

Christmas Tree Lighting



On Thursday, December 5, more than 350 people gathered at the Community Center for the annual Tree Lighting and Festival Fun night. There were crafts, live entertainment, and of course, Santa. Families enjoyed the indoor bouncy house and also had a chance to take a photo with Santa. The crowd was served free food and enjoyed the musical talents of the Tyee High School Jazz Ensemble, Tyee High School Choir and the ABC... 123 Preschool. At the end of the event, everyone gathered outside of the Community Center to join Santa with the countdown to the Tree Lighting.



SeaTac Police Catch Baggage Thieves



Late in the evening of Wednesday, December 4, three young women from Alaska arrived in SeaTac for, what has become, an annual visit to the Seattle area. After leaving the airport, they stopped at a SeaTac restaurant for a late meal. When they returned to their vehicle, they discovered that all of their bags had been stolen. They immediately made a report to SeaTac Police.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, December 5, one of the women reported that her iPad had "pinged" at a hotel in the area near SeaTac. At that point, Detective Minshull went to the hotel. He worked with management to review the security video and together they were able to identify two individuals, walking into the hotel and later into a room, while in possession of two distinctive bags that belonged to the women.

When detectives and patrol officers arrived at the suspect's hotel room, everyone from the room surrendered. Subsequently nearly all of the victims' property was recovered, although some Apple gear had already been sold by the suspects.



Come to the Airport-Adjacent/City Center Neighborhoods **Community Planning Meeting**

Come to Community Planning Meeting #2 & Help Plan the Future of your Neighborhood
(Yes, that means you Bow Lake, McMicken Heights & other airport neighbors!)

- **Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 11, 6:30-8:00pm (open house format with presentation at 7:00pm)
- **Location:** McMicken Heights Elementary Cafeteria (3708 S 168th St)

REASONS TO COME:

- Find out what we heard from residents and businesses about the area (eating, shopping, driving, walking, etc.).
- Confirm the community vision for what you think the area next to the airport should be like in the future.

OTHER REASONS TO COME: Have fun! (Talk to your neighbors, do kid-friendly crafts, enjoy refreshments, win a door prize...)

We hope to see you there!

Questions? See the project website at: www.seatacwa.gov/citycenter or email Kate Kaehny, Senior Planner, kkaehny@seatacwa.gov.



Provide feedback on SEA tree removal and replanting project



The Port of Seattle is in the process of removing and replanting trees around Sea-Tac Airport to improve safety during takeoffs and landings. The trees identified for removal have grown or will soon grow into the airport's airspace and pose a hazard to flight operations.

Half of this work, centered around trees on Port property, is nearly complete. The Port replanted four times as many trees and shrubs as it removed and is on the second year of monitoring the success of its new plantings. The second half of the work, centered on non-Port property, begins in 2020, and includes the removal of 174 trees. Some of these trees are located in the City of SeaTac.

As the State Environmental Policy Act lead agency, the Port will also conduct an environmental review. The Port encourages the public to review environmental documentation and comment on the project during the official public comment period that begins on December 2 and concludes on December 16. The 174 trees represent a significant decrease from the number of trees previously identified for removal.

Get more information and provide comments through the dedicated online open house (<https://seasafecorridor.infocommunity.org/>) or at SEPA@portseattle.org. The Port expects to conduct similar obstruction removal and replanting work every five years.

Cause Determined for Fatality Apt Fire in SeaTac

This past Saturday morning, Nov 30, 2019, fire department units were dispatched to a fire in an apartment building located on the 20000 block of 30 Ave S in SeaTac. The first arriving crews were on scene in four minutes and found smoke and flames from the second floor of the two-story building with fire coming out of several windows of the unit where the fire started. A quick attack on the fire limited it to the apartment of origin with water damage to the adjoining units. Unfortunately, a deceased victim was found in the apartment.

Fire investigators from Puget Sound Fire ruled the fire as accidental. The cause of the fire has been determined to be combustible materials that were too close to the electrical base board heaters. It was undetermined if there were working smoke alarms in the fire unit.

In addition to being assisted by the Red Cross on the day of the fire, the residents are also now being assisted by City of SeaTac's Human Services.

Fires in apartment buildings have the potential to be especially devastating due to the number of people impacted.

Make sure you have working smoke alarms and know your escape routes.

- Close doors behind you as you leave to limit fire spread.
- Keep combustibles away from heat sources. This includes clothes, furniture, and storage as well as holiday decorations this time of year.
- Do not leave food on the stove unattended.
- Dispose of burning debris (fireplace ashes, smoking material) in a metal container with a tight-fitting lid away from combustibles



Get to know your neighbors and keep an eye out for each other.

Puget Sound Fire's Holiday Programs

The Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority, Kent Firefighters Local 1747, and the Kent Firefighters Foundation proudly announce the 2019 kick-off of the Toys for Joy program and the continued support of the Jerry Woods Holiday Engine – a longtime Maple Valley tradition.

Toys for Joy is an annual event where new, unwrapped toys are collected, sorted, wrapped, and delivered to local food banks and outreach programs for distribution to needy families in our community including the Maple Valley Food Bank, the Kent Food Bank and the SeaTac Holiday of Hope program. In addition to toys, non-perishable food and monetary donations are also accepted.

Community members who wish to donate can drop off toys for children up to 12 years of age at any SeaTac, Kent, Covington, or Maple Valley area fire station.

We will be hosting two gift wrapping parties to prepare the gifts for delivery to local food banks. The parties are scheduled for December 11th and 19th. Both begin at 6 pm and are open to the public. The parties will be at Fire Station 75 (15635 SE 272 Street Kent).

The Jerry Woods Holiday Engine will be visiting neighborhoods in Maple Valley and Covington beginning the first weekend in December collecting food and gifts that will go to the Maple Valley Food Bank for distribution.

The Toys for Joy and Holiday Engine programs can only exist with the generous donations of the local community. Over the years, that generosity has been tremendous. This year we are hoping for everyone's continued support.

The public can call 253-856-4485 for more information on the Toys for Joy program and go to www.holidayengine.org for more on the Holiday Engine schedule.

Citizen Advisory Committee Vacancies – Applications Are Being Accepted

Want to be more involved with the City of SeaTac? Want to provide a valuable service to your community and be more informed about City business? Let your voice be heard! Consider joining a Citizen Advisory Committee.

The following Citizen Advisory Committees have vacancies with applications accepted until positions are filled:

- Community Services Advisory Committee
- Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Committee
 - *(Person involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue received from the Lodging Tax)*
- Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
- Sidewalk Advisory Committee



If you are interested in serving on a committee and would like to download an application, visit the City's [website](#), or contact the City Clerk at 206.973.4661 or cityclerk@seatacwa.gov.

All positions are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council.

Solid Waste Fee Increase On Its Way



Every year the City of SeaTac's solid waste contract allows for a cost of living adjustment equal to 75% of the CPI-W. This year that amount is a 1.26% rate increase. King County is also implementing a Hazardous Waste fee increase from \$4.99/ton to \$5.25/ton. The total solid waste fee increase will be \$1.61 per month for the average resident that has a 96-gallon garbage container.

All SeaTac Recology customers will soon be receiving an updated service guide that includes the new rates and information about what can and cannot be recycled. If you have any questions, please contact Mason Giem, Public Works Program Coordinator, at (206) 973-4763 or email him at mgiem@seatacwa.gov.

empty, clean, and dry.

Thank you for recycling, and please remember; all recycling must be

Des Moines Memorial Drive South & South 200th Street Intersection Improvement



The City of SeaTac Public Works Department is partnering with the City of Des Moines to improve the intersection at Des Moines Memorial Drive South and South 200th Street. The construction project will begin on Monday, October 28, and is estimated to be completed by the end of December, 2020.

Starting Monday, November 4, and throughout the construction period, crews will be shutting down lanes along Des Moines Memorial Drive South and South 200th Street. Single lane closures will be between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. However, some nighttime work is expected.

Drivers are advised to find alternate routes during the entire construction period to avoid backups as these lane closures will impact drivers who utilize this stretch of roadway.

The City will be upgrading the roadways with multiple safety improvements for vehicle traffic and pedestrians. The City will be installing:

- A new traffic signal and traffic detection system at the intersection that will alert the signal when cars are waiting, which will improve traffic flow
- Left turn pockets which will improve the flow of traffic and make it safer to make left turns
- New sidewalks, concrete gutters, and curb ramps for wheelchairs and bicyclists
- New bike lanes to create a separation between cyclists and car traffic
- Crosswalks and curb ramps at the intersection to make it easier for people to cross the street safely
- New push-button crosswalk signals at the intersection to meet current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) standards
- Installation of new street lights to improve driver and pedestrian visibility
- The addition of retaining walls to prevent roadway damage due to flooding and soil erosion
- Driveway improvements to create better access in and out of businesses and resident homes

Additionally, crews will be undergrounding utilities and replacing and upgrading the stormwater infrastructure. New catch basins will be installed along with larger replacement stormwater pipes. These upgrades will improve stormwater flow and limit the amount of flooding along the roadway during heavy rainfall.

King County Metro will relocate the pair of bus stops in this intersection for most of the project. However, there will be times when these stops may need to close to allow crews to complete improvements. Please visit [King County Metro](https://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/metro) for additional information regarding impacts to Routes 122 and 156.

For more information on this project, please contact Engineering Manager Kamal Mahmoud, P.E., at (206) 973-4742 or kmahmoud@seatacwa.gov.

Public Works Project Updates

Military Road South and South 152nd Street

Improvements for this road reconstruction and safety project include construction of bike lanes, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, new pavement, installation of street lighting, upgraded and interconnected signalization with pedestrian crossings, construction of a right turn lane on Eastbound South 152nd Street, and the elimination of the skewed intersection at Tukwila International Boulevard and Military Road South. **Johansen Construction Company started construction on June 24. Current work includes installation of underground infrastructure to support power, cable, and telecommunications services.**

Des Moines Memorial Drive South and South 200th Street Intersection

Improvements for this intersection include construction of bike lanes, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, new pavement, installation of street lighting, a new traffic signal system with pedestrian crossings, left turn lanes for all approaches, and construction of a right turn lane on westbound South 200th Street. **Rodarte Construction was awarded the construction contract at the September 24 Regular Council Meeting. Construction is scheduled to start on October 28. Lane closures will be in effect starting November 4.**

34th Avenue South Project

This “Safe Routes to School” project includes construction of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, storm drainage facilities, installation of an enhanced crosswalk, pedestrian lighting, landscaping, and underground conversion of aerial utilities. **Design and right-of-way acquisition are ongoing. The project is scheduled to start construction in 2020.**

South 200th Street Shared-Use Path

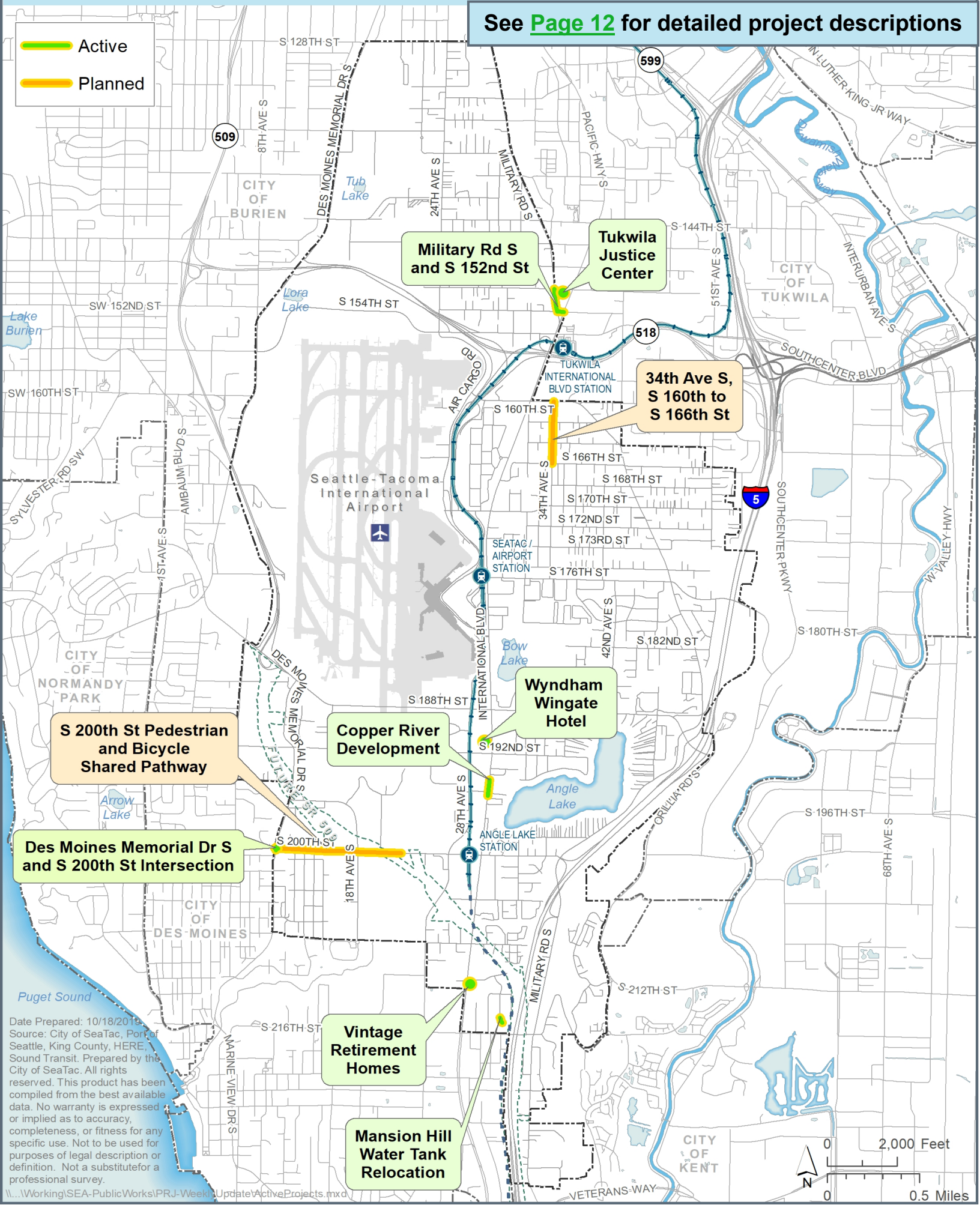
This project includes building a new separated shared-use path along South 200th Street between 12th Place South and the Des Moines Creek Trailhead. The project will provide pedestrian connections to street improvements that will be constructed at the intersection of Des Moines Memorial Drive South and South 200th Street, and a connection to existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities accessing the Angle Lake Light Rail Station. **Design and right-of-way acquisition are in progress. The project is scheduled to start construction in 2020.**

See Project Map on [Page 13](#).

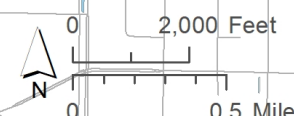


See [Page 12](#) for detailed project descriptions

- Active
- Planned



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VIA Transit Option



King County Metro, Sound Transit, and City of Seattle launched a new on-demand shuttle service called [Via to Transit](#) that will make it more convenient to take transit in southeast Seattle and Tukwila.

Residents can use the Via app or call 206.258.7739 to hail a ride to and from [five Link light rail stations](#) (Mount Baker, Columbia City, Othello, Rainier Beach, and Tukwila International Boulevard) where they can board a bus or a Link train. Payment with an ORCA card is accepted, and will automatically apply as a transfer toward a trip on a bus or train.

For the full article on this, please click [here](#).

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Carl Cole