



May 8, 2018

To: Brenda Bauer, Director, Roads Division, King County DOT: brenda.bauer@kingcounty.gov

Re: Situation-Target-Proposal to Address 196th Ave SE Safety Issues

Ms. Bauer,

The Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council (GMVUAC) has studied the 196th Ave SE corridor between SR-169 and SE Wax Rd for some time. The King County Department of Transportation (KCDOT) also has conducted studies to address public safety issues along this corridor.

Over the years 196th Ave SE has transitioned from a largely rural road to a feeder road to and a bypass from SR-169, while still serving local residents, bicyclists, and equestrian users. Consequently, we request KCDOT, using current traffic data, conduct new safety studies of 196th Ave SE.

To support such studies we have developed a **Situation-Target-Proposal** (p. 2) to address public safety issues identified over the years. We have included a **Map of 196th Ave SE** (p. 3) showing key areas of concern. We believe there are some immediate actions that could be taken, at relatively low cost, to resolve most of these issues.

Prior to conducting new safety studies on 196th Ave SE, it might be best to conduct an on-site visit. We would be glad to accommodate such a visit. Please let us know, if one could be arranged.

Thank you for your due consideration to this matter of public safety.

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cc: Harold Taniguchi, Director, King County DOT: harold.taniguchi@kingcounty.gov
Reagan Dunn, King County Councilman, District 9: reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov
Alan Painter, Manager, King County Community Service Areas: alan.painter@kingcounty.gov

Traffic Safety Improvements 196th Ave SE

Location

196th Ave SE is ~5.8 mi between SR-169 and SE Wax Rd. it is classified as a King County Arterial (Title 46.04 Traffic Schedules) with a Schedule 4 maximum speed limit of 40 mph.

Situation

1. There are public safety concerns to drivers, students waiting at bus stops, and the general public due to sight restrictions from hills and foliage, curves, closely spaced driveways, and inadequate shoulders.
2. SE 170th St intersection—Egress is sight restricted due to hill. Northbound and southbound approaches have no signage warning turns ahead.
3. 195th PI SE intersection—The most dangerous intersection on 196th Ave SE with severe sight restrictions. Improvements were recommended in the early '90s due to sight distance issues (ref. 1 & 2). No action was taken then and now traffic has dramatically grown without any improvements. There is a bus stop caution sign without any other safety features. Southbound ingress requires a near U-turn with minimal maneuvering space.
4. SE 188th St intersection—Egress southbound is dangerous as there is a 75-ft passing lane northbound (the only location where passing is allowed).
5. Between SE 192nd St and SE 196th St—There is a downhill north-to-south “S” curve where vehicles often cross over the centerline, because they do not slow down.
6. Near SE 213th St—There is a sharp 90-deg curve with a 25-mph speed limit.

Targets

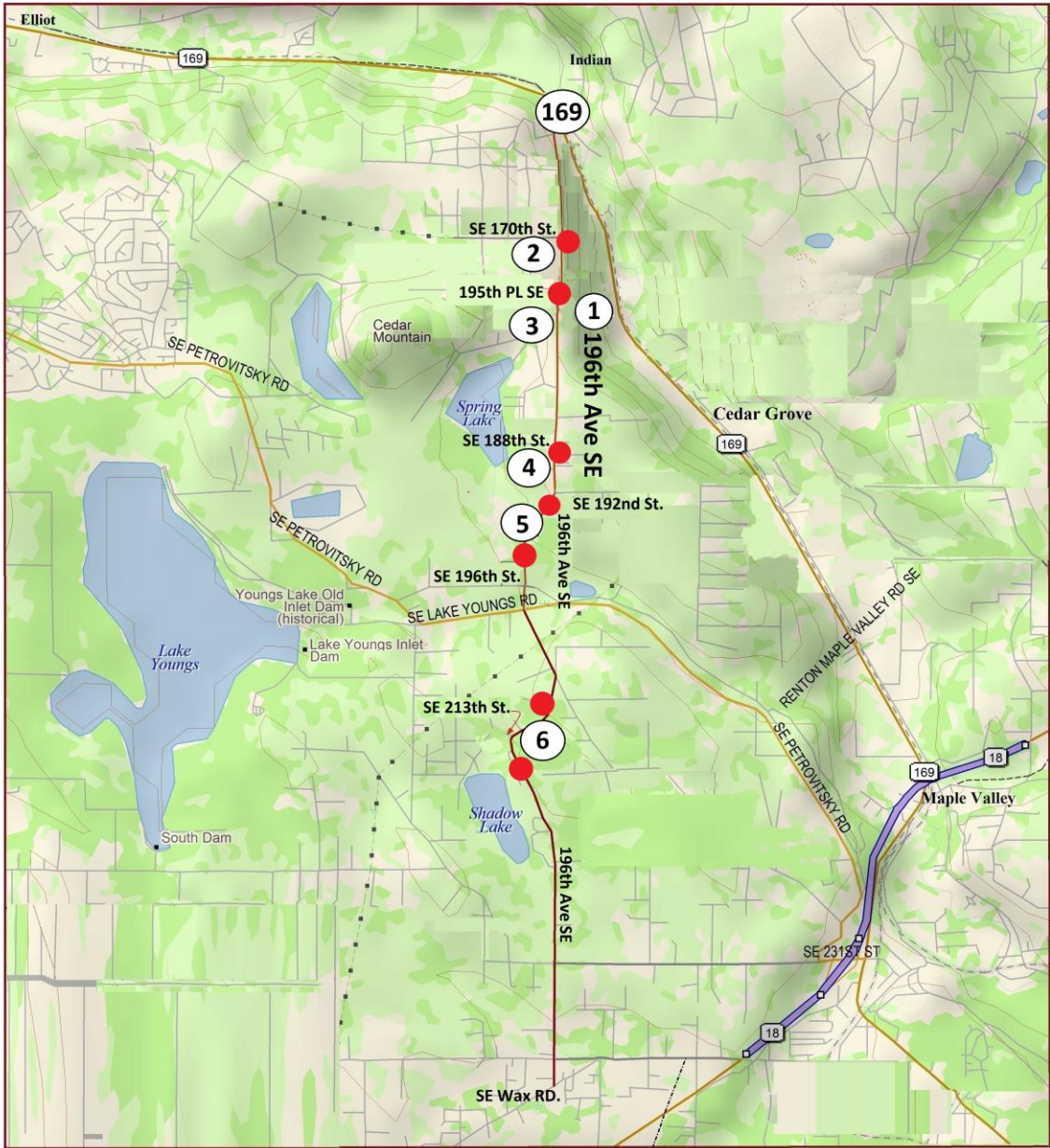
1. Improved road safety.
2. Improved intersections.
3. Reduced speed limits.
4. Posting of no passing and caution signs.

Proposals

1. For all of 196th Ave SE reclassify to Schedule 3 with a posted speed limit of 35 mph.
2. In the vicinity of SE 170th St intersection reduce speed limit to 35 mph.
3. In the vicinity of 195th PI SE intersection reduce speed limit to 25 mph; add rumble strips (this already has been done in the vicinity of SE 192nd St); and add “Hidden Road” signage. If this cannot be done over the next several months, southbound ingress and northbound egress should be discontinued. Long term, should studies recommend it and funds become available, rebuild the intersection.
4. In the vicinity of SE 188th St intersection eliminate passing lane.
5. Between SE 192nd St and SE 196th St reduce speed limit to 30-mph on the “S” curve.
6. In the vicinity SE 213th St reduce speed limit to 20 mph (or less) on the 90-deg curve.

References

1. Capital Improvement Program #40091, King County Department of Public Works, December 8, 1992.
2. Letter from King County Department of Public Works Director, Harold Taniguchi, March 17, 1994.
3. King County Sheriff records of vehicle accidents.
4. Local resident complaints.



Map — 196th Ave SE