



8th Ave NW Bridge Seismic Retrofit

Survey Summary

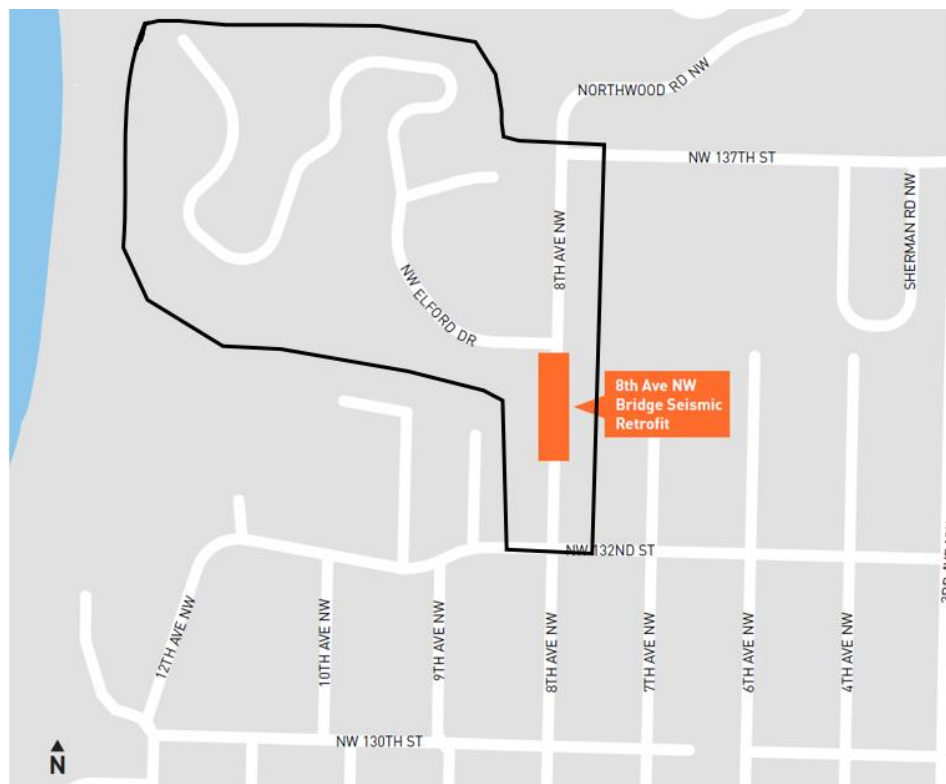
OVERVIEW

We are developing our construction approach to seismically retrofit the 8th Ave NW bridge in summer 2019. We are finalizing our decision by considering factors such as technical feasibility, efficiency, cost, and community impact.

The proposed construction approach prioritizes completing the work as quickly as possible, in approximately 5-6 months. This would require a complete closure of the bridge to all travelers, including those walking and biking, to provide sufficient space to move equipment during construction and maintain a safe work area. While the detour route has not yet been determined, it would likely use nearby streets such as 3rd Ave NW to NW 137th St to access homes north of the 8th Ave NW bridge.

To better understand the impact our proposed construction approach may have, we asked residents who live near the 8th Ave NW bridge between NW 132nd St and NW 137th St to complete an online survey to help us better understand how people in the neighborhood use the bridge, and to hear their thoughts, comments, or concerns for the proposed construction impacts and timeline.

The survey was available from December 16 to January 4, administered by SurveyMonkey, and marketed to people via mail and door-to-door outreach. We received 28 total responses from at least 18 separate households. This represents approximately 38% of the households in the project area (see map).



8th Ave NW Bridge Seismic Retrofit Survey Area

The survey was divided into 3 categories:

1. How and why do residents travel across the bridge?
2. How often do residents travel across the bridge?

3. Thoughts, comments, or concerns the about construction approach

KEY FINDINGS

While the survey did not include a question about support for the project, 3 respondents (11%) commented that the project seemed important or critical. Many respondents expressed concern around how the bridge structure would change aesthetically and around construction impacts such as uncertainty regarding potential detour routes and pedestrian accessibility. The key findings include:

- **All respondents (100%) indicated that they use the bridge to run errands**, four-fifths of respondents (79%) use the bridge to get home, nearly three-quarters of respondents (68%) use it to get to work and/or school, and over one-third of respondents (36%) use it for walking and biking.
- When asked about the mode of travel survey respondents use to go across the 8th Ave NW bridge, **all respondents (100%) reported using a car to travel across the bridge, nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) walk across the bridge**, and one-seventh of respondents (14%) bike across the bridge.
 - All 28 respondents reported that they drive across the bridge at least once or twice a day. **Nearly one-third (29%) are driving across the bridge more frequently, ranging from three to 15 times per day.**
 - **Walking is the second most common method of travel for respondents.** Of all the respondents who walk across the bridge, one-third (32%) stated that they walk across the bridge at least once or twice a day, over one-fifth (21%) walk across the bridge once or twice a week, and more than one-tenth (11%) walk across the bridge once or twice a month.
- When asked about the proposed construction approach, respondents highlighted 5 common themes: Detour routes need to be discussed further (39%), shorter duration of construction is preferred (29%), maintain the aesthetics of bridge (32%), walking over the bridge is important (25%), and seismic retrofits are critical and important to this bridge (11%).
- Most respondents (75%) said they would like to be added to the project listserv to receive project updates.

SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

Below, we've shared each question and how respondents answered as a percentage. Note that totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding. For open-ended questions, we've summarized what we heard by sharing popular and notable themes.

1. HOW AND WHY DO RESIDENTS TRAVEL ACROSS THE BRIDGE?

Question 1: Why do you travel across the bridge? *Select all that apply*

1. To get home (78.6%)
2. To get to work or school (67.9%)
3. To run errands (100%)
4. Other (please specify) (35.8%)

“Other” responses included traveling to the bus stop and recreation (walking dogs, exercise, and riding bicycles).

Question 2: How do you travel across the 8th Ave NW bridge? *Select all that apply*

1. Car (100%)
2. Bus (0%)
3. Bike (14.3%)
4. Walking (71.4%)
5. Other (please specify) (0%)

2. HOW OFTEN DO RESIDENTS TRAVEL ACROSS THE BRIDGE?

The following questions were only eligible to survey respondents if the mode of travel was selected in Question 2. For example, if a survey respondent selected “Car” as a mode of travel in Question 2, then they would be directed to the question about how often they drive across the bridge.

Question 3: How often do you drive across the bridge?

1. Once or twice a day (71.4%)
2. Once or twice a week (0%)
3. Once or twice a month (0%)
4. Never (0%)
5. Other (please specify) (28.6%)

The most common “Other” response include driving across the bridge 4 times a day.

Question 4: How often do you use the bus to go across the bridge?

No responses were recorded for this question.

Question 5: How often do you bike across the bridge?

1. Once or twice a day (0%)
2. Once or twice a week (66.7%)
3. Once or twice a month (0%)
4. Never (0%)
5. Other (please specify) (33.3%)

The one “Other” response indicated biking multiple times a week in the summer and rarely in the winter.

Question 6: How often do you walk across the bridge?

1. Once or twice a day (45%)
2. Once or twice a week (30%)
3. Once or twice a month (15%)
4. Never (0%)

5. Other (please specify) (10%)

The two “Other” responses included walking across the bridge six times per day.

Question 7: How often do you use the other type of travel, as designated on the previous page, to go across the bridge?

No responses were recorded for this question.

3. THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION APPROACH

Question 8: Please describe your thoughts, comments, or concerns about the proposed construction approach.

Twenty-seven out of 28 survey respondents (96%) provided an answer to this question. The responses fit into five broad categories: importance of seismic retrofits, maintain bridge aesthetics, safety, construction duration, and detour route & traffic. Some responses included feedback in more than one category. All quotes indicate a direct statement from a respondent.

- **Importance of Seismic Retrofit**
 - **11% of respondents “really think it’s important”** to seismically retrofit the 8th Ave NW bridge. Many respondents agreed that this is an important and “critical” project to ensure the longevity of the bridge and safety for all people traveling across the bridge.
- **Maintain Bridge Aesthetics**
 - **About a third of respondents agree that maintaining the aesthetics of bridge is important.** The 8th Ave NW bridge was constructed in 1950 and “provides wonderful character to the neighborhood.” Many respondents prefer to maintain the aesthetic of the bridge and were concerned the seismic retrofit may change that character.
 - Several respondents wanted to ensure the protection of surrounding trees and vegetation while construction equipment and activities are occurring.
- **Safety**
 - **One quarter of respondents agree that walking over the bridge is important to residents.** Many residents north and south of the bridge walk across it for exercise throughout the day. Three respondents shared concerns that if the bridge is fully closed then residents north of the bridge would need to walk along NW 137th St, which respondents did not prefer due to there not being a sidewalk and cars traveling at high speeds. One suggestion for improving pedestrian safety throughout construction included opening the bridge during non-construction hours.
 - **Concern about access during emergencies.** With just one access point to the street network, 2 respondents expressed concern that emergency responders would not be able to reach homes along NW Elford Dr or that residents may not be able to exit the community due to a road closure at NW Elford Dr and 8th Ave NW.
- **Construction Duration**
 - **Shorter duration of construction is preferred.** Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents stated that this seismic retrofit will be an inconvenience so the quicker that this can happen the better.
- **Detour Route & Traffic**

- **Concern that the proposed detour would increase congestion and speeding on NW 137th St.** About a third of respondents expressed concerns about merging onto 3rd Ave NW from NW 137th St; a few recommended adding temporary traffic operations to account for increased travel from residents living on NW Elford Dr.
- **Request for further discussion about detour options and traffic impacts to this community.** With a potential full bridge closure, a few respondents observed that traffic may increase on NW 132nd St for those heading north on 3rd Ave NW, making it difficult to take a left turn. One suggestion to improve conditions included temporarily adding a 4-way stop to NW 132nd St and 3rd Ave NW to address intersection turning concerns.