

Highway 99 International District Enhancements

The WA State Route 99 (SR 99) Enhancements Project dedication took place on January 31st, 2014, after the project was completed in late 2013. The project includes 14 large light standards with pedestrian lights on the east side and on the west side of SR 99, eight pedestrian lights with banner signage on the west side to identify the Edmonds International District.

The light standards, created by Seattle artist Pam Beyette and titled "Eight Paths of Light" are in the shape of traditional lanterns. The installation includes a stand-alone piece on the traffic island at 76th St SW. This Phase One and Two Illumination Project was funded by Federal Highway Enhancements grants. Phase Three includes blue light standards in the Health Care District to the north of Eight Paths of Light along SR 99. The SR 99 International District Enhancement Project was featured in the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Public Roads 2012 May/June Report

Background

The International District in Edmonds is located approximately between 238th and 224th Streets SW on SR99. In 2004, the City had an enhancement study and accompanying market analysis completed by the firms Makers, and Berk & Associates, to assess design and economic issues relevant to business growth along the SR 99 corridor in Edmonds. A key recommendation from these reports was to build on the burgeoning cluster of international businesses, largely anchored by the Ranch 99 Supermarket, BooHan Plaza, and other specialty plazas in the vicinity.

In 2005, the City Economic Development Director worked with Engineering and Cultural Services to apply for a federal Transportation Enhancements grant. \$316,000 was awarded in 2006. The project goals were to strengthen the International District identity through improving visual identity/aesthetics and pedestrian comfort with new gateway elements including new artist made pedestrian level lighting, new district identification signage on custom light poles, resurfacing of the island at 76th and the addition of a solar lit sculptural piece on the island as part of the gateway. Additional funding of \$57,000 was awarded in 2008 and the project was expanded in 2011 with an additional grant of \$289,000 secured by the City, for a total construction budget of \$662,000 in Federal funds. The artist was selected through a competitive process facilitated by Cultural Services and the Edmonds Arts Commission. The graphic district identification signage was designed by Edmonds design firm, FORMA.



Eight Paths of Light by Pam Beyette features red street light lanterns between 224th and 230th Streets Southwest along WA State Highway 99 in Edmonds