

City of Camas
NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Intersection Improvements
Summary of 26 February 2019 Open House
Camas Public Library 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

PURPOSE

This community open house was the first open house for the NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Intersection Improvements project (project). The event gave interested community members the opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions one-on-one with subject matter experts on the project team, and to provide their comments and feedback. The event was facilitated by the City of Camas (City) and consultant staff members, as follows.

PROJECT TEAM ATTENDANCE

- Steve Wall, Public Works Director
- Jim Hodges, Engineering Project Manager
- Jim Carothers, Engineering Manager
- Alicia Brazington, Social Media and Communications
- Greg Jellison, Project Manager, PBS
- Cory Kratovil, Project Engineer, PBS
- Robert Phipps, Landscape Architect, PBS
- Scott Keillor, Senior Planner/Public Involvement, BergerABAM
- Don Hardy, Senior Land Use Planner, BergerABAM
- Emma Johnson, Planner/Public Involvement, BergerABAM
- Jamestaun Kraupp, Traffic Engineer, Kittelson

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City is in the process of evaluating options to improve the intersection of NE Everett Street (State Route 500) and NE Lake Road. This is a critical intersection for the community, connecting the north shore, south shore, and downtown Camas and providing access to regional recreation areas at Lacamas Lake and Round Lake. As community and regional growth have increased, so has traffic, causing safety and mobility concerns for the community. The project will evaluate existing traffic and environmental conditions, gather input from the community, and recommend improvements to address congestion and safety for all users—motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

EVENT OVERVIEW

The first community open house for the project was held at the Camas Library on Tuesday, 26 February 2019 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. An open house announcement (Figure 1 attached) was mailed to all residents in the Camas zip code. Approximately 130 community members attended, including the Mayor and members of City Council. Attendees were handed a project information sheet when they arrived (Figure 2 attached), and were able to view displays and ask questions about the project. Seven display boards provided an overview of the project, introduced the existing conditions, project goals, and conceptual design options (Figures 2

through 9 attached). Across from the boards, team members manned tables holding large-scale prints of the intersection design options, and answered questions from attendees.

Attendees provided oral and written comments to project team members. In addition, attendees were encouraged to provide additional feedback and comments via the online survey for the project, which will be live from 22 February to 11 March 2019.

At 5:45 p.m., a brief presentation was given by Steve Wall, City Public Works Director, and Greg Jellison, PBS project manager. The presentation provided an overview of the project, including the analysis of existing conditions, and the development of the evaluation criteria and design alternatives.

An online open house was also available for community members unable to attend in person. The information sheet, display boards, and presentation slides were posted on the project webpage (<http://www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad>), and were encouraged to participate in the online survey.

COMMENTS

A total of 25 written comments were submitted at the open house. Generally, attendees liked the roundabout intersection concept; however, some were concerned over the efficacy of a new intersection design as a means of reducing congestion and/or addressing safety issues. Some concerns were also expressed related to the impacts of the project, in particular impacts to trees and recreational areas, as well as to the traffic at other locations in the city.

The following written comments were received from the public during the open house; they have been grouped by general topic (roundabout intersection, signalized intersection, pedestrian/bicyclist safety, environment, access, public outreach, and other).

Roundabout Intersection Alternative

- Roundabout baby!
- I prefer a roundabout as it would keep traffic flowing more safely. Concerned about how pedestrian crossings will be addressed for ease of pedestrians to access parks and trails.
- I prefer the first roundabout option to the other options presented.
- Roundabout option is the only way to go!
- My preference is for a roundabout option because (1) I perceive them to be safer, and (2) I would like to save the chestnut tree if possible (by preference but would not “fall on my sword” over it).
- I think I prefer the roundabout idea! What about an overhead “walkway” for pedestrians? I would prefer to upgrade the bridge now, if possible.
- A roundabout would be nice for the commute to the high school because it makes some kids late for the way it is now. It would also be an energy saver.
- We support the roundabout. Not concerned about the chestnut tree.

- I live in Lacamas Village – The best option for us would be the roundabout. The 3rd option should not be an option.
- I think the roundabout makes the most sense. I prefer to keep the big tree if at all possible.

Signalized Intersection Alternative

- I did not see an option for the signalized intersection where the Lake area was impacted (taken away) to add more space. Is there one? Would like to see that option as well.

Pedestrian/Bicyclist Safety

- Just want to be sure the joggers and bikers will be safe and able to move. Also, let us know how long the construction will take. Thanks.
- I would like to see more shoulder for people to walk on to school and a guardrail for the edge of the lake near the bridge.
- My biggest concern is pedestrian safety, especially because the majority of pedestrians in this area appear to me to be children in a hurry. I would be concerned about bicycle safety but the roads leading to the intersection are all too dangerous for me as a bicyclist, so I don't ride my bike. If Camas intends to improve bike safety and promote cycling, then I recommend attending to bike safety in this plan. Thank you for presenting the alternatives, and for hosting the Open House, and for addressing the traffic at this intersection.

Environment

- The chestnut tree was planted sometime after they logged off what they used to call the black forest at Lacamas Shores. My dad, _____, would go for walks and plant the nuts. It was about the late 70s. Also at the intersection going up to Grass Valley and Prune Hill at Lacamas Shores, there are also chestnut trees planted by _____. *(name withheld for privacy)*

Access

- Daily I turn right off of Lake and sometimes backed close to Lacamas Drive. A turn lane for right turns much earlier on the street is preferable to me. I turn left out of Fallen Leaf Lake Park and time with the signal. A roundabout would increase my wait time, plus increase my wait to make a right turn into Everett from Lake with a roundabout, since I would always be the merging car. My vote is for the signal, but sorry for the tree.
- Good info! Two major concerns: (1) Impact on traffic flow during construction while LHS is in session. Shuttle buses from Lacamas Lodge parking lot? (2) Pedestrian crossings from Lacamas Lodge/boat launch side to the Round Lake Park side in summer (busy) season. If roundabout is chosen, is it cost feasible to have a pedestrian over or under pass?
- It is already very difficult to turn left out of the mobile home park in the morning and afternoon when school is in session. And that is with the light at Lake Road. With no light and a roundabout, I will never be able to turn left out of my place.

Public Outreach

- Thanks for including us in this process instead of telling us what the “new” will be. Get the bridge on the State’s priority list. Cookies and coffee are nice.

- Would love to see a forum where people can ask questions and get answers in a way that is accessible for viewing to everyone (website?).
- Great presentation, thanks for holding this open event. I think it would have been even better if we could open a short open forum to hear some questions from those in attendance. Thanks!

Other

- If the bridge needs to be replaced anyways, can there be multiple/additional lanes one put back instead? (Allowing more traffic flow.)
- Evaluating the purchase of the private property to the west should be an option that is pursued. Let's not let that be a constraint. It's a "constraint" that can be influenced/changed.
- Please consider all the people that would be displaced if you take out part of Lacamas Village trailer park – all are 55 and older.
- No roundabout, no widening of Everett or Lake Road. Consider using lights: one at Everett and 22nd Ave, one at Lake and Leadbetter. This would be cheaper and break traffic into smaller blocks. Could be cycled so that arterials would be favored all day save for peak times.
- Can we create parking off Crown Road at trailhead where there is the white fire truck entrance – Would create additional/lost parking. Go ahead and 4-lane all the way to the high school's road along with replacing/upgrading the bridge. Isn't Hwy 500 changing with the growth off of Leadbetter? Can we create a crossing bridge?
- Put a metering arm at the Camas High School where 10 cars can go out and the arm comes down for 2 minutes. Camas High School should have been in Grass Valley or Prune Hill. Too many cars from the school with 1 student or 1 parent and student. At least when school lets out, there wouldn't be as bad of a traffic jam. The roundabout would be best, but 99.9% of people exiting roundabouts don't signal when exiting!
- Manager of mobile home park– please leave mobile homes alone. We have 31 seniors, some would have nowhere else to go.
- Please consider traffic cameras (or sensors) at these three intersections: NE Everett and NE 43rd Ave; NW Lake and NW Lacamas Lane; Fallen Leaf Lake Park and NE Everett.

NEXT STEPS

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) will meet for a second time on 7 March 2019, to provide input and evaluate the alternatives analysis and recommended preferred alternative based on the technical data presented at the first PAC meeting, as well as stakeholder and public comments received through the stakeholder interviews, first community open house, and the online survey.

A second open house is planned for 9 April 2019. The purpose of the second open house is to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the intersection design option recommended by the PAC.

NE EVERETT STREET

NE LAKE ROAD

Community Open House 1
February 26 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 Presentation at 5:45 p.m.

The City of Camas has begun plans to Improve the Intersection of NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street. Located between Lacamas Lake and Round Lake just north of the downtown corridor, this intersection is critical to keeping the community connected. During this project, we will evaluate existing traffic and environmental conditions, seek input from the community, and recommend improvements to address congestion and safety for all users – motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Visit our website for more information: www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad

NE EVERETT STREET

NE LAKE ROAD

Your input is important!
 Please attend an upcoming event or visit us online to learn more and share your ideas.

Community Open House 1
 February 26, 2019 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 Camas Library | 625 NE 4th Ave.
 (brief presentation starting at 5:45 p.m.)

Help us keep our community moving!
 For more information:
www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad

Figure 1. Mailer Announcement (front and back)

NE EVERETT STREET
NE LAKE ROAD

Project Information and Updates

The City of Camas is in the initial stages of an improvement project for the intersection of NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street (State Route 500).

Why Are the Improvements Important?
This is a critical intersection for the community, connecting the north shore, south shore, and downtown Camas and providing access to recreation areas at Lacamas Lake and Round Lake. As community and regional growth have increased, so has traffic, causing mobility and safety concerns.

During this project, we will evaluate existing traffic and environmental conditions, seek input from the community, and recommend improvements to address congestion and safety for all users – motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Project Alternatives
Right now, we are in what's called the "pre-construction phase," and we're analyzing all the options for making the intersection safer and more efficient. These options include variations on two primary concepts: a signalized intersection and a roundabout intersection. Each variation succeeds in moving motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists through the area. However, they differ in multiple ways.

Note: Cost estimates for the design option shown below and on the following page will be included with design recommendations in March 2019.

Signalized Intersection Concept

Signalized Intersection Variations:

- Greater vehicle back up at signal
- Potential bridge replacement north of intersection
- Higher speeds through intersection
- Potential impacts to property access, parking lots, and businesses
- Potential impacts to wetlands, trees, and private property
- Two left-turn lanes, with 5 to 6 lanes of roadway
- Pedestrians and bicyclists crossing multiple lanes

NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Improvements | Community Open House 1 | February 26, 2019 | www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad

NE EVERETT STREET
NE LAKE ROAD

Project Information and Updates

Roundabout Intersection Concept

Roundabout Intersection Variations:

- Shorter vehicle back-up entering roundabout
- Lower speeds through intersection
- Potential impacts to property access, parking lots, and businesses
- Potential impacts to wetlands, trees, and private property
- One lane of circular traffic, with 1 to 2 lanes of roadway
- Pedestrians and bicyclists crossing one lane at a time

Project Status
This first phase of the project includes an alternatives analysis, transportation and environmental analysis, conceptual design, and stakeholder and community outreach. This is a priority project to serve all citizens of Camas, and the City will seek funding for construction in the next phase of the project once the preferred alternative is chosen.

In addition to Community Open House 1, a second open house is currently being planned for late March 2019. The second open house will include a presentation of the preferred alternative to the community and provide an update on the anticipated project schedule.

Your Input is Important!
We invite you to learn more and share feedback in any of the following ways:

Community Survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/TJLR3TS
Please take the community survey, available online from February 22 to March 11, 2019.

Online: www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad
Visit the City's project website for project details, upcoming events, and next steps.

Community Open House 2: The second open house is planned for late March 2019. All Camas residents will be mailed an invitation to this event with details on time and location.

Contact us with questions, concerns, or comments:
Jim Hodges, City of Camas, Project Manager, 360-817-7234, jhodges@cityofcamas.us
James Carothers, City of Camas, Engineering Manager, 360-817-7230, jcarothers@cityofcamas.us

NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Improvements | Community Open House 1 | February 26, 2019

Figure 2. Information Sheet (front and back)



NE EVERETT STREET
NE LAKE ROAD

Community and regional growth has increased traffic, causing safety and mobility concerns. Average daily traffic entering the intersection is well over 15,000 vehicles. Our hope is to alleviate these challenges - **and you're a vital part of the process.**

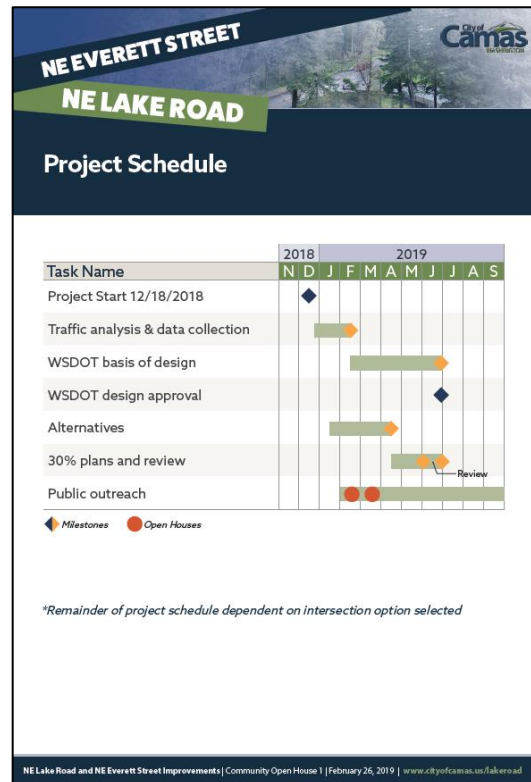
Project Goals

Share the importance and benefits of the project, including:

- Construction of the improvements as soon as reasonably possible.
- Reducing traffic congestion.
- Improving safety for multiple modes of travel.
- Minimizing environmental impacts.
- Effectively engaging the community in the decision making process.

NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Improvements | Community Open House 1 | February 26, 2019 | www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad

Figure 3. Display Board 1 – Project Goals



NE EVERETT STREET
NE LAKE ROAD

Project Schedule

Task Name	2018				2019						
	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Project Start 12/18/2018	◆										
Traffic analysis & data collection			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
WSDOT basis of design					■	■	■	■	■	■	■
WSDOT design approval										◆	
Alternatives			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
30% plans and review								■	■	■	■
Public outreach				●	●	■	■	■	■	■	■

◆ Milestones ● Open Houses

**Remainder of project schedule dependent on intersection option selected*

NE Lake Road and NE Everett Street Improvements | Community Open House 1 | February 26, 2019 | www.cityofcamas.us/lakeroad

Figure 4. Display Board 2 – Project Schedule

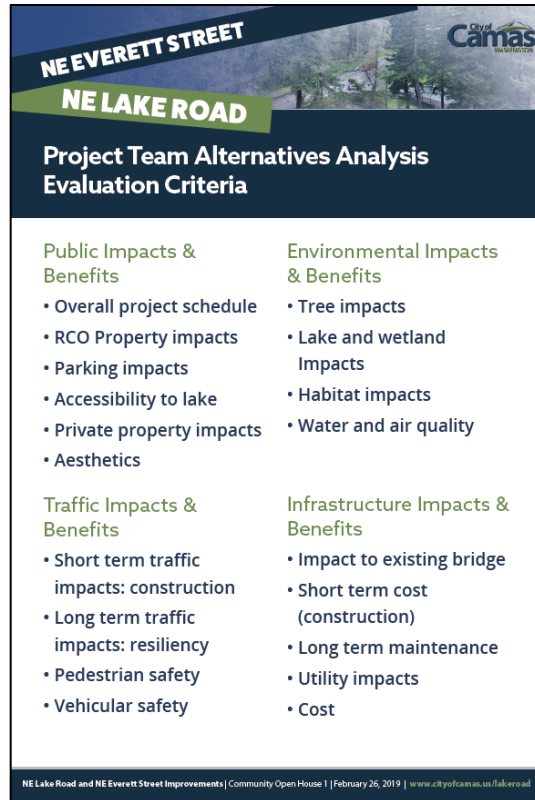


Figure 5. Display Board 3 – Project Team Alternatives Analysis and Evaluation Criteria

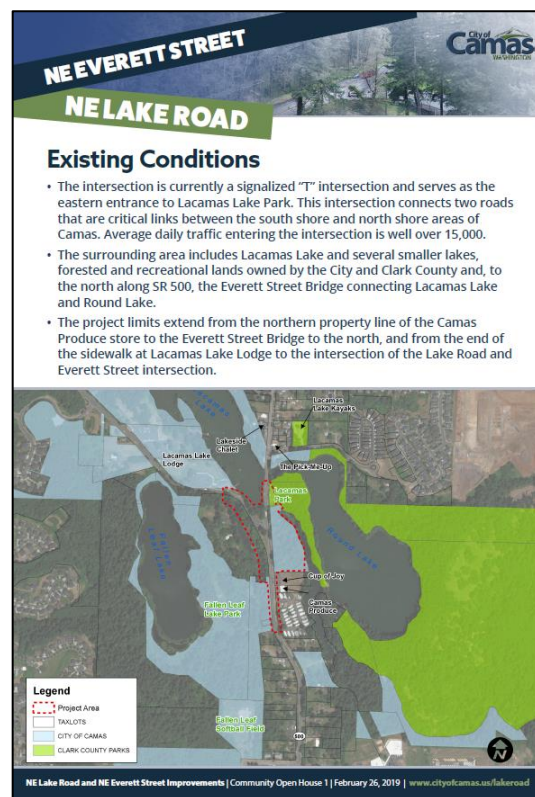


Figure 6. Display Board 4 – Existing Conditions

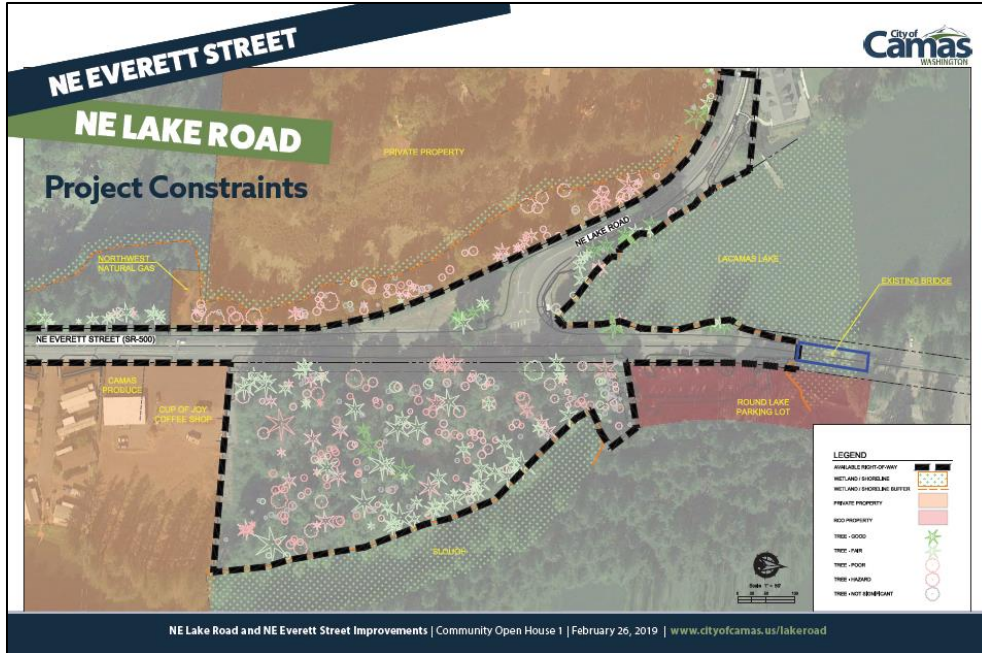


Figure 7. Display Board 5 – Project Constraints

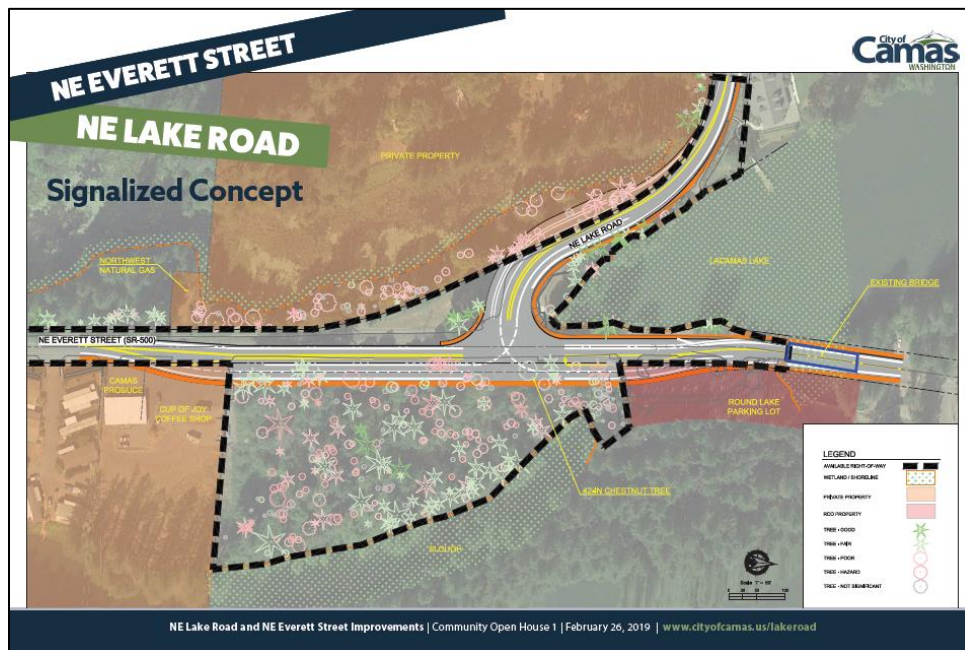


Figure 8. Display Board 6 – Signalized Intersection Concept

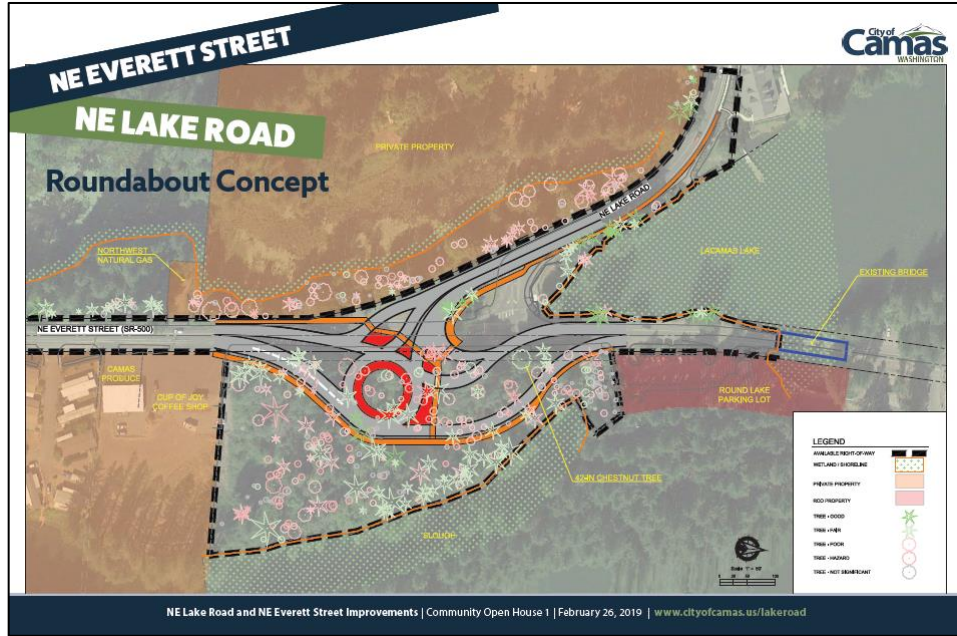


Figure 9. Display Board 7 – Roundabout Intersection Concept