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**From:** [stsoming](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 4:36:46 PM

**To:** [City Council](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Sidewalk Design re 5th Ave NE

**Sensitivity:** Normal

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Dear City Council Members,

I request that the Council delay approval of the Rodarte Construction contract scheduled for consent at the 2/28/22 Council Meeting because Shoreline taxpayers would like more time to study alternatives for the design of 5th Ave NE new sidewalk project. Since the new sidewalk program was not funded by grants or state and/or federal funding, the timeline and the design are flexible.

Though Tricia Juhnke and Laura Reiter of the City, insist that the 5th Ave NE project's design alternatives have been considered and concluded that 17 mature healthy trees have to be removed, they are putting the project before the trees. Among those 17 healthy trees are two Western Red Cedars, tagged #114 and #117, measuring respectively at 46"dbh and 36"dbh and each 100' feet tall ([arborist report](#), page 7: "Given the size of this tree [#114] and the ecological importance of mature trees, efforts should be made to retain it.") These are exceptional healthy trees, known resilient climate change combatants, and should remain part of our City's tree canopy.

I would like the following re-design ideas explored so more healthy trees, and particularly Trees #114 and #117 can be retained:

- Construct a trail/bike lane on the west side and keep the 5' wide bike lane and 6' wide sidewalk on the east side;
- Elevate the sidewalk to save the tree roots and eliminate the need to cut down the trees; and
- Wrap the sidewalk around the trees.

Sincerely,

Susanne Tsoming, resident and homeowner