



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Contact: Chris Hammer
Project Engineer
City of Bainbridge Island
(206)780-3740
chammer@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us

Blakely Ave. Improvements Underway

Bainbridge Island, WA, July 15, 2009 – Construction is expected to begin next week on the final phase of non-motorized travel improvements on Blakely Avenue. The project, which will extend from Bucklin Hill Road to the IslandWood driveway, was one of three transportation projects in Kitsap County selected for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The project will widen the shoulder along the North side of Blakely Ave. across from Blakely Elementary School. The improvements represent the final phase of an effort begun last summer under a federal transportation grant. These included the addition of a new sidewalk that provides an off-road link between the Blakely Heights neighborhood and the school, a drop-off area on the south side of Baker Hill Road to ease congestion in the school parking lot, and new center islands and solar-powered beacons to slow traffic flow.

The project was awarded on July 8 to Liden Land Development and Excavation, which presented the low bid of \$46,639. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$67,065. "We were very pleased to receive such a reasonable bid," said Bob Earl, City Engineer. "With city staff costs and contingency funds included, the total project budget is estimated at \$96,000 – considerably less than the ARRA funding. This means that Island residents will benefit from the project with no tax dollars expended." Because the project will come in under budget, approximately \$50,000 of the ARRA award is expected to go back to Kitsap County to be re-allocated in a future funding round.

City staff are working with the Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council (KRCC) and Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) to monitor future funding opportunities. "As more projects like ours are completed under budget, more ARRA funds are expected to become available," Earl said. "We're keeping our eyes open for additional opportunities to secure federal funding for Bainbridge Island projects."

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