



Seattle Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Grace Crunican, Director

September 16, 2008

Dear Alki Avenue SW Resident:

As you may know, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has been working with the Alki Community Council (ACC) to fill in the sidewalk gaps along the waterside of Alki Avenue SW just west of Alki Beach to Beach Drive SW. The ACC requested this project through the Neighborhood Street Fund, a community-driven funding program. The goals of the project are to provide a safe, accessible pedestrian walkway while minimizing impacts to parking and adjacent properties. I'm happy to report the project is on schedule and the design is nearly complete.

SDOT held an open house in April to get feedback on the initial sidewalk concept. I want to thank those of you who took the time out of your busy schedules to come and learn more about the design and provide your input. We heard that while filling in the sidewalk gaps was important there were also concerns with traffic speeds, safety and access to the existing sidewalk. In addition, SDOT has worked closely with your neighbors to address individual property issues such as drainage, parking and driveway access.

Specifically, SDOT has addressed the following:

1. Traffic Calming—SDOT will build raised crosswalks, like the ones on California Ave SW at the Junction, at both ends of the project. Raised crosswalks reduce vehicle speeds directly where pedestrians are most likely to cross the street. In addition, improvements at the intersection of Alki Avenue SW and 63rd Avenue SW will more clearly define the desired direction of arterial traffic.
2. Parking—The existing 25 perpendicular on-street parking spaces will remain, as well as the perpendicular parking residents use at their driveways. A balance was reached that allowed for more legal parking in some locations to offset other parking losses.
3. Safety—In addition to the traffic calming safety benefits, filling in the gaps in the sidewalk will improve safety by separating pedestrians from moving traffic, clearly defining where pedestrians will be walking and visually narrowing the street. Sight distance will be improved at the intersection of Alki Avenue SW and Point Place SW.

SDOT staff will go door-to-door in the neighborhood to discuss the plans with you and your neighbors on September 17th and 18th. If you are not available during those times and would like to discuss the plans, please feel free to contact Sandra "Sam" Woods at (206) 733-9408 or sandra.woods@seattle.gov. Ms. Woods would be happy to assist you.

A detailed report from the open house comment cards as well as the current design can be viewed on-line at http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/btg_nsf.htm. The project is on schedule for construction in early 2009 and we will be in touch again as the construction date gets closer.

Sincerely,

Grace Crunican
Director



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