

REAL ESTATE



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Q | The Seattle City Council recently adopted new Street Vacation Policies (SVPs). What are the new requirements if I want to vacate a right-of-way adjacent to my property?

A | Street and alley vacations require City Council approval. The vacation review process includes an analysis of public trust functions and public benefits. City Council approval is needed before the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections will make a decision on your land use permits. The updated SVPs (1) require early community outreach and coordination with the Department of Neighborhoods, (2) establish different procedures for simple and complex vacations, (3) consider on- and off-site public benefits as equivalent, and (4) acknowledge new public trust functions of the right-of-way for free speech, public assembly, and land use and urban form. If you are considering a street or alley vacation, be sure to account for the lengthy process in your schedule.