

Serving the Cities of Kent, SeaTac, Covington, and King County Fire District 37

Professionally and Compassionately Helping People

Improving Service to Our Community

Kent, Wash. – March 28, 2016 – By the end of this year the Kent Regional Fire Authority and the City of Kent will have a better, faster, and safer way to travel in the Kent valley.

72 Ave. S., from S. 196 Street to just south of Mill Creek will be connected with 1,300 feet of new street allowing both regular and emergency traffic to travel north and south in a more direct route, rather than having to use the more heavily congested West and East Valley Highways.

Completion of the road will allow the firefighters working at Station 76 (20676 72 Ave. S.) to respond to the north and northeast portions of their area more quickly and more safely using S. 180 and S. 196 Streets. Both of these streets have over/underpasses to avoid the railroad lines. For several years there has been a decline in the ability of the fire department to reach those portions of the response area as vehicle and train traffic have increased. Many of the calls will see a reduction by over a minute in response time.

To put that minute in perspective, a person in cardiac arrest has approximately four minutes before brain cells begin to die from lack of oxygen, which greatly reduces the chance of survival and of a positive long-term quality of life. Also, during a fire, the fire will double in size every 30 to 60 seconds. In both cases a reduction of a minute in response time can affect the successful outcome of the events.

This improved level of service will positively impact over 400 businesses with an assessed value of \$733 million and their employees, over 300 times per year.

The 72 Ave. S. project was first recommended to the city by the fire department in 2007 as an alternative to building a new fire station that would serve the north and northeast portions of the Kent valley. In 2010 discussions began between the city and the Kent Regional Fire Authority to complete the project. In 2015, the KRFA contributed \$1.2 million to the total cost of \$3.76 million, largely from money collected in the City of Kent through impact fees. The remainder of the cost was financed through a grant from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board, the City of Kent, and Drainage District 1. An inter-local agreement guarantees improved services for 10 years or the Kent RFA will be refunded its investment.

Dennis Higgins, Kent Council and Kent RFA Governance Board member, summed up the efficient use of the public's money "A few years ago I heard that we might need to build and staff a new fire station in the north part of Kent...Instead, the City and RFA teamed up to build the missing link on 72nd Ave. S. This will be the cheapest fire station the RFA will ever build." He added "I'm proud of the RFA and the City for thinking outside the box to save our residents and businesses a lot of money."

The Kent Regional Fire Authority and its Governance Board will always work to provide the public with the best, most cost effective emergency services it can.

We are Your Partners for Life.

See attached maps.

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Accreditation → Continual Improvement



WWW.Kentfirerfa.org