



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Hall and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk

DATE: February 11, 2020

RE: Documents received at 02/10/2020 Council Meeting

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager  
John Norris, Assistant City Manager

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Attached hereto are documents received from the public at your February 10, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting.

- 1) Statement from Kristi Magee encouraging Council to preserve the mature fir trees potentially impacted by the WSDOT rebuild (1 page).
- 2) Statement from Melody Fosmore regarding tree preservation and the WSDOT rebuild. (1 page).

**City Council Meeting  
February 10, 2020**

Good evening, Council Members. My name is Kristi Magee and I am a long-time resident of Shoreline. I am with Save Shoreline Trees, a neighborhood grassroots group that began only 3 months ago and has quickly grown to a WA State non-profit corporation with over 100 active supporters in Shoreline, increasing weekly.

I am speaking to you today about the urgent need to protect the mature fir trees on N. 160<sup>th</sup> Street, Dayton Avenue N and N. 155<sup>th</sup> Street that are at risk of being cut down due to the WSDOT rebuild project and required frontage improvements along these streets.

Alternative approaches to these frontage improvements can be pursued that do not destroy these trees. A variance could be sought that would allow for an exception to the existing requirements. The question to me now is will the City consider and protect what has made Shoreline, up until now, a special place to live; specifically, it's large, mature fir trees.

We know that the arborist hired by WSDOT, which the City required, provided an initial report that was not supportive of having to cut down trees.

We know that ADA appropriate sidewalks can co-exist with the trees.

We know that mature trees are hugely important for storing carbon, removing air pollution and providing important habitat for the ever-decreasing bird population.

We know that a growing number of Shoreline residents are getting increasingly frustrated with the threatened state of Shoreline's large, mature tree population with lots being essentially clear-cut.

Is this what we want for our City? A Tree City USA city?

Development can and should be balanced with preserving existing natural areas and mature trees. This can happen while managing the growth of Shoreline. It takes foresight and maybe courage with the undoubted pressures the Council faces.

I encourage you to direct City staff to work with WSDOT on a variance to these requirements for cement 8' wide sidewalks and amenity strips along N. 160<sup>th</sup> Street, Dayton Ave and N. 155<sup>th</sup> Street so that these irreplaceable trees can be protected.

We need to start focusing on preserving Shoreline's existing tree canopy, its true tree canopy that is distinguished with these decades-old fir trees.

Thank you for your time.

Kristi Magee  
Shoreline Resident  
Save Shoreline Trees



Melody Fosmore  
Co-Chair  
Save Shoreline Trees  
A WA State Non-Profit Corporation

This is regarding the WSDOT Headquarter Capital Facilities Frontage Improvement plan  
ROW Use Permit: ROW19-2371

I wish to be made a party of record.

Trees. It's easy to ignore them, easy to take them for granted, easy to assume if they go away, they will always come back. The Northwest is filled with a legacy of clearcutting and replanting. That was then, this is now.

Our planet is undergoing a radical climate change that is going to affect the way we all exist. Our city of Shoreline is also undergoing a radical change. Some may say the changes are a result of forward-thinking individuals who had the vision for a new developed city with all the amenities. Others are currently wondering if these individuals have considered the consequences of their decisions. Consequences that will follow the future generations living here.

The WSDOT project has been under public comment and scrutiny because we do NOT WANT YOU to cut down healthy tall significant trees just to satisfy code and to save the city the cost of installing sidewalks. You have listened to us coming to these meetings, you have attended our meetings and we keep hearing the same thing over and over. We hear you, we hope to save trees, but no commitment. The people of Shoreline are speaking up very clearly about what they think about the consequences of our trees coming down for on the WSDOT Right of way. Over 320 letters and emails. 120 coming to our Rally for the Trees last weekend. Over 130 people on our mailing list and growing every day. We have only been active for 4 months. That's a significant turnout of people who really really care about trees. Here is a sampling of their voices: 'Shoreline is losing its roots,' 'sidewalks can be made to route around trees, but trees aren't so good at routing around sidewalks', 'this is a solution looking for a problem', 'I live on Dayton, I love those trees', and so on.

Allow me to suggest what the trees are saying since they cannot speak? "Every day I supply oxygen for up to 4 people" "As a confier, 365 days per year, I soak up a huge amount of carbon generated by your cars and your population". "I keep your neighborhoods cool during the summer and provide a safe place for wildlife and birds to live", "I provide beauty and a calming presence for you during your very hectic life", "It took me 75 years to get this tall and if you replanted me today I may not reach this spectacular height".

When does this matter? When the trees are all gone? When we look like Ballard? When it's so hot in Shoreline that everyone has to get air conditioning? What is our true value here – to have our logo with trees still mean something? Right now it looks like money is king and that makes me, and a whole lot of the voters who entrusted you with your job, very sad.

I am asking that you talk with the Project Engineer and those making the final decision to apply a variance to the project and leave these trees alone by executing alternative sidewalk plans. Once these trees are gone, they are gone forever. Thank you.