Neighborhood Street Fund

2019 NSF APPLICATION
Do's and Don'ts

Clear identification of your point(s) of interest

Proposals cannot be fairly evaluated if applicants do not clearly communicate where improvements are needed. Furthermore, vague locations or expansive potential scopes for projects may lead to mis-identification of where projects may be desired. It is preferred that explicit streets or intersections be mentioned in the location of the project.

POOR: *"Improve crossings in Ballard"*

ACCEPTABLE: *"Improve roadway crossings near [Name] High School"*

PREFERABLE: *"Improve roadway crossings at the intersection of 12th Ave NW and NW 65th St."*

Framing the need for your application

Be sure to clearly explain what concern or issue your NSF project will address. Without context, an otherwise desired proposal might not be prioritized by the community or evaluated on relevant criteria.

POOR: *"Improve crossing."*

ACCEPTABLE: *"Improve pedestrian safety at crossing."*

PREFERABLE: *"Improve pedestrian safety at crossing to treat issues with sightlines, crossing times, and night time lighting."*

Present a general concept for your proposal

There are multiple ways to address concerns at a given location in the public right-of-way (ROW). Proposing a preferred treatment gives the NSF program a clear direction on what improvements should be evaluated and/or how SDOT can better identify the cost of your proposal.

POOR: *No proposed improvement*

ACCEPTABLE: *"Build a sidewalk."*

PREFERABLE: *"Build a low-cost sidewalk with ADA access points at both ends of the block."*

Provide visual aids

As with the previous points, the more clearly you explain the problem and your proposed solution, the better we can evaluate your application and work with you on refining your budget. Visual aids allow for quick, concise demonstrations of where you have identified a need that the NSF program can address. The simpler the visual, the better.

POOR: *No visual reference or a confusing/cluttered proposal.*

ACCEPTABLE: *A simple aerial or in-person photograph.*

PREFERABLE: *A photograph with minor illustrations or notes to clarify purpose of image.*

Understand budget limitations 3

NSF projects are meant to be between $100,000 and $1 Million for design and build costs. While we do not expect applicants to predict the exact costs of construction, a proposal that is realistically scoped requires less clarifications on the applicant's end. When in doubt, refer to past projects that were selected for review in the 2016 NSF process.

BUDGET TOO LOW: *"Please replace the stop signs along this street."*

BUDGET TOO HIGH: *"Please construct a bridge along this crossing."*

BUDGET CORRECT: *"Please construct new sidewalk in place of existing dirt path."*

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, additional translated material, or need help with accessing the application, please contact us at nsf@seattle.gov or 206-733-9361.

Seattle Department of Transportation

The Levy to MOVE SEATTLE

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EXAMPLE:
Scary Trail South Park

You are interested in improving the connection from Concord International School to the South Park Branch Library. The existing trail between the SR99 pedestrian bridge and the library is a clear and direct path between both locations, but few residents use it due to pavement issues and concerns with placemaking. You would like to apply to the NSF program with proposals to beautify the trail segment and improve access to the connection.

Q1: Project Name

BAD: *"Trail Improvements"*

GOOD: *"South Park Trail Improvements"* or *"Concord International Trail Connection Improvements"*

Q2: Location of Project

BAD: *"South Park"*

GOOD: *"Duwamish River Trail between S Trenton St and S Henderson St"*

Q3: What is the problem?

BAD: *"Trail is bad"* or *"Trail feels unsafe for kids"*

GOOD: *"Trail connection feels secluded from neighborhood, users feel exposed to SR99 and heavily wooded area, trail is difficult to locate, pavement repairs needed, etc."*

Q4: Do you have a proposed solution?

BAD: *"Fix trail"* or *"Improve safety"*

GOOD: *"Repair pavement, address safety concerns with lighting, placemaking, and building fencing, address wayfinding at trailheads."*

Q5: Visual aids

BAD: *Nothing provided*

ACCEPTABLE: *[IMAGE] "Project area of interest."*

PREFERRED: *[IMAGE] "Section of Duwamish Trail to improve. Propose that south trailhead be redesigned as a plaza or other type of placemaking project with hardscape. Address paving issues in the center of the trail, potentially by repaving. Install fencing along the east side of the trail to separate the wooded area from the trail.Form"*