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Woodridge Neighborhood Traffic Changes

Turn restrictions planned to begin mid-July

June 2018

Traffic changes in Woodridge planned to begin mid-July

Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in Woodridge

Question and Comments

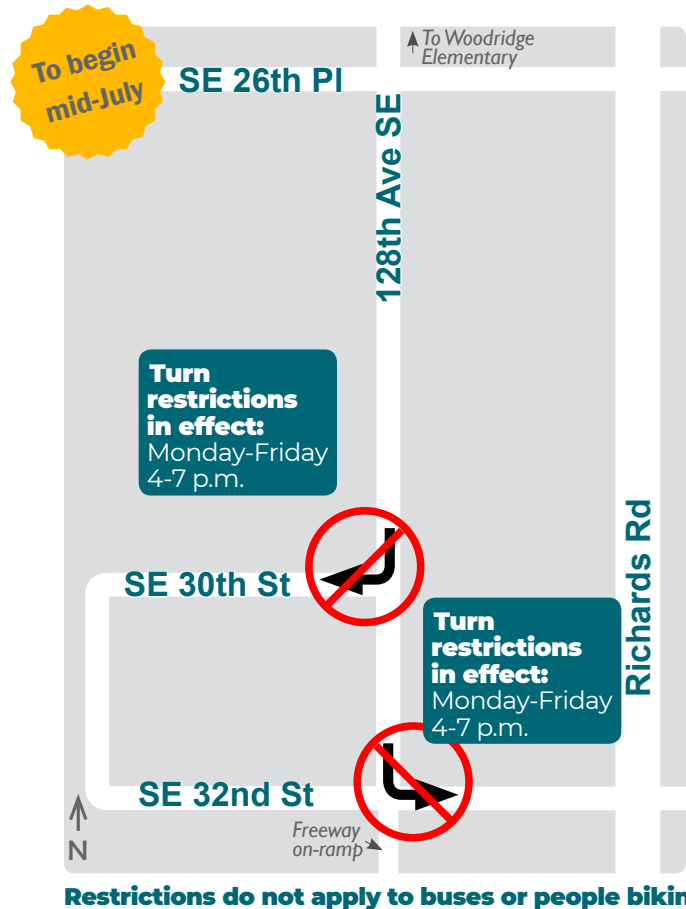
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Project Overview

- Response to concerns about traffic levels in Woodridge
- Turn restrictions will discourage evening commuter traffic from using residential streets
- Restrictions will be piloted for 6 months, starting around mid-July
- All drivers must abide by the turn restrictions
- City to monitor traffic volume while pilot is underway



Project Overview

In response to community concerns, volunteers from the Woodridge neighborhood have been working with city staff to find ways to discourage evening commuter traffic from using Woodridge streets to bypass nearby congested arterials.

To address this traffic concern, two turn restriction signs are being installed for an initial six months. The signs will restrict all traffic (bikes and buses are exempt), including neighborhood residents, from:

- traveling from southbound on 128th Avenue SE to eastbound SE 32nd Street, Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m.
- traveling from southbound 128th Avenue SE to westbound SE 30th Street, Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m.

Installation is planned for mid-July 2018 and will be in place for six months to allow traffic volumes to adjust and for staff to measure effectiveness and gather community feedback. This information will determine whether the restrictions remain in place, are modified or are removed.

An online survey (surveymonkey.com/r/woodridgetraffic) is available while the pilot is in effect to help gather community perspectives.



Project Benefits

- Discourage commuter traffic from using neighborhood streets
- Turn restrictions are enforceable
- Navigation apps (e.g. Waze, Google Maps) will reflect change and not route drivers through the neighborhood from Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m.
- Allow for opportunity to collect data, gather community feedback and evaluate effectiveness

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Commonly asked questions

What work has been done to date?

As part of the project, an all-way stop and crosswalk were installed at SE 26th Place/128th Avenue SE to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety and traffic flow. Additionally, residential area signs were installed at each entrance into Woodridge (SE 8th Street, SE 21st Street, SE 26th Street, and SE 32nd Street) to increase neighborhood identity. Also, yard signs that note "Do not block driveway: drive like you live here" were made available to residents.

How has the community been involved in this project?

Staff invited Woodridge residents to complete a survey (February 2017), attend a community meeting (March 2017), serve on a traffic committee consisting of 15 volunteers from the neighborhood and attend a community open house (May 2018). While the turn restrictions are in-place neighbors can provide feedback by completing a short survey (surveymonkeys.com/r/woodridgetraffic).

Why are the signs being installed where they are?

The locations of the restrictions were selected based on the results of a recent traffic study and community feedback. That study showed twice the volume of vehicles traveling from southbound 128th Avenue SE to eastbound SE 32nd Street (i.e. back to Richards Road) than getting on the freeway at 128th Avenue SE/SE 32nd Street. Further, the community survey revealed that 21% of Woodridge residents use SE 32nd Street/Richards Road to exit, whereas 79% use one of the remaining four exits. This means the majority of Woodridge residents are already using other exits to get out of the neighborhood. Additionally, the community survey revealed that 75% of respondents either are coming into the neighborhood or not traveling anywhere between 4-7 p.m. In other words, only 25% of Woodridge residents are leaving the neighborhood between 4-7 p.m. and many are using exits that are not at SE 32nd Street.

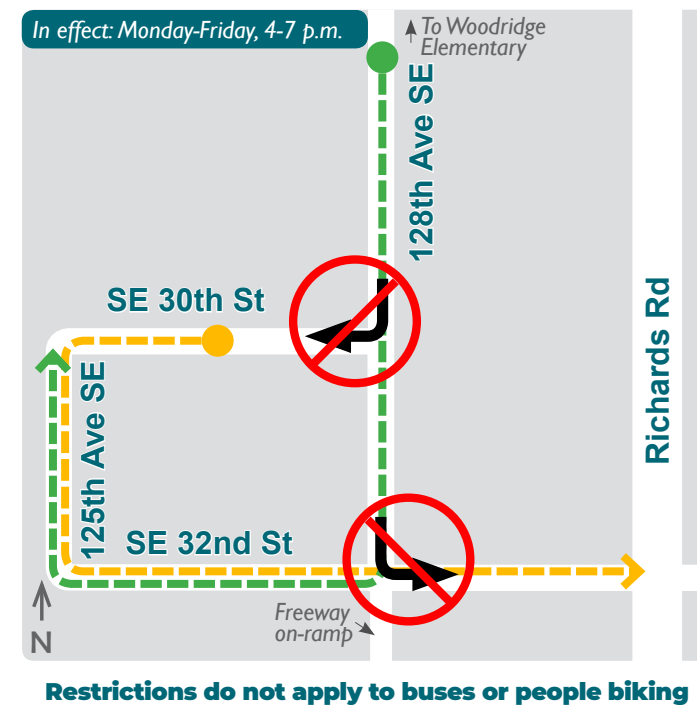
For detailed answers to commonly asked questions, please visit bellevuewa.gov/woodridgetraffic

Why is the sign at SE 30th St being installed?

Without this turn restriction, SE 30th Street/125th Avenue SE/ SE 32nd Street would be a convenient way for motorists to bypass the turn restriction at SE 32nd Street to get to Richards Road.

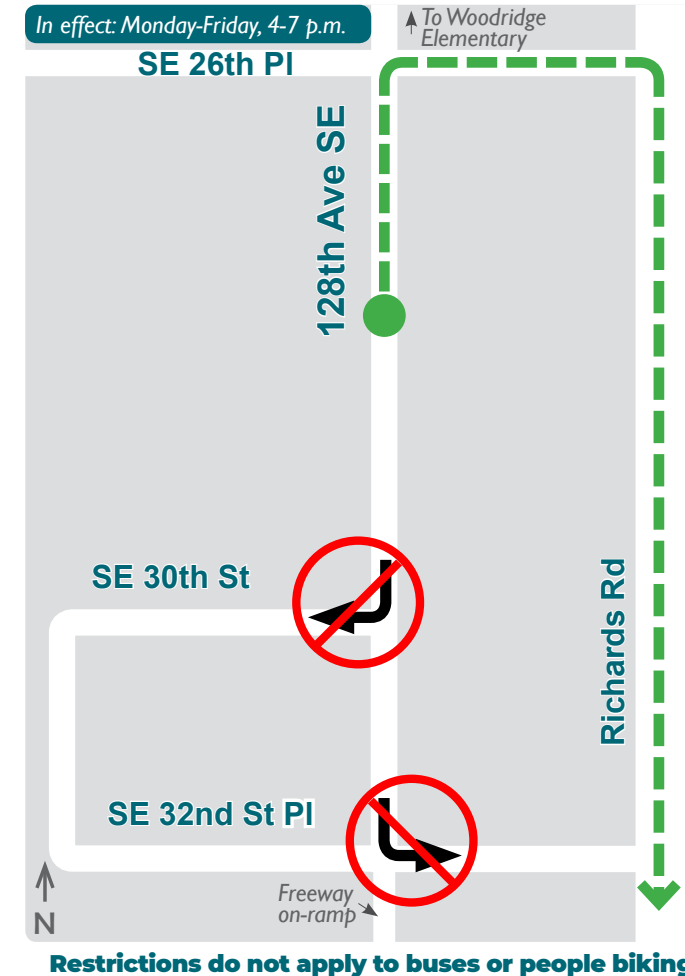
I live on/off SE 30th Street, west of 128th Avenue SE. How do I get home on weekdays between 4-7 p.m.? How do I get to Factoria?

Travel south on 128th Avenue SE, make a right on to SE 32nd Street and make a right to loop back to SE 30th Street (green line). If you wish to travel to Factoria between 4-7 p.m., you can travel south on 125th Avenue SE to SE 32nd Street straight out to Richards Road (orange line).



I usually use SE 32nd Street to get out of the neighborhood on weekdays between 4-7 p.m. How do I do this?

If you are traveling south to Factoria, for example, use SE 26th Place to Richards Road.



When will the turn restrictions be installed?

Mid-July.

How long will the signs be in place?

Six months following the date of installation. During this time, we will be conducting traffic studies to determine if the signs are effective in discouraging traffic and also gathering community feedback (surveymonkeys.com/r/woodridgetraffic).

Are turn restrictions effective?

Recently installed time-based turn restrictions on 108th Avenue SE at SE 16th Street (south of downtown Bellevue) helped to lower volumes by an average of 750 vehicles per weekday between 4-7 p.m.

Are resident exempt?

No, all motorists must obey the restrictions.

Can residents get a sticker exempting them from the restrictions?

No such program currently exists in the city. Such a program would be logistically challenging to administer and has legal implications. Implementing such a new program would require policy and resource changes.

Are bikes and buses exempt?

Yes, like other turn restrictions in the city, bikes/buses are exempt.

Will navigation apps remove certain streets from their routing as a result of the restrictions?

Yes. Past experiences show that when turn restrictions are implemented, streets where the restrictions are placed will be removed from the routing choices provided by apps such as Google Maps and Waze.

Will the restrictions be enforced by Police?

Yes. Verbal warnings will be issued during the first two weeks following installation. Then, as staffing allows, they will issue citations for \$136 fine.

Can cameras be used to enforce the restrictions?

Washington state law (RCW 46.63.170) prohibits the use of cameras to enforce turn restrictions. Cameras are only permitted to enforce red-light violations and school zone speed limits.

To provide feedback, please go to: surveymonkeys.com/r/woodridgetraffic