

Archived: Monday, February 28, 2022 4:07:28 PM
From: [Nancy Morris](#)
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 3:51:11 PM
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote to save the 5th AVE NE 17 Healthy Mature Trees
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Normal

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Dear Council:

Please delay the approval of the Rodarte Construction Contract and reconsider the sidewalk design on 5th AVE NE. Allow more time for specific input from informed specialists who may be able to suggest alternatives.

Numerous citizens in Shoreline are advocating to save mature significant trees by asking for advanced and improved sidewalk design to help save these trees that include 17 healthy mature trees on 5th AVE NE along 5th Ave NE between NE 175th and NE 182nd.. Because numerous citizens speak and write to the council and city staff regarding the trees on 5th AVE NE, does not mean they are against sidewalks in the City of Shoreline, or that they do not care for safety of children or those with mobility challenges and other disabilities. And trees next to sidewalks are not the only impediment to the American Disability Act standards. Power Poles embedded in sidewalks can be a barrier as well (see attached pictures). And it seems that design efforts for sidewalks around 5th AVE NE power poles are being considered as mentioned in the [5th Ave new sidewalk project video](#), Feb. 2, 2021. **Why not our important mature trees as well?**

It is also imperative that city staff and the council to really acknowledge to themselves the climate emergencies ahead that our communities face and to recognize the need for advanced and innovative designs. The citizen tree advocates writing letters to the council are creating positive change in our communities by asking important questions on design of sidewalks and asking do the significant conifers and other important trees really have to be cut down at all because not of enough "thinking outside of the box" has occurred.

You must recall that it was thinking 'outside of the box' when the Washington State Department of Transportation took an active role in saving so many significant conifer trees on Dayton Ave N and preserving more urban forest canopy in Shoreline. This was accomplished by informed Shoreline citizen advocacy suggesting new side walk designs, meeting with WSDOT, and WSDOT agreeing that yes it can be done -- that more trees will be saved by advanced sidewalk design. So think out side of the box and vote to save the 17 mature healthy trees on 5th AVE NE. Rise to this challenge as well for the sake of the residents and Northwest bird species in that area who will need the benefits in the years ahead that these mature trees can provide by sequestering carbon dioxide, reducing street temperatures, improving air quality by absorbing pollutants, and providing habitat. We all face the climate emergencies ahead and we are in this together.

Regards,
Nancy Morris
Shoreline, WA











Sidewalk pictures on Richmond Beach Road in Shoreline, WA February 18, 2022 by Nancy Morris