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**From:** [John Hushagen](#)

**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2022 5:22:17 PM

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

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] trees on 5th Ave NE

**Sensitivity:** Normal

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Dear Council members,

My name is John Hushagen and I have been a Shoreline resident since 2004. I am a retired tree care company owner and work part-time as a consulting arborist. A couple times a week I write reports for property owners interested in or required to preserve and protect mature trees on construction sites.

In my work as a consultant I have already served as a paid expert for the owner of the two large western red cedar trees near NE 178th St. and 5th NE. I am asking you as a governing board to "think outside the box" once again and consider alternatives to building a sidewalk on the west side of 5th while saving these priceless trees. Near the beginning of the pandemic, WASHDOT was prepared to go ahead and build the standard curb and sidewalk on Dayton Ave N as part of the Shoreline code requirements. I and many others from Save Shoreline Trees spoke up and asked that sidewalk options be considered. The outcome is the elevated sidewalk along Dayton and the removal of only two trees in that stretch where 100 or more trees were slated for removal.

That project is a win/win and 5th Ave NE can be the same. If a standard curb and sidewalk is needed, then build it on the east side where the tree count is less and many have already been severely pruned many times for power line clearance. Why sacrifice these old cedars when the east side is already trashed by needed line clearance.

John Hushagen, Consulting Arborist  
Seattle Arboricultural Associates  
Shoreline resident.