed the City's standards.

Street-13: Encourage King and Pierce counties to develop and implement a similar system of arterial designations within Auburn's potential annexation area.

Street-14: Designate new arterials to serve developing areas concurrent with approval of such development. Arterials shall be spaced in compliance with good transportation network planning principles, and support the importance of overall system circulation.

Street-15: Encourage King and Pierce counties to develop and implement a similar system of collector designations within Auburn's potential annexation area.

Street-16: Designate new collectors to serve developing areas concurrent with approval of such development. Collectors shall be spaced in compliance with good transportation network planning principles, and support the importance of overall system circulation.

Street-17: Access Tracts may be permitted, as long as emergency access can be guaranteed at all times.

Street-18: The local street network shall be developed to maximize the efficiency of the transportation network in residential areas and minimize through traffic in neighborhoods.

- The internal local residential street network for a subdivision should be designed to discourage regional through traffic and non-residential traffic from penetrating the subdivision or adjacent subdivisions.
- Where possible, streets shall be planned, designed and constructed to connect to future development.
- When applicable, non-motorized paths shall be provided at the end of dead end streets to shorten walking distances to an adjacent arterial or public facilities including, but notlimited to, schools and parks.
- Residential developments should be planned in a manner that minimizes the number of local street accesses to arterials and collectors.
- To promote efficient connectivity between areas of the community, existing stub end streets shall be linked to other streets in new development whenever the opportunity arises and the resulting traffic volumes are not likely to exceed acceptable volumes as identified in the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards*.

OBJECTIVE: PRIVATE STREETS

To discourage the development of private streets and ensure, if they are permitted by the City, they are constructed and maintained according to City standards.

Street-19: Private streets are discouraged, but may be permitted on a discretionary basis, as regulated by city code and the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards*.

Street-20: If a private street is permitted, it must be built to public street standards as identified in the *Auburn Engineering Design Standards* and *Construction Standards* manuals.

Street-21: Private streets must provide for emergency vehicle access and be privately maintained by an approved association or business. The City does not maintain private streets.

OBJECTIVE: ACCESS MANAGEMENT

To limit and provide access to the street network in a manner which improves and maintains public safety and roadway capacity.

Street-22: Seek consolidation of access points to state highways, arterials, and collectors. This will benefit the highway and city street system, reduce interference with traffic flows on arterials, and discourage through traffic on local streets. To achieve this level of access control, the City:

- Adopts and supports the State's controlled access policy on all state highway facilities;
- May acquire access rights along some arterials and collectors;
- Adopts design standards that identify access standards for each type of functional street classification;
- Encourages consolidation of access in developing commercial and high density residential areas through shared use of driveways and local access streets; and
- Will establish standards for access management, develop a planning process to work with the community and implement access management solutions on arterial corridors.

Street-23: Strive to prevent negative impacts to existing businesses, without compromising safety, when implementing access management.

OBJECTIVE: THROUGH TRAFFIC

To accommodate through traffic in the City as efficiently as possible, with a minimum of disruption to neighborhoods.

Street-24: Continue to coordinate with the Washington State Department of Transportation to facilitate the movement of traffic through the City.

Street-25: Encourage the State and Counties to develop through routes, which minimize the impact of through traffic on Auburn's residential neighborhoods.

Street-26: Actively solicit action by the State and Counties to program and construct those improvements needed to serve Auburn to the state and county arterial and freeway systems.

OBJECTIVE: TRAFFIC CALMING

To employ traffic calming techniques to improve safety and neighborhood quality.

Street-27: Implement the City's traffic calming program to improve neighborhood safety and quality.

Street-28: The traffic calming program shall require a technical analysis of existing conditions and appropriate treatments before actions are taken to fund and implement traffic calming measures.

Street-29: The traffic calming program shall incorporate neighborhood involvement and seek community support.

Street-30: New construction should incorporate traffic calming measures, as appropriate.

OBJECTIVE: FREIGHT MOVEMENTS

To facilitate the movements of freight and goods through Auburn with minimal adverse traffic and other environmental impacts.

Freight-01: The movement of freight and goods is recognized as an important component of Auburn's transportation system.

Freight-02: The movement of freight and goods which serve largely national, state, or regional needs should take place in such a way so that the impacts on the local transportation system are minimized. These movements should take place primarily on state highways, Interstates, or on grade-separated rail corridors in order to minimize the local impacts.

Freight-03: Seek public and private partners to leverage funds for freight improvement projects and associated mitigation.

Freight-04: Continue to work with the Freight Mobility Roundtable, FAST, FMSIB, and other local and regional groups to ensure regional needs are met, and local impacts are mitigated.

Freight-05: All through truck trips and the majority of local trips shall take place on designated truck routes, as identified on the truck route map, Map 2-3, of the *Comprehensive Transportation Plan*. This policy shall not apply to developments and uses operating under existing right-of-way use permits, traffic mitigation agreements or equivalent agreements directly related to the regulation of permitted haul routes.

Freight-06: If the City is unable to acquire funding to maintain existing truck routes to a Pavement Condition Index Standard of 70 on a segment of roadway, that route may be restricted or closed to truck travel.

Freight-07: Work towards designing and constructing future truck routes, as identified on the truck route map in Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan, to sustain routine truck traffic.

Freight-08: Local truck trips that have origins and/or destinations in Auburn may have to sometimes use routes not designated as truck routes. The City may approve the use of alternate routes not currently designated as truck routes for truck traffic, with appropriate mitigation. Approval may be made through issuance of right-of-way use permits, traffic mitigation agreements or equivalent agreements.

Freight-09: Development shall be required to mitigate the impacts of construction generated truck traffic on the City's transportation system, based on the City's LOS standard.

Freight-10: Temporary haul routes for overweight or oversized vehicles shall be permitted under circumstances acceptable to the City and with appropriate mitigation. A temporary haul permit must be obtained prior to the hauling of oversized or overweight freight.

Freight-11: Truck traffic in residential neighborhoods shall be prohibited, except for local deliveries within said neighborhood, unless no other possible route is available, in which case mitigation may be required.

OBJECTIVE: LATECOMER POLICY

To enable private investors to recover a portion of improvement costs for transportation facility improvements that benefit other developments.

LC-01: The City may enter into latecomer agreements where substantial transportation investments are made by one party that legitimately should be reimbursed by others, such as, when the infrastructure improvement will benefit a future development. Such agreements will be at the discretion of the City Council. Latecomer agreements do not apply to situations in which a property owner is required to construct improvements per an existing city code provision, such as in the case of half-street and other frontage improvements.

OBJECTIVE: ROUNDABOUTS

To seek air quality, safety, and capacity benefits by promoting the use of roundabouts over traffic signals.

RB-01: Intersections controlled with roundabouts are preferred over signalized intersections whenever feasible and appropriate due to the benefits achieved with roundabouts including reduced collision rate for vehicles and pedestrians, less severe collisions, smoother traffic flow, reduced vehicle emissions and fuel consumption, lower long-term maintenance costs, and improved aesthetics.

RB-02: Developments required to signalize an intersection as mitigation for a project may be required to install a roundabout instead of a traffic signal. The feasibility of acquiring the land needed for a roundabout will be considered as a factor in this requirement.

5.3 Non-motorized System

OBJECTIVE: PLANNING THE NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM

To plan a coordinated, interconnected network of non-motorized transportation facilities that effectively provide access to local and regional destinations, improve overall quality of life, and support healthy community and environmental principles.

NM-01: Implement land use regulations and encourage site design that promotes non-motorized forms of transportation.

NM-02: Include the role of non-motorized transportation in all transportation planning, programming, and if suitable, capital improvement projects.

Interurban Trail at W Main Street

NM-03: Plan for continuous non-motorized circulation routes within and between existing, new or redeveloping commercial, residential, and industrial developments. Transportation planning shall seek to allow pedestrians and bicyclists the ability to cross or avoid barriers in a manner that is safe and convenient.

NM-04: Actively seek to acquire land along corridors identified for future trail development in the *Comprehensive Transportation Plan* and *Auburn Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plan 2005* and subsequent Park plans.

NM-05: Schedule, plan and co-sponsor events that support recreational walking and bicycling. These events should emphasize their recreational and health values and introduce people to the transportation capabilities of bicycling and walking.

NM-06: Improve and protect the non-motorized transportation system through the establishment of level-of-service goals for non-motorized facilities.

OBJECTIVE: DEVELOPING THE NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM

To build a safe, attractive, and inter-connected non-motorized transportation system.

NM-06: Develop and maintain the non-motorized system, including bike routes and, walkways, ~~and equestrian paths,~~ to encourage significant recreational use.

NM-07: Develop and maintain the non-motorized system, including bike routes, sidewalks, and multi-use paths in a manner that promotes non-motorized travel as a viable mode of transportation.

NM-08: Develop the non-motorized system to accommodate appropriate alternative forms of non-motorized transport, as well as medically necessary motorized transport.

NM-09: Appropriate street furniture, lighting, signage, and landscaping should be installed along non-motorized routes to increase safety and to ensure that facilities are inviting to users.

NM-10: Clearly sign and mark major non-motorized routes to guide travelers and improve safety.

NM-11: Non-motorized routes shall be constructed to accommodate emergency vehicle access and be amenable to law enforcement.

NM-12: Locate and design non-motorized transportation systems so that they contribute to the safety, efficiency, enjoyment and convenience of residential neighborhoods.

NM-13: The development of facilities supporting non-motorized transportation should be provided as a regular element of new construction projects. Improvements shall be secured through the development review process.

NM-14: Minimize hazards and obstructions on the non-motorized transportation system by properly designing, constructing, managing, and maintaining designated routes in the system.

OBJECTIVE: PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL

To enhance and encourage pedestrian travel in Auburn.

Ped-01: Promote pedestrian travel within the city and connections to adjacent communities with emphasis placed on safety and on connectivity to priority destinations such as schools, parks, the downtown, and other pedestrian-oriented areas. Pedestrian-oriented areas are those areas with high pedestrian traffic or potential and are identified in this plan. These areas and streets shall encourage pedestrian travel by providing enhanced pedestrian improvements or controls on motorized traffic.

Ped-02: Focus investments on and aggressively seek funding for the high priority pedestrian corridors, identified in Map 3-2.

Ped-03: Require developers to incorporate pedestrian facilities into new development and redevelopment in conformance with the Auburn City Code.

Ped-04: Continue to construct new and rehabilitate existing sidewalks through a sidewalk improvement program.

Ped-05: Seek ways to provide pedestrian amenities such as streetlights, trees, seating areas, signage, and public art along all major pedestrian travel routes.

Ped-06: Work towards buffering pedestrian walkways from moving traffic, particularly in areas with high levels of pedestrian movements, such as near schools and commercial areas, and along corridors with heavy vehicular traffic.

Ped-07: Pedestrian crossings shall be developed at locations with significant pedestrian traffic and designed to match pedestrian desire lines.

Ped-08: Encourage the formation of LIDs to develop pedestrian pathways and other non- motorized amenities throughout the City. Partner with the local school districts to improve Safe Walking Routes to School.

OBJECTIVE: BICYCLE TRAVEL

To improve Auburn's bicycling network.

Bike-01: Develop programs and publications, and work with local employers to encourage citywide bicycle commuting.

Bike-02: Designate, develop, and maintain high priority bicycle routes, in conformance with Map 3-4, that create an interconnected system of bike facilities for local and regional travel, including on-street bike routes, and multi-purpose trails.

Bike-03: During the development review process, ensure projects are consistent with the Non-motorized chapter of the Comprehensive Transportation Plan by requiring right-of-way dedications and other improvements as needed to develop the bicycle network.

Bike-04: Focus investments on and aggressively seek funding for the high priority future bicycle corridors, identified in Map 3-4 and corridors and connectors, as applicable, specified in Map 3-5.

Bike-05: Encourage the inclusion of convenient and secure bicycle storage facilities in all large public and private developments.

Bike-06: Continue to develop and implement Sharrows and associated Share the Road signage in residential and some non-residential areas of City.

Bike-07: Continue installation of bike lanes in parts of City where there is existing/adequate right-of-way.

Bike-08: Develop an Auburn specific bicycle signage program to highlight corridors, connectors and in-city/out of city destinations.

Bike-09: Make improvements to existing Interurban Trail – signage, pavement conditions, vegetation maintenance, grade crossings, and upgrades to user facilities at Main Street crossing.

Bike-10: Develop a capital improvement program project with cost estimate for the design and construction of bicycle/pedestrian bridge at southern terminus of M St. west of existing Stuck River Vehicle Bridge.

Bike-11: Develop a capital improvement program project with cost estimate for the design and construction of innovative and safe pedestrian/bicycle crossing at M St./Auburn Way South intersection.

Bike-12: Install one or more bike boxes through a pilot program approach to test effectiveness and public response. Focus pilot program efforts at key intersections such as the West Main Street and C Street intersection, the M Street and Auburn Way South intersection and the Ellingson Road and A Street intersection.

Bike-13: Continue to install bicycle/pedestrian crossing warning systems along Interurban Trail at all crossing locations consisting of S 277th Street, 37th Street NW, and W Main Street.

Bike-14: Develop and maintain an official Auburn Bicycling Guide Map.

Bike-15: In coordination with the City Council, Mayor's Office, Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce, Auburn Tourism Board and appropriate City departments develop strategies and actions for the implementation of the bicycle oriented economic development recommendations of the Auburn Bicycle Task Force.

~~**OBJECTIVE: EQUESTRIAN TRAVEL**~~

~~To improve Auburn's equestrian environment.~~

~~**Eq-01:** Strive to incorporate equestrian facilities into the design of trail and transportation facilities, where possible and appropriate. These efforts should be concentrated south of the White River in Auburn's southeast corner and in Lea Hill, but considered for other areas of the City.~~

~~**Eq-02:** Transportation projects, and other public and private projects, in lower-density neighborhoods should be evaluated, and where possible, planned, designed and constructed to be compatible with equestrian use.~~

~~**Eq-03:** Create an interconnected system of safe equestrian trails and provide adequate equestrian amenities adjacent to those trails.~~

5.4 Transit System

OBJECTIVE: TRANSIT SERVICES

To encourage the continued development of public transit systems and other alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel, to relieve traffic congestion, to reduce reliance on the automobile for personal transportation needs, to improve route coverage and scheduling, and to ensure transit is a convenient and reliable mode option for both local and regional trips.

Transit-01: Partner with WSDOT, Metro Transit, Pierce Transit, Sound Transit, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and private businesses to achieve Auburn's transit and passenger rail objectives.

Transit-02: Work with local and regional transit agencies to serve new and existing trip generators in Auburn, such as colleges, commercial areas, and community facilities.

Transit-03: Encourage Sound Transit, Metro Transit, and Pierce Transit to expand transit to underserved areas of Auburn.

Transit-04: Partner with WSDOT, Amtrak, and Sound Transit to establish an intercity passenger rail stop at the Auburn Station.

Transit-05: Consider both the transit impacts and the opportunities presented by major development proposals when reviewing development under the State Environmental Policy Act.

Transit-06: Encourage the inclusion of transit facilities in new development when appropriate.

Transit-07: Encourage bus stops to be located at well-lit and accessible areas.

Transit-08: Work with transit providers and regional agencies to develop a transit system that is fully accessible to pedestrians and the physically challenged, and which integrates the access, safety, and parking requirements of bicyclists.

Transit-09: Identify areas of concentrated transit traffic and impose design and construction standards that accommodate the unique considerations associated with bus travel, such as street geometry and pedestrian linkages.

Transit-10: Work with transit providers to create new commuter – oriented transit routes and maintain existing commuter routes linked with Sounder commuter rail.

Transit-11: Develop rider information packages that inform users of commuter, transit, rail, trail, and air transportation opportunities.

5.5 Air Transportation

OBJECTIVE: AIR TRANSPORTATION

To provide an efficient municipal airport, serving light general aviation aircraft, as an integral part of the City's transportation system.

Air-01: Continue to develop the Auburn Municipal Airport in accordance with the *Airport Master Plan*.

Air-02: The airport shall be managed as a general aviation facility; the use of jet aircrafts and helicopters that create noise and land use conflicts shall be evaluated, in conformance with FAA regulations.

Air-03: The siting of new airport facilities shall consider neighborhood impacts such as increased noise generated from the use of those facilities.

Air-04: Use of the airport by non-conventional aircraft such as ultra lights shall be discouraged, in conformance with FAA regulations.

Air-05: The City's zoning ordinance and other appropriate regulatory measures shall enforce the airport clear zones as regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The impact of development on air safety shall be assessed through SEPA review, and appropriate mitigation measures shall be required by the City.

Air-06: Minimize or eliminate the potentially adverse effects of light and glare on the operation of the Auburn Airport.

CHAPTER 6.

FUNDING

The ability to finance the maintenance and enhancement of the transportation system is critical to the implementation of this plan and the success of the future transportation system. This chapter details the financial planning tools and funding mechanisms available to accomplish these goals.

6.1 Financial Planning and Programming

The City updates its financial plan annually in order to ensure programmed transportation improvements are financially feasible and prioritized in accordance with available funds. The *Transportation Improvement Program* and *Capital Facilities Plan* are the two financial planning documents the City uses to identify its financial strategy for implementing transportation improvements.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a six year plan which lists programmed transportation improvements in the following categories: roadway improvement projects, intersection improvement projects, non-motorized and transit projects, preliminary engineering and miscellaneous projects, and preservation projects. Transportation needs are identified by examining the latest information concerning safety and accident history, growth trends, the traffic model, traffic studies, and the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The City adopts an updated ~~a six year Transportation Improvement Program (~~TIP~~)~~ annually, including a revenue forecast and analysis of available funding. Projects are then prioritized according to a number of factors including safety, capacity needs, access needs, and the likelihood of securing funding. The first three years of the TIP must be financially constrained, so project programming is often limited due to funding limitations.

Auburn City Hall

The TIP is an important tool for identifying funding needs and developing a financial plan for project implementation. It also feeds into the Capital Facilities Plan ~~*Capital Facilities Plan*~~.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN

The *Capital Facilities Plan* (CFP) is the *Comprehensive Plan* element which identifies the financial plan for implementing all capital improvements in Auburn. Transportation improvements are included in the *Capital Facilities Plan*, which is amended annually. The *Capital Facilities Plan* enables the City to fulfill the GMA requirement of having a multiyear financing plan based on identified transportation needs. It also enables the City to make informed decisions about its investment of public dollars and make timely decisions about maintaining levels-of-service in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan standards. The 2016-2035 Transportation Plan capacity projects are forecast to cost approximately $196 million. The revenue sources proposed to be used by the City of Auburn for these transportation improvements are described below. Forecasts are based on current funding levels for City funds and based on past trends for grants and partnerships.

6.2 Funding Sources

The City uses a combination of public and private funding sources to implement transportation improvements in Auburn, both for maintenance activities and capital improvements.

GENERAL TAX REVENUES

The City receives tax revenues from a variety of state, regional, and local sources including the real estate excise tax (REET), sales tax, and the motor vehicle fuel tax (MVFT). Despite these revenues, the City has numerous maintenance and capital improvement needs that cannot be met by existing tax revenues alone.

Recognizing the need to raise additional revenues for the local street system, Auburn residents approved the 'Save Our Streets' (SOS) program in 2004 for specific funding from property taxes, and in doing so, created a funding program to help rehabilitate Auburn's residential streets. In 2013, the City Council modified the funding source for the program to be from Construction Sales Tax instead of property taxes.

With the success of the 'Save Our Streets' program, the City intends to pursue a program that will help fund arterial and collector street maintenance. The City ~~does have~~has an Arterial Street Fund; however, these funds have proven inadequate in addressing all the maintenance and capital needs of the arterial system.

In addition, the City has also created an Arterial Street Preservation Program to preserve and rehabilitate the pavement on these classes of streets. The program is funded through a one percent utility tax which was adopted by City Council during 2008.

2016 – 2035 Forecast:

REET: $6,000,000

Sales Tax: $32,000,000 (Local Roads Fund)

MVFT: $10,700,000

Utility Tax: $40,000,000 (Arterial Roads Fund)

GRANTS

The City has an active grant program and continually seeks grants, both private and public, to improve Auburn's transportation system. The following is a list of some of the grants the City has historically applied for and will likely apply for again in the future.

FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAMS

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) replaced the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities with the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The original TE activities remain eligible for TE funds that were previously apportioned until the TE funds are obligated, rescinded, or lapse. MAP-21 funds projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the inter-modal transportation system. The program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, including the restoration of historic transportation facilities, the construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, landscaping and scenic beautification, and the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff.

The **Surface Transportation Program (STP)** provides flexible funding that may be used by states and localities for projects on any public road, non-motorized improvements, bridge projects, and transit capital projects.

The **Safety Program** is a federal program targeted at reducing accident rates at intersections and along corridors, particularly at those locations with higher than average fatality and injury rates. Funds come from the Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Program included in MAP-21. HSIP requires that states program and spend safety funds according to their Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Washington State's plan is called Target Zero.

The **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)** program is a federally funded program administered through PSRC. CMAQ funds projects and programs in air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas, which reduce transportation related emissions.

In addition to the aforementioned programs, the federal government has an annual appropriations bill. Auburn may apply through the offices of Washington senators and congressional members for funding for specific projects. This funding source has historically been a successful means of financing some of the City's more expensive capital improvement projects.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

President Obama signed MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141) into law on July 6, 2012. This major transportation law provided $105 billion for the nation's surface transportation programs over a two-year period. MAP-21 replaced the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which was enacted in 2005 with an expiration date of 2009. Congress had passed nine short-term extensions to SAFETEA-LU before finally agreeing the two-year MAP-21 almost three years later. After a series of extensions, MAP21 is now set to expire October 29, 2015. Efforts are currently underway in Congress to reauthorize the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).The 2009 *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* also dedicates funding to numerous programs, many of which can be used to help finance the City's programmed transportation improvement projects.

STATE FUNDED PROGRAMS

The **Safe Routes to Schools Program** is a state and federally funded program that aims to protect children from traffic related deaths and injuries and promotes a healthy lifestyle by encouraging bicycling and walking to school.

The **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Grant** is a state funded program that funds non-motorized safety improvements.

The **Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)** administers annual grant programs that fund roadway and non-motorized projects that improve safety, mobility, capacity, and promote economic development. The TIB offers several programs, each of which emphasizes different funding criteria.

The **Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)** is a state funded program that provides low-cost financing for public facility improvements. Public entities are eligible to apply for and receive loans and grants for public facilities linked to economic development outcomes such as private business investment and job creation. CERB also finances site-specific studies and plans.

2016-2035 Forecast:

Federal Grants: $60,000,000

State Grants: $30,000,000

LOANS

Low-interest loans are also available to municipalities. For example the Washington State Department of Commerce Public Works Board offers low-interest loans (PWTF) for local governments to finance public infrastructure construction and rehabilitation. Eligible projects must improve public health and safety, respond to environmental issues, promote economic development, or upgrade system performance. Roads, streets and bridges are eligible for these loans. The loans can be strategically employed to leverage grant funding by providing a local match, enabling the City to compete for funding for public infrastructure projects. In addition, the City has the option of issuing bonds for public infrastructure projects.

2016-2035 Forecast:

PWTFL: No PWTF loans are included in the forecast.

PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The City has an established traffic impact fee system based on the Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) guidelines, as amended by the City Council. The fee system estimates the amount of traffic each development is anticipated to create, based on the land use type and size. Traffic impact fees compensate the City for the capacity improvements needed to accommodate the new trips generated by new development. In turn, the City uses the revenues to expand the street network through the capacity projects included in the TIP. The fees are based on the costs of the capacity project included in the TIP and forecast growth throughout the City. The fees are updated annually following the adoption of the TIP by City Council. Payment of the impact fee does not relieve developers of their codified obligation to construct half-street improvements, nor the need to mitigate project impacts identified through the SEPA process, which may include the construction of an identified TIP project (and a credit for the impact fee contribution towards that project).

The City also charges a truck impact fee for certain land-use types which are associated with significant truck traffic generation, such as commercial and industrial uses. These fees are used to address impacts on the City's truck routes and other truck-related infrastructure.

2016-2035 Forecast:

Traffic Impact Fees: $20,000,000

Development Improvements: $15,000,000

FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS

The City has successfully formed several funding partnerships, which have enabled it to leverage its resources in implementing transportation improvements.

MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE (MIT)

The City anticipates continuing to partner with MIT on funding projects of mutual benefit through out the City. A recent partnership project is Auburn Way South (Dogwood to Hemlock). The City expects MIT to be a major funding partner on the Auburn Way South Bypass project and also to participate in the remainder of the (SR-164) Auburn Way South Corridor improvement projects.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (WSDOT)

The City anticipates continuing to partner with WSDOT on funding projects involving the State Routes through the City. Recent appropriations by the state legislature budgeted $15 million for the Auburn Way South Bypass project for the Eastb ~~B~~ound Off-Ramp.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Local Improvement Districts (LID) enable city investment in a specified area by leveraging city funds, when available, with contributions from property owners in the district. In essence, LID's are a means of using limited city resources to improve neighborhood quality through improvement of streets, sidewalks, and other features of the roadway.

FAST (FREIGHT ACTION STRATEGY TEAM)

FAST is an innovative partnership composed of transportation agencies, ports, cities, economic development organizations, trucking, rail, and business interests. One of FAST's primary objectives is to obtain funding for projects that improve freight mobility. FAST helped fund the S 277th Street Grade Separation, the 3rd Street SW Grade Separation, and the M Street Underpass project.

FMSIB (FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD)

The mission of the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) is to create a comprehensive and coordinated state program to facilitate freight movement to local, national, and international markets. FMSIB is also charged with lessening the impact of freight movements on local communities. FMSIB obtains funding directly from legislative appropriations and has contributed funds to the 3rd Street SW Grade Separation, the S 277th Street Grade Separation and the M Street Underpass projects.

2016-2035 Forecast:

MIT: $15,000,000

WSDOT: $20,000,000

LID: No LID funds are included in the forecast.

FAST: No future FAST funding is included in the forecast.

FMSIB: No FMSIB funds are included in the forecast.

FUTURE FINANCING POSSIBILITIES

As the transportation system evolves, so will the range of financing options available to the City. In general, the financing options currently available under state law fall short of meeting current and anticipated transportation improvement needs. Hence, the City will continue to seek fair and sustainable strategies for funding the maintenance activities and capital improvements needed to preserve the City's transportation network. Among other strategies, the implementation of a street utility may be employed to fund many of the City's transportation needs.

TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT

In 1987, the State Legislature created Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs) as an option for local governments to fund transportation improvements. Chapter 36.73 of the Revised Code of Washington provides for the establishment of TBD by cities and counties to levy and impose various taxes and fees to generate revenues to support transportation improvements within the district. A TBD is a quasi-municipal corporation and independent taxing district created for the sole purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, providing, and funding transportation improvements within the district. In 2005 and 2007, the Legislature amended the TBD statute to expand its uses and revenue authority, including the ability to authorize a $20 annual vehicle license fee (VLF), and up to an additional $80 of VLF, if approved by voters within the district. The state legislature provided local governments with these tools because inflation has eroded the local share of gas tax and a series of statewide ballot initiatives passed over the last 12 years have eliminated other traditional sources of funding for local transportation needs.

The City of Auburn created a TBD in 2011. The TBD is currently considering the implementation of the $20 annual vehicle fee, possible local sales tax increase and how the revenue raised could be best used to achieve the goals of the TBD.

2016-2035 Forecast: (If Authorized)

TBD: $16,000,000

STREET UTILITY

A street utility would be used similarly to how sewer and water utility fees are now collected. A monthly or annual fee would be charged to residents and businesses in Auburn, for example via a flat fee or through a pro-rated fee based on anticipated usage.

The implementation of a street utility would require a change in state law. The street utility system is one in which all residents and businesses would pay their fair share of funding street maintenance and repair. If implemented, a street utility would undoubtedly be combined with the suite of other financing strategies the City currently employs.

2016-2035 Forecast: (If Authorized)

Street Utility: $5-9 Million per year

6.3 Revenue Shortfall Contingency

Revenue forecasts for City funds are considered to be relatively secured. Other revenue such as grants and partnership funding can be slightly more unpredictable. While all the revenue currently forecast above does fully fund the transportation plan improvements, if shortfalls arise the City will have to take one or more of the following actions to maintain compliance with GMA concurrency requirements;

- Supplant the projected budget shortfall with other existing City funds.
- Enact new sources of revenue.
- Revise Land Use Plan to reduce development capacity and resultant need for additional transportation improvements.
- Lower the LOS Standard sufficiently to reduce the need for additional transportation improvements.
- Impose restriction (moratorium) on further development with impacts to areas not meeting LOS standards until current LOS standard is met.

6.4 Funding Strategies, Project Prioritization

The City uses a variety of criteria to prioritize transportation projects, including safety, mobility, and overall community benefit. In addition, the City also considers the availability of funding and the ability to leverage City dollars to raise addition funds. For example, grants are often available for specific types of capital investments, whereas they are more limited for maintenance/preservation. Hence, the City often needs to budget for maintenance/preservation through tax revenues. Capital improvements may be financially secured through a combination of public and private investment. Hence, project prioritization for capital improvements is often partially dependent on the ability to secure outside funding. Likewise, maintenance and preservation is highly dependent on the limited tax revenues available to the City. In the future, the City will need to continue lobbying for its share of federal, state, and county tax revenues, seek creative avenues for securing private investment dollars and grant funds, and potentially implement new funding strategies such as tolling and street utility fees.

CHAPTER 7.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Auburn Time
Auburn Station Clock

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan, a long-range plan with the horizon year 2035, predicts the needs and conditions of the future transportation system, enabling the City to anticipate its future needs. Nonetheless, the transportation network is dynamic, constantly evolving due to circumstances beyond the scope and influence of this plan. Hence, regular updates are necessary to ensure the Plan remains current and relevant.

7.1 Annual Updates

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan can be amended annually as part of the City's regular Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle, which ensures proposed changes go through a public review process before the amended plan is adopted by the City Council at the end of the calendar year. In preparation for the annual amendment cycle, the City will review the plan and propose updates as needed. These proposed updates may be due to changes to City priorities, the availability of new information, or the relevance of certain plan components.

RE-EVALUATION

The annual re-evaluation process provides an opportunity for the City to identify progress made in implementing the Plan, as well as identify new needs that have arisen since the previous update. The update will consider the street, non-motorized and transit systems, and assess whether the Plan adequately addresses the implementation strategies necessary to ensure the transportation infrastructure continues to grow in line with the City's objectives.

As part of this process, the City will review its future projects list and update the *Transportation Improvement Program* and the *Capital Facilities Plan* as appropriate. It will also review and update the Policies and Funding chapters, in order to remain consistent with the City's vision and current with potential funding strategies.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan contains a range of technical data, much of which informs other elements of the Plan. As part of the annual amendment cycle, technical information, such as traffic volumes, existing levels-of-service, roadway classifications, and transit route and ridership information will be updated as appropriate. Updated information will inform

much of the evaluation process, enabling the City to quantify system changes over time and make appropriate decisions in planning the future system.

MODEL UPDATES

The City's traffic model shall be updated on a regular basis, every few years, as new land use, employment, and housing data becomes available. Model updates are important as they ensure the City has an accurate understanding of how land use patterns, employment, and other factors impact future transportation conditions, enabling the City Council to make informed policy decisions. The model also provides an understanding of the impacts associated with different projects, allowing the City to devise a revised list of future projects to improve capacity and safety, as well as achieve other priorities.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY

The annual evaluation process is an opportunity to ensure the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is consistent with other elements of the City's *Comprehensive Plan*, including the land-use element, economic development element, *Auburn Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*, *Transportation Improvement Program*, and *Capital Facilities Plan*. Hence, as part of the annual amendment cycle, the City will ensure these plan components are consistent with and supportive of each other.

7.2 Multi-Year Updates

The City has the opportunity to preform annual updates to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan on an as needed basis to account for significant changes which have occurred during the previous year. A more exhaustive process is periodically necessary, hence, a thorough rewrite of the Plan shall be conducted every five to eight years. This endeavor will include a broad public outreach effort with input from neighboring jurisdictions, state and regional agencies, and Auburn residents and businesses. Much like the process for the 2009 update, it will present an opportunity to holistically examine the current transportation system and lay the framework for development of the future system.

modified through the development of the subarea plan.

6. The Mt. Rainier Vista and Stuck River Road Special Planning Areas shall be coordinated subarea plans.

LU-129 Auburn Municipal Airport Area – The area east of Auburn's Municipal Airport is an features industrial land use designations. While industrial type uses are now located here, the area is highly suited for air related activities. The City will encourage use in this area to take advantage of its proximity to the Airport and control adverse effects to airport operations.

Designated Areas - Areas of Concern Policies.

LU-130 AWS/Auburn Black Diamond Rd – The area between Auburn-Black Diamond Road and the Burlington Northern Railroad currently lacks urban facilities necessary to support urban development. Major development proposals shall be carefully assessed under SEPA to ensure that the development can be supported by the available facilities. Once property owners are able to demonstrate to the City that they can provide urban services (municipal water and sewer service, urban roads and storm water management) necessary to support the intensity of development proposed within the entire area, the Plan designation and zoning for this area should be changed to an urban residential or commercial classification. The appropriate classification(s) shall be determined after a review of the development proposal and the pertinent Comprehensive Plan policies.

LU-131 Pike Street NE – The area located north of 8th NE, east of Harvey Road, and south of 22nd NE is inadequately served by residential arterials. No increase in density or other development which would increase traffic demand in this area should be approved.

LU-132 8th Street NE – The areas paralleling 8th Street NE located between Auburn Way and M Street are designated for multiple family residential while 8th Street NE is designated as a minor arterial. However, the road is not currently constructed to this standard and is not able to support current traffic demand adequately. The Plan designation would greatly increase traffic volumes. Implementation of the Plan designations should not occur until 8th Street NE is constructed to the adequate arterial standard and water service is upgraded. Up zones should not be granted from current zoning until these stems are upgraded or guaranteed.

Designated Areas - Economic Development Strategy Ares Policies.

LU-133 The City should adopt a formal subarea plan for each of the seven economic development strategy areas (listed below) as an element of the Comprehensive Plan. Each economic development strategy area subarea plan should identify the uses, intensities, and infrastructure development necessary to support the types of business and activities that are most consistent with community aspirations. Each subarea plan should address and include policies regarding the expected level of housing density (or residential growth targets) and employment growth targets.

- Auburn Way South Corridor
- Auburn Way North Corridor
- NW Auburn Manufacturing Village
- 15th St. SW/C St. SW/W Valley Hwy. N
- A St. SE
- SE 312th St. /124th Ave SE
- M St. SE/NE between Auburn Way N and Auburn Way S

Adopted Areas Policies.

LU-134 Adoption or revision of a subarea plan will be treated as a comprehensive plan amendment and will comply with the Growth Management Act, Countywide planning policies, Vision 2040, and the Core Comprehensive Plan.