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## City of Arlington Press Release

For Immediate Release

January 19, 2017

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### **ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO INCREASE SAFETY AND MOBILITY ON STATE ROUTE 531**

#### **PROHIBITS LEFT TURNS TO AND FROM SR 531 AT STILLAGUAMISH ATHLETIC CLUB AND WESTON HIGH SCHOOL**

(Arlington, WA) – Construction to widen State Route 531 (172<sup>nd</sup> St. NE) to four lanes between 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE and 67<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE is set to start in 2019. In a move to increase safety and mobility in the corridor now, the Arlington City Council voted unanimously to prohibit left turns to and from the 4400 block of SR 531, the driveway serving the Stillaguamish Athletic Club and Weston High School.

In anticipation of this change, the City of Arlington’s Public Works staff constructed an access roadway, 173<sup>rd</sup> St. NE, in 2009 that connects Stillaguamish Athletic Club and Weston High School visitors to Airport Boulevard, providing a safer access to SR 531. This roadway was chip sealed in 2016 to further strengthen it to accommodate the additional vehicle traffic from the Stillaguamish Athletic Club and Weston High School.

Mayor Barb Tolbert commented, “This change is an effort by the City to increase safety and mobility in the SR 531 corridor as we await the completion of the widening project.”

“Almost 90 collisions occurred at this location between 2011 and 2016,” stated Public Works Director James Kelly. He continued, “These collisions cause significant delays to our businesses and residents as they try to move through this already congested corridor. Reducing collisions and near collisions in this area will help keep traffic moving and reduce unnecessary delays.”

“No Left Turn” signs are expected to be posted by the end of January or the first part of February. Left turns at this driveway intersection are expected to be prohibited after the widening of the roadway is complete in 2020.

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