

Using a Paving Project to Deliver Low-Cost Complete Streets Improvements Near Three Schools

NW 139th St at Skyview, Alki, and Chinook Schools

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Project Context – Clark County



Project Context – 139th St Safety Project

Project Location

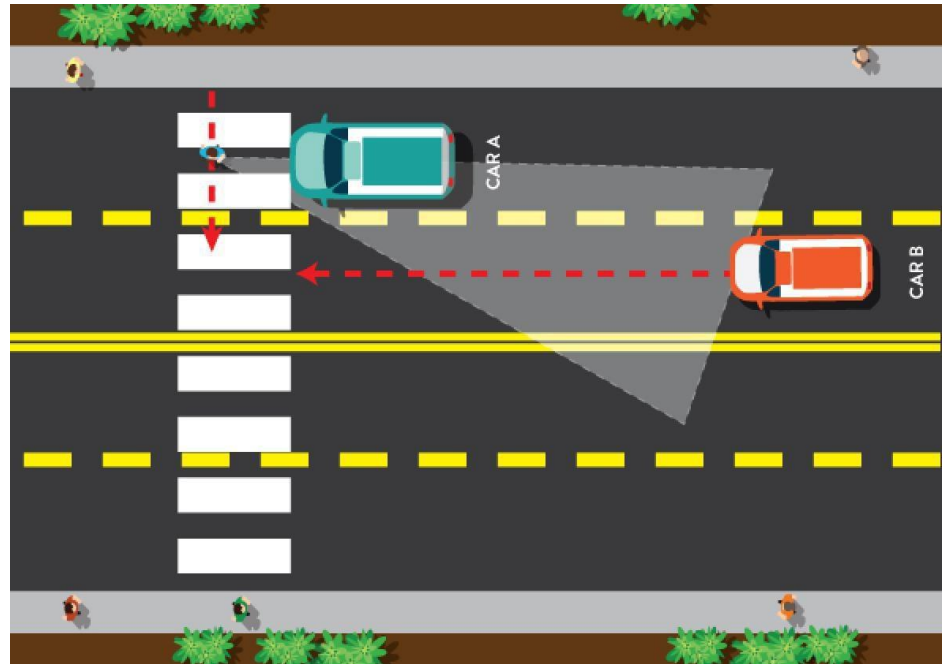


Project Context – 139th St Safety Project



Project Context – Key Problems

- Drivers ignoring 20 MPH school zone speed limit
- Cyclists avoiding bike lanes (using sidewalk)
- Multiple-threat condition at crossings
- High pedestrian stress



Project Context – Existing Condition



5-lane cross section

Narrow bike lanes

Midblock crossings



Opportunity

Countywide HMA
overlay project

Blank slate for
striping changes

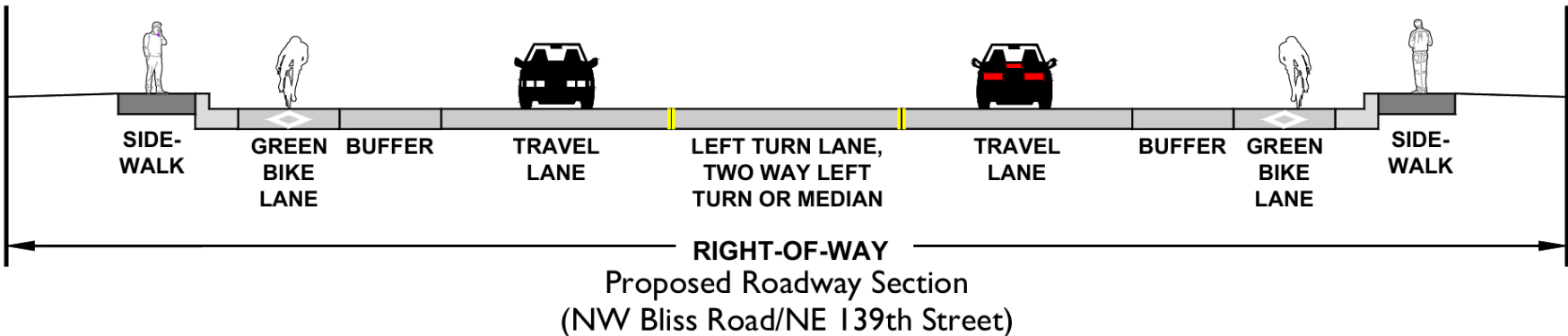
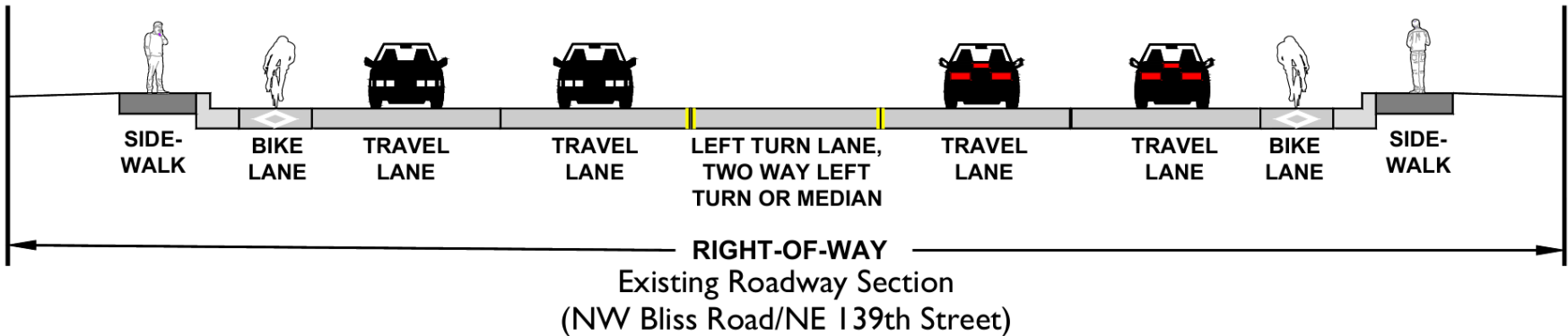
Minimal additional
cost opportunity

“Right project, right
time” moment



Design Approach

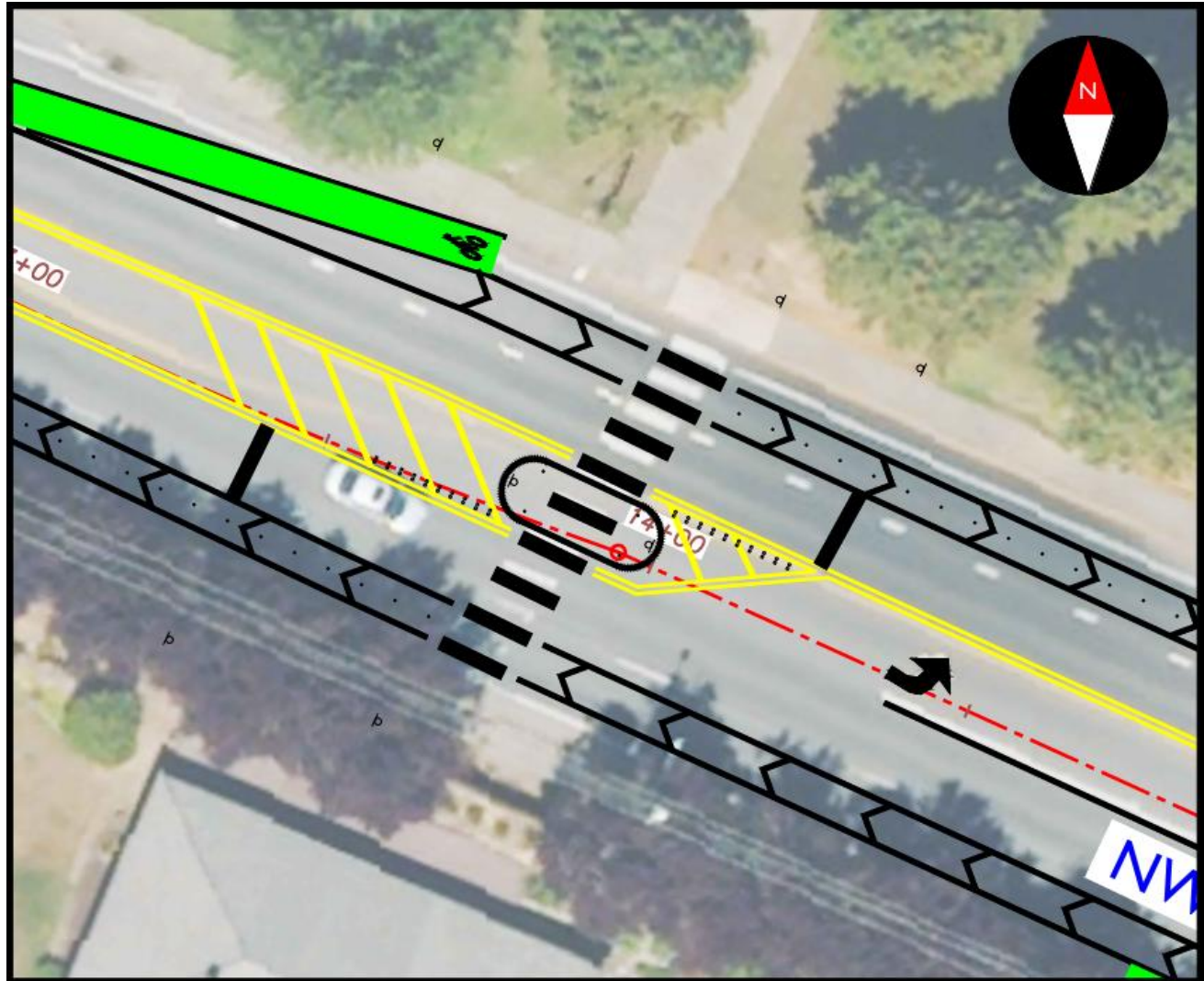
- Convert from 5 lanes -> 3 lanes
- Add buffered bike lanes
- Maintain center turn lane
- Focus on safety + multimodal



Pedestrian improvements

Eliminated
multiple-threat
condition

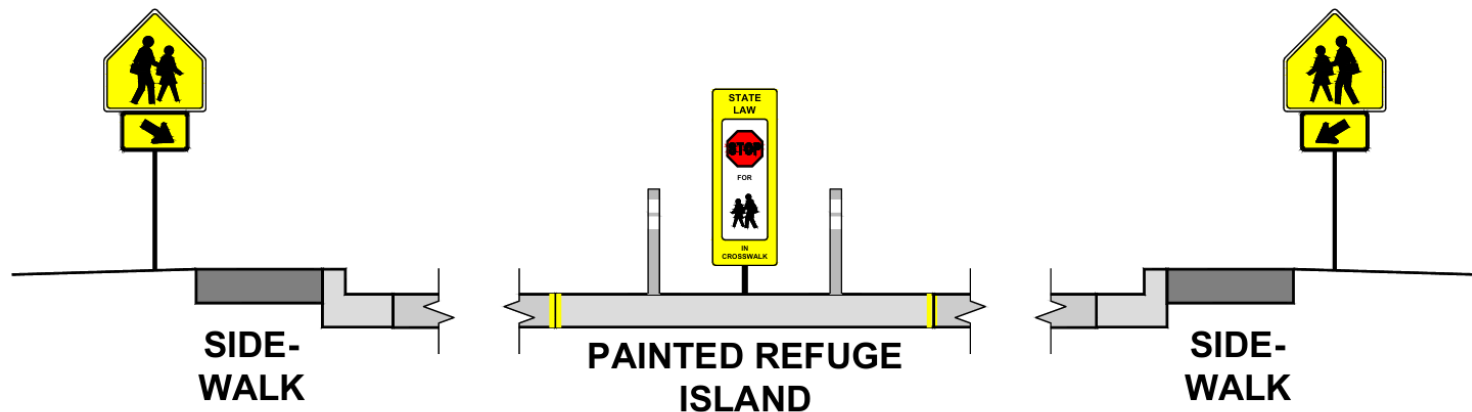
Added “Stop
here for
pedestrians”
sign and stop
bars



Pedestrian improvements

Painted median refuge islands for now

Future grant project will add RRFBs, concrete median islands, and lighting



Proposed Roadway Section
(At Chinook Elementary Crosswalk
and Alki Middle School Crosswalk)

Public Open House

Some of the public was initially opposed to the safety project

After public open house, people told staff they understood the safety needs (multi-lane threat)

Revised several design decisions based on public input



Implementation

Installed during paving project

Contractor implemented striping changes



No major additional construction required

Sets corridor up for success for future projects



Initial Outcomes



Drivers adapted quickly

Improved yielding behavior at crosswalks

Increased comfort for pedestrians and cyclists



Initial Outcomes - Challenges



Drivers adapted quickly

Improved yielding behavior at crosswalks

Increased comfort for pedestrians and cyclists



High school circulation issues persist

Wrong-way driver behavior

On-site circulation issues create queues back into public roadway



Lessons Learned – Future Projects

More work to be done

- Grant project will add:
 - **lighting**
 - **RRFBs at crossings**
 - **new school zone flashers**
 - **vertical separation for bike lanes**
- More multimodal projects are planned in the future



Lessons Learned – Public Outreach

Gain support from school district / safety champions to help advocate

Follow engineering best practices (balance safety and mobility)

Open house early is important

Listen to community concerns

Be willing to change the design

School coordination is critical



Key Takeaways

Paving projects
= **low-cost
opportunity**

Road diets can work
near schools

Stakeholder
coordination matters
just as much as
sound design

Small changes ->
meaningful safety
gains



Thank you!

Comments and questions

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