



City of Seattle

Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy



Fire Station 36 (Delridge/Harbor Island) Street Vacation Fact Sheet

Fire Station 36 Upgrades

In 2003, 69 percent of Seattle voters approved the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy. As part of the biggest undertaking in the last 40 years to upgrade, replace and modernize fire stations and emergency response, the program scope includes renovating or replacing 32 neighborhood fire stations. Improvements to Fire Station 36 (Delridge/Harbor Island) include seismic reinforcement and a small addition. The upgrades will allow additional space for decontamination, storage and equipment — including the Marine Emergency Response Team (MERT), bunker gear and a generator sized to run for three days in an emergency. The marine specialty unit, which provides specialized equipment and trained personnel to respond to marine fires and emergencies, is based out of Fire Station 36 to take advantage of the station's proximity to Elliott Bay and surrounding industrial sites.

Proposed Street Vacation

As a result of numerous roadway improvements over the years, Fire Station 36 is surrounded by street right-of-way. To build the improvements to the station, a Street Vacation is required. The term Street Vacation refers to the process where a property owner can petition the City Council to acquire public right-of-way for private use. The proposed right-of-way area, currently used by the Fire Department, is on three sides of the existing fire station. If approved, the Street Vacation will enhance the Fire Department's ability to provide critical emergency response services.

Public Benefit

Under law, the Council may not vacate right-of-way unless it is in the public interest. Using the public right-of-way for the fire station has a clear public benefit — to enhance the fire department's ability to provide critical emergency response services to the community.

Steps Involved in Street Vacation process

The City Council must approve petitions for Street Vacations under State law. Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) administers the process for street vacations. Steps include:

- Community notification and feasibility assessment
- Submitting a Vacation Petition
- City review, Public Hearing & Council Decision
- Two-part approval includes conditional approval and final ordinance

Schedule

The Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) plans to request a Street Vacation in February, 2011. Council review could occur in late Spring, 2011. FAS anticipates that design of the fire station upgrades will begin this spring.

