Question #1: Please describe the connections to existing and planned nonmotorized networks.

Answer #1:
Currently, commuter and recreational bicycle riders ride on the existing high traffic, high speed Rainier Avenue South and to W. Perimeter Rd within the Renton Airport as an informal shared use roadway to connect to the installed portion of the Lake Washington Loop Trail on the eastern edge of the Renton Airport (see attached Existing and Proposed Trails and Bicycle Network). The amount of traffic on W. Perimeter Rd is not necessarily lower traffic stress than Rainier Ave S, even though it might appear so. Perimeter Rd is used for maintenance vehicles, deliveries, and for towing aircraft.

There are no existing bicycle facilities within the project limits. With the implementation of a portion of the Lake Washington Loop Trail, this project would connect to Phase 3 of the Loop Trail (the cycle track on Airport Way) whose construction is anticipated to start in early 2021 and provide a safer connection for bicyclists.

There are existing sidewalks that are substandard and there are many sections in need of repair. The existing transit route, Metro route 106 is a frequent all-day route that connects the downtown Renton Transit Center to Downtown Seattle. The project will improve transit movement and reliability by adding transit signal priority at intersections. The new HAWK signal will reduce transit related accidents associated with crossing between northbound and southbound transit stops.

Question #2: Please elaborate on the “upgraded refuge islands” to be provided at intersections.

Answer #2:
The existing crosswalks at the intersection of Rainier Avenue S and Airport Way occur at right turn pockets with asphalt-filled curbed pedestrian refuge islands. With the proposed improvements, in addition to ensuring all refuge islands are up to current ADA standards, the upgraded islands will include landscaping and are designed to provide a better experience for a person crossing having to cross two legs of an intersection, instead of just one.