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From: [Barbara Johnstone](#)

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 11:01:27 AM

To: [City Council](#)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rodart Construction contract on 2/28 consent calendar

Sensitivity: Normal

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Dear City Council Members,

This letter is to ask that the Rodart Construction contract for 5th Ave be taken off Monday's Council Meeting consent calendar for further consideration of alternatives for the design with specific input from city volunteers who are specialists as well as environmental specialists hired by the city on how to save many of the 17 healthy trees the city plans to have cut down. Yes, the sidewalks are needed—but these mature trees combat climate change and damage (even death) from a heat dome. While Laura Reiter and Tricia Juhnke of the City state that design alternatives have been considered and do not work, that effort frankly did not sound exhaustive. And there are more resources to address the problem.

It takes making the protection of the trees be an actual priority of the right of way project. And it takes flexibility in sidewalk traditions and specifications. These alternatives might include the following:

(1) wrapping the sidewalk around the trees, (2) elevating the sidewalk to save the tree roots and eliminate the need to cut down trees (as WSDOT was able to do), and (3) changing the configuration of the plan. This latter could be to keep the 5 ft. wide bike lane and 6 ft wide sidewalk on the east side and construct a trail/bike lane on the west side.

Sincerely,

Barbara Johnstone

Meridian Park homeowner and resident