

Charlestown at Rainier Ave S Safety Improvements

S Charlestown St between Rainier Ave S and 36th Ave S

Applicant Problem

Close to one thousand people who live in our multifamily housing complexes on the corner of South Charlestown Street and 34th Ave S cannot safely walk to nearby shopping or get to Metro stops on Rainier Ave S. Children going to John Muir Elementary who live in the School Walk Zone do not have a safe way to walk on 34 Ave S. Businesses along these streets would have more customers if walking were safer.

There are no sidewalks along the north side of South Charlestown Street between Rainier Ave S and 35th Ave S, and the south side of this street is mostly driveways for parking lots. The south end of 34th Ave S also has no sidewalks so that people of all ages who go to school, go shopping, or walk to the bus must walk in the street.

Last year, the Southeast District Council voted to support funding through the Neighborhood Park and Street Funds for a new sidewalk along the west side of 34 Avenue S. The \$90,000 allocated pays for the sidewalk only from Courtland Place to South Charlestown Street. More funding is needed for sidewalks, street calming and safe pedestrian crossings on South Charlestown Street.

John Muir Elementary School is nearby and this project is within the John Muir Elementary School Walk Zone. This project also will have a positive impact for elderly people, especially those using wheelchairs and walkers who now must travel in the street to get to their local grocery store. This area includes a large Senior Housing Assistance Group (SHAG) managed property and SEED owned Courtland Place, The Dakota, and Columbia Garden Apartments with many elders and people with disabilities. Completing the South Charlestown Street and 34th Ave S project will open up the entire community to accessible shopping and healthy exercise.

This Neighborhood Street Fund Application has the support of Courtland Place Managers, South East Effective Development (SEED), Senior Housing Assistance Group (SHAG), and Seattle Neighborhood Greenways. In addition, Nadia Rata, owner of the Square Sun Print Shop at Rainier Square has taken photographs and collected signatures of about 100 residents on a petition requesting street safety improvements.

PROJECT TYPE

Pedestrian Improvements

APPROXIMATE LENGTH

370 lf

COST ESTIMATE

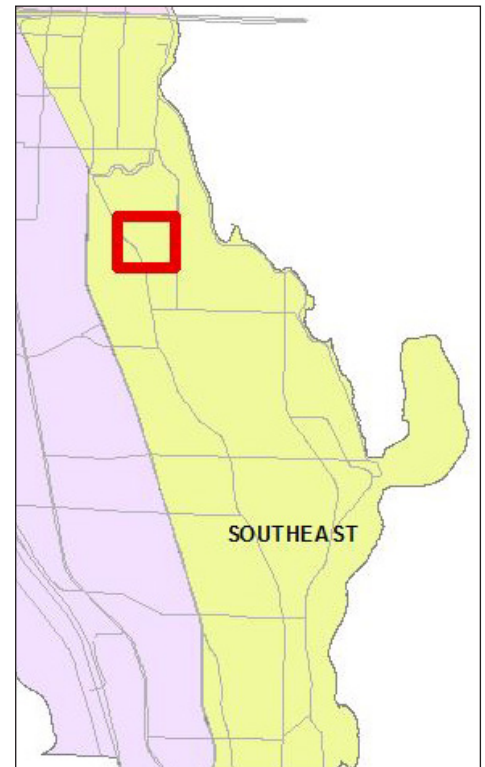
\$388,160

SDOT CONTRIBUTION

\$100,000

NSF FUNDS REQUESTED

\$288,160



City staff support this project. Jim Curtin and Brian Dougherty, Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School Managers at Seattle Department of Transportation were consulted about making safer pedestrian travel and crossings in and around Rainier Ave S at South Charlestown Street and 34th Avenue South. Jenny Frankl, the SE Department of Neighborhoods District Coordinator was also involved in this application.

Applicant Solution

Completing sidewalks and a safe crossing of South Charlestown Street will help people to cross the street and connect people without cars who walk daily to the Rainier Square Plaza to do their shopping.

This traffic safety project will improve the quality of life for many hundreds of people and make their lives better.

Sidewalks will provide grade-separated places for people to walk, and slower streets with improved crossings will reduce conflicts between people walking and people driving. Further, the addition of curb and gutter will bring this area into compliance with City of Seattle design standards. More structured streets will slow traffic so that children and slower moving adults have safe access to everyday necessities.

If additional money is available, we also request the city provide safety crossings of Rainier Ave S at South Charlestown Street for the people who walk to and from the busy Metro stop at this corner. People who drive at this corner often speed, and make fast turns without paying enough attention to people (many who are other-abled or seniors) who are crossing Rainier Avenue S to get to and from the bus.



Looking west from the northeast corner of 35th Ave S and S Charlestown St



Looking west from the north side of S Charlestown St east of 34th Ave S

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Review

Project Description

Rainier Ave S is a principal arterial roadway and S Charlestown St is a non-arterial street. S Charlestown St has 2 thru lanes and on-street parking on either side of the roadway with curb and sidewalk along both sides of the road with the exception of the north side between 34th Ave S and 35th Ave S. The intersection of Rainier Ave S and S Charlestown St is controlled by a traffic signal and has crosswalks in all directions. The other intersections along S Charlestown St are uncontrolled within the project limits. There is a commercial center on the south side of S Charlestown St and west end at Rainier Ave S.

A Neighborhood Parks and Street Fund (NPSF) project is scheduled for construction in autumn 2016 to construct sidewalk on the west side of 34th Ave S north of S Charlestown St.

The following improvements are proposed at this location:

- Construct new sidewalk on the north side of S Charlestown St between 34th Ave St and 35th Ave S
- Add curb bulbs at the northeast corner of 34th Ave S and S Charlestown St and the NW corner of 35th Ave S and S Charlestown St to improve pedestrian visibility
- Add curb bulbs across the entire width of the intersection on the south side of S Charlestown St at 34th Ave S and 35th Ave S to improve pedestrian visibility and restrict illegal parking within the intersection
- Evaluate signal timing at S Charlestown St and Rainier Ave S

This project would be leveraged with funds from SDOT's Sidewalk Development Program.

Constructability

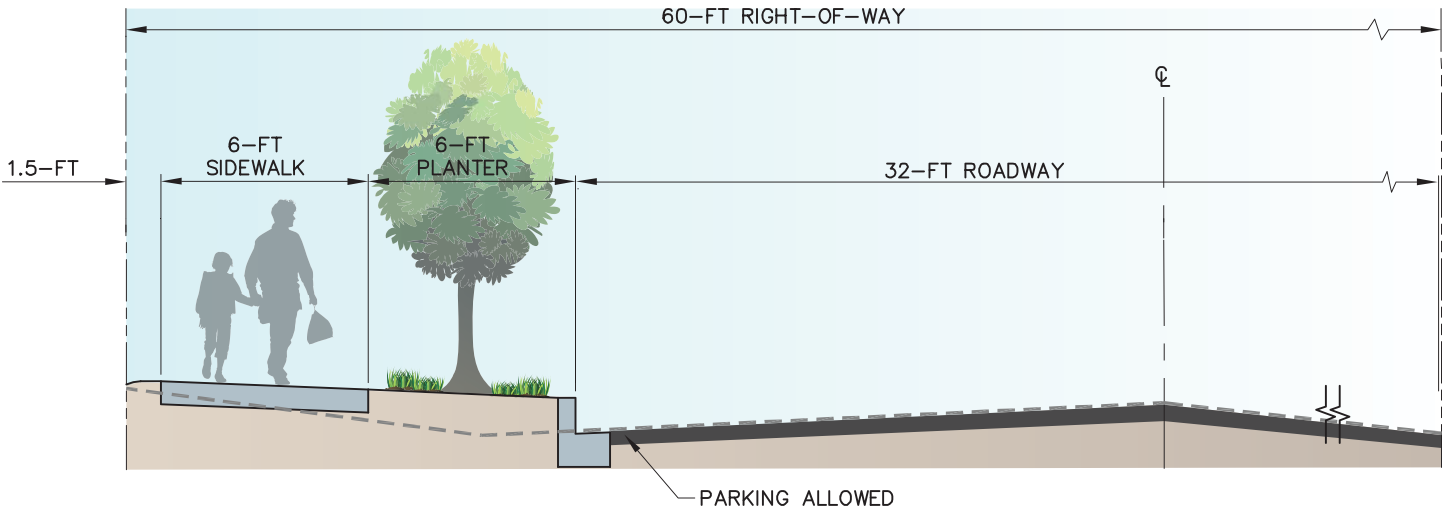
- Dense shrubbery on the north side of S Charlestown St obscures potential obstacles to sidewalk construction
- Relocation of utility poles, if needed to place the sidewalk in the correct location
- Coordination needed with Seattle City Light to incorporate planned electrical upgrades
- Drainage adjustments needed at 35th Ave S and S Charlestown St
- Clarification of the east pedestrian crossing at 34th Ave S with the existing driveway will need to be evaluated during the design phase

Impacts

- The curb bulbs on the south side of S Charlestown St will result in a perceived loss of parking, even though the existing parking is within the intersection and not legal

Benefits

- Improved pedestrian access and safety



2016-068
TYPICAL SECTION
 N.T.S.