

# Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Peg Staeheli, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Leif Fixen • Donna Kostka • Joanna Nelson de Flores • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Steve Zemke

*The Urban Forestry Commission was established to advise the Mayor and City Council concerning the establishment of policy and regulations governing the protection, management, and conservation of trees and vegetation in the City of Seattle*

DRAFT

October 1, 2014.

Scott Kubly, Director  
Seattle Department of Transportation  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Scott,

The Urban Forestry Commission would like to welcome you to Seattle and congratulate you on your appointment to lead the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT).

The Commission actively participated in the production of the 2013 Urban Forest Stewardship Plan which sets a canopy cover goal of 24% for the Right-of-way Management Unit, which represents 27% of Seattle's land area.

SDOT has been doing great work in support of our urban forest, including updating the Street Tree Ordinance, updating the street tree inventory and creating a publicly accessible street tree map, working on the production of the Tree/Sidewalks Operations Plan, and updating the Right-of-Way Improvement Manual.

Moving forward, the Commission is especially interested in increasing the right-of-way (ROW) canopy as a way to create more pedestrian-friendly streets while also mitigating pollution, helping manage urban storm water run-off, and providing habitat. We would like to suggest SDOT to focus on a few key areas:

- Continued emphasis on transitioning SDOT infrastructure from gray to green in un-used ROW
- Enhanced tree planting to provide buffers for arterials, school routes, and near senior housing, and
- Increased funding for street tree maintenance and inspection.

The Commission is excited to support your efforts on an ongoing basis on matters related to Seattle's urban forest.

Sincerely,

Peg Staeheli, Chair  
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Cc: Barbara Gray, Darren Morgan, Nolan Rundquist, Shane Dewald, Erick McConaghy

Sandra Pinto de Bader, Urban Forestry Commission Coordinator  
City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment  
PO Box 94729 Seattle, WA 98124-4729 Tel: 206-684-3194 Fax: 206-684-3013  
[www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission](http://www.seattle.gov/UrbanForestryCommission)