



## CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Public Works

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3800

[www.kirklandwa.gov](http://www.kirklandwa.gov)

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** David Snider, P.E., Interim Capital Projects Manager  
Ray Steiger, P.E., Public Works Director

**Date:** October 6, 2011

**Subject:** NE 85<sup>th</sup> STREET UTILITY UNDERGROUND CONVERSION  
AUTHORIZATION TO BID

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council authorize staff to advertise for contractor bids on the NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street Utility Underground Conversion Project.

### BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Beginning in 2007, City Council eliminated the procurement step of staff seeking authorization to bid projects and allowed staff to proceed directly to advertisement. The visibility and significance of this element of the overall NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvements however warrants this memo and update to the Council.

The NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street utility underground conversion is a significant element of the ongoing NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Improvements; the improvements combine several individual projects providing enhancements along NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street between 114<sup>th</sup> and 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenues NE (Attachment A). The overall improvements includes the undergrounding of overhead utilities (this memo), the installation of continuous sidewalks on both sides of NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street together with other pedestrian improvements and public art, the addition of new sidewalks on both sides of 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE between NE 80<sup>th</sup> and NE 90<sup>th</sup> Streets, traffic signal upgrades with additional capacity improvements at the key intersections of 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, storm water quality improvements, and finally a full asphalt overlay. Two other corridor elements, the NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street Signal Video Detection and the NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street/114<sup>th</sup> Avenue Intersection Improvements are currently under construction and are anticipated to be completed in November and December, 2011, respectively.

This memo's Underground Conversion Project involves several key design elements that required City staff and the City's design consultant to work closely with representatives from Puget Sound Energy, Frontier Communications (previously Verizon), and Comcast. The design of the Underground Conversion Project required all new system plans for each of these utilities together with a complex utility trenching design that had to be compatible with the roadway drainage and surface improvements. Additionally, the securing of property rights for

this Underground Conversion Project by acquisition and/or easement from 31 property owners was a long and arduous process that is now complete. Electrical system design changes introduced by PSE this summer led to delays in completing the final construction plans and specification documents however those changes have now been incorporated. The construction documents are ready for the advertising of contractor bids.

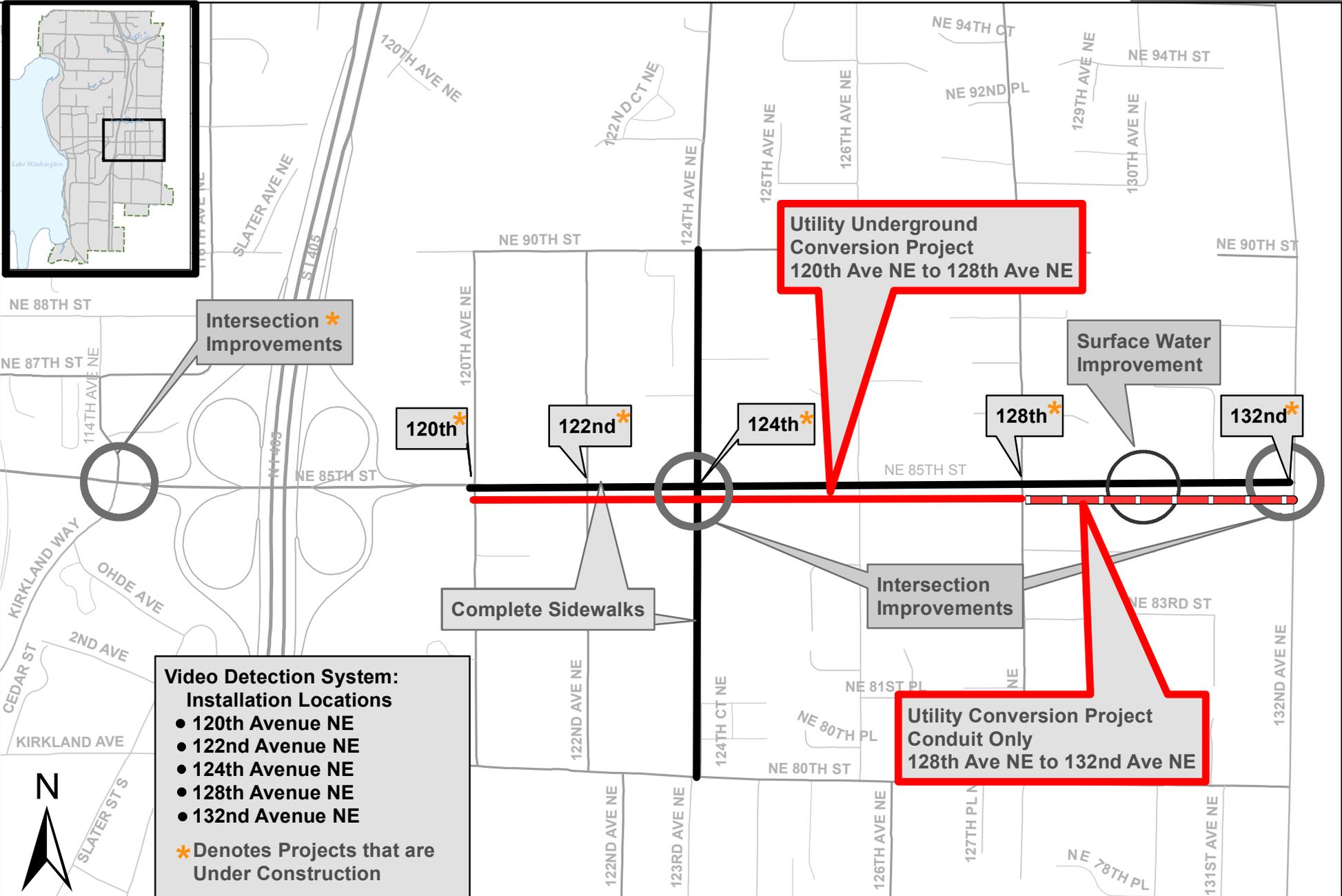
The engineer's estimate for construction of the Underground Conversion Project is \$2,500,000 and includes a 10% construction contingency. When combined with on-going and future Corridor Improvements, the estimated Project construction cost remains near \$10,000,000 and a total Project budget of \$16,000,000, including right-of-way acquisition, legal, engineering, and construction administration costs (Attachment B).

With authorization given by City Council at their meeting of October 18<sup>th</sup>, staff will advertise for contractor bids in November. Once the bids are opened, staff will return to City Council with a recommendation for award of a construction contract. The estimated 12-month underground conversion would then start in January, 2012, following the historically critical shopping season between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Given the overall Project's scope, location, and impact limits, City staff has been working closely with various stakeholders to better ensure the success of the Project. As all of the current and future elements of the overall Corridor Improvements come to fruition, staff continues to keep all interested parties well informed on the Project's different elements. Along with project flyers, direct mailings, and the City's web page, staff has provided regular updates through the *NE 85th Corridor Project Newsletter* (Attachment C). The *Newsletter* provides in-depth information regarding the overall general scope, individual project locations, the various Project phases, and general Project schedule. The *Newsletter* also invites those who are interested to participate in a Construction Advisor Group (CAG).

To date, only one volunteer has participated in the CAG, however it is anticipated that membership will soon be made up of business members and other stakeholders along the NE 85<sup>th</sup> Street corridor as the Underground Conversion Project construction phase draws closer. The CAG has been established to work towards finding solutions for issues that may arise during construction. A key goal of the CAG will be to keep all stakeholders informed of project developments and be involved in the discussion of potential issues such as traffic control, construction sequencing and hours of driveway closures along the Project.

Attachments: (3)



**Video Detection System:  
Installation Locations**

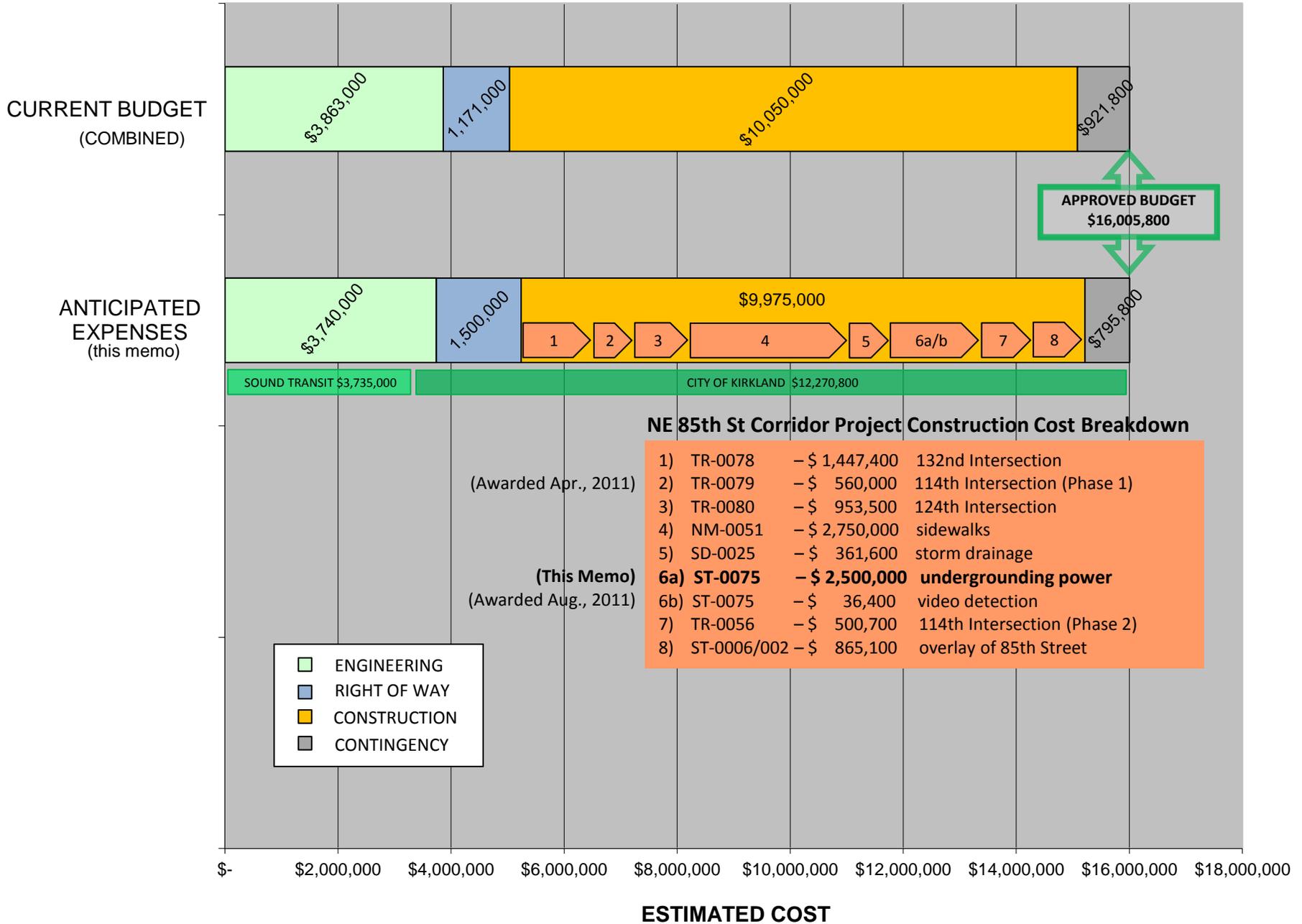
- 120th Avenue NE
- 122nd Avenue NE
- 124th Avenue NE
- 128th Avenue NE
- 132nd Avenue NE

\* Denotes Projects that are Under Construction



**Vicinity Map**  
**NE 85th Street Corridor Improvements**  
**Utility Underground Conversion Project**

**NE 85th STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS  
NE 85TH STREET UTILITY UNDERGROUND CONVERSION  
PROJECT BUDGET REPORT**



### Key Stakeholders Needed for Advisory Group.

A Construction Advisory Group (CAG) for business members along NE 85th Street corridor will be formed as a means of involving impacted stakeholders on construction impacts and options for mitigation.

The key goals of the CAG will be to facilitate information from the community, City and the contractor to increase understanding of problems to be addressed during construction. The CAG will work cooperatively on solutions.

If you are interested in serving on the CAG, please contact:



Kari Page  
 Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator  
 KPage@kirklandwa.gov  
 425-587-3011

 **City of Kirkland**  
 Public Works Department  
 Capital Improvement Program  
 123 Fifth Avenue  
 Kirkland, WA 98033



## NE 85th STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



October 2011

### Transforming NE 85th Street into a more efficient, pedestrian friendly, and visually pleasing corridor.

#### Project Goals:

- ◆ Reduce traffic congestion and increase capacity at key intersections.
- ◆ Provide continuous sidewalks and landscape planter strips.
- ◆ Underground overhead utility lines.
- ◆ Resurface and stripe street.

**Location:** The NE 85th Street Corridor is located east of the City's downtown and Interstate 405. Planned improvements to reduce traffic congestion and enhance pedestrian safety will begin construction summer 2011 and continue into 2013.

**Subarea Plan:** The NE 85th Street Corridor Improvements Project originated from Kirkland's NE 85th Street Subarea Plan adopted by the City Council in April 2001. The Plan goals include improving the visual character of the Rose Hill commercial area, strengthening economic vitality of the business district, encouraging redevelopment of under-utilized commercial centers, and enhancing amenities for pedestrians, automobiles, and transit.

**Project Objectives:** The Project addresses specific elements of the Subarea Plan by enhancing the overall pedestrian safety and aesthetics, and increasing access, speed, reliability, and ridership of transit.

Sound Transit contributed to Phase 1 and 3. The remaining funding comes from the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

**Project Timeline:** The Project has been phased both in time and location to minimize impacts during construction. Construction on the first phase started in the summer of 2011 (after completion of the intersection improvements at 6th Street and Central Way) and will continue through 2013.



Vicinity Map



Vision for NE 85th Street Corridor

**The City of Kirkland is committed to keeping you informed.**

See Project information and subscribe to receive Project updates via email. Web site: [www.Kirklandwa.gov/85thStreet](http://www.Kirklandwa.gov/85thStreet)

Watch for quarterly newsletters highlighting each construction phase.

Call the Construction Hot Line: 425-587-3838

Talk with Project Contacts:  
 Rod Steitzer  
 Project Engineer  
[rsteitzer@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:rsteitzer@kirklandwa.gov)  
 425-587-3825

Kari Page  
 Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator  
[kpage@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:kpage@kirklandwa.gov)  
 425-587-3011



## Projected Construction Phases

Construction phases will be staggered to minimize traffic congestion and reduce construction impacts.

Map colors indicate phases described in chart below.

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4

Phase	Description	2011				2012				2013			
		S	S	F	W	S	S	F	W	S	S	F	W
Phase 1	<b>NE 85th Street Intersection Improvements</b> •114th Ave NE: install additional southbound 114th Ave NE to eastbound NE 85th St left turn lane. •124th Ave NE: add traffic island at NE 124th Ave NE for future eastbound to northbound turn lane. •132nd Ave NE: add northbound 132nd Ave to eastbound NE 85th St right turn lane.												
Phase 2	<b>Undergrounding Utility Wires</b> •120th Ave NE to 128th Ave NE: underground utility wires. •128th Ave NE to 132nd Ave NE: install conduit for future undergrounding of utility wires.												
Phase 3	<b>Sidewalks with landscape planter strips where there are none</b> •124th Ave NE: provide continuous sidewalks on both sides of 124th Ave NE between NE 80th St and NE 90 St. •NE 85th St: provide continuous sidewalk on both sides of NE 85th St between 120th Ave NE and 132nd Ave NE.												
Phase 4	<b>Resurface Street</b> •NE 85th St Corridor: preserve the City's infrastructure and reduce costly repairs by overlaying street.												



114th Avenue NE and NE 85th Street Intersection Improvements Underway

**Phase 1** Planning Design **Construction** Complete

**114th Ave NE/NE 85th St intersection: Under construction**

**Project:** Build a second southbound-to-eastbound left turn lane at the 114th Ave NE/NE 85th Street intersection. The Project also improves traffic signal controller equipment and adds Intelligent Transportation System elements to coordinate signal timing along the corridor and create a pathway for connection to the future Traffic Control Center.

**Intersection improvements** are on schedule and planned to be complete by December. Work hours are scheduled between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm each week day.

Phase 2 Planning Design **Construction** Complete

**Undergrounding overhead utility wires: Preparing for construction**

**Project:** Underground overhead utility wires on NE 85th Street from 120th Avenue NE to 128th Avenue NE. Install underground conduit for future undergrounding on NE 85th Street from 128th Avenue NE to 132nd Avenue NE. Construction is scheduled to begin early in 2012.

**Signal video detection cameras** are being installed at intersections along the corridor in preparation for construction in 2012. Completion is expected in November.

**Property acquisition** for undergrounding utility wires is complete.

**Construction documents** for undergrounding utility wires are nearing completion.

Phase 3 Planning Design **Construction** Complete

**124th Ave NE sidewalks and planter strips: Preparing for construction**

**Project:** Install sidewalks and where possible planter strips on both sides of 124th Avenue NE from NE 80th Street to NE 90th Street. Construction is scheduled to begin early in 2012.

**Utility pole relocation** along 124th Avenue NE between NE 80th and NE 90th Street in preparation for sidewalks is complete.

**Construction documents and property acquisition** for the sidewalks are in progress and nearing completion.

*Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we make improvements to this important intersection.*



Watch for quarterly newsletters highlighting each new construction phase.

