

NE 238th Drive Improvements

Frequently Asked Questions (Oct. 2018)

Project Need and Background

Why is this project needed?

The purpose of the project is to make the hill section of NE 238th Drive safer for all modes of traffic. Currently, the road does not work well for bicyclists, pedestrians and some trucks. The project will also improve drainage problems that cause the road to ice over in winter.

Where did this project come from?

The project was included in the East Metro Connections Study, which was adopted by the City Councils of the four east county cities, Multnomah County and Metro in 2012. (View study at www.multco.us/238th).

Is there a long-term plan to widen 238th Drive to four lanes?

No, long-range 20-year plans indicate that the road does not need to be widened to four lanes.

Design

How high will the retaining walls be?

The highest section will be around 18 feet. Most of the wall will be between 5 and 12 feet high.

Will the project change the grade of the hill?

No.

Will the project change the alignment of the road?

No.

Is the road too steep for bicyclists and pedestrians?

While the hill is steep, the proposed improvements will provide more separation of pedestrians and cyclists from motor vehicles. We expect more bicyclists and pedestrians will use the road after the improvements.

Will the project widen 238th between NE Halsey St. and NE Glisan St.?

Depending on which design concept is chosen, the project could widen 238th between Arata Road and Oregon Street, but not add a lane. No residences will need to be purchased.

Will private property need to be acquired for the project?

Some property may need to be acquired, depending on the final design, for construction or permanently. No residences will need to be acquired.

Can the project address the road's drainage problems, such as underground springs that drain onto the road and freeze?

The project will improve drainage and also treat stormwater to reduce pollution.

Traffic

Will the project increase traffic on 238th Drive?

The design does not add capacity but it will allow trucks longer than 40 feet to use the road. The project should not increase traffic much overall.

Is there a preferred truck route between I-84 and Hwy. 26?

Current plans call for spreading traffic out on four arterial roads: 181st, Fairview Parkway, 238th, and 257th.

How many vehicles a day use this section of NE 238th Drive today?

The most recent traffic counts from 2017 show that about 25,000 vehicles a day use this section of NE 238th Drive.

Will the speed limit increase after the project?

No.

Could vibrations from traffic harm residences near the road?

Designers will take nearby structures into account. The rebuilt road will be designed to handle traffic loads.

Will traffic noise be louder after the project?

We conducted noise monitoring tests at multiple locations on 238th. Based on the results, traffic noise is predicted to change by -1 decibel (dB) to +2 dB when compared to existing noise levels. This small difference is not detectable to the human ear.

What will access look like from 238th Drive into Treehill Drive? The current design plan will allow for left turn in, right in, right out with an island to prevent left turn out from Treehill.

Construction

Will 238th Drive need to close during construction? Yes, the current plan is to close the road during a portion of the construction. This will greatly reduce cost and improve safety.

For more about this project, visit www.multco.us/238th

