



# VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY

May 2018

## OVERVIEW

In the interest of maintaining and improving transportation assets, Seattle City Council adopted Ordinance 125251 in February 2017, which amends SMC 15.04.100 to allow SDOT to credit use fees in exchange for voluntary transportation improvements.

Completing voluntary transportation improvements that go beyond required restoration reduces multiple impacts to the pavement, and improves public infrastructure for less money. SDOT may credit up to \$300,000 per project in use fees to complete the voluntary improvements.

Examples of eligible voluntary improvement projects include pavement improvements, building ADA curb ramps, connecting a missing link of bicycle facilities or sidewalks, or building or improving a transit facility on a Transit Master Plan Corridor. The full list of eligible voluntary improvement projects may be found in the criteria framework.

## CRITERIA

To determine whether a project is eligible for the use fee credits to complete voluntary improvements, SDOT completes a review process to determine if the cost of private construction of the improvement is less than the SDOT cost; to identify whether the improvement is included in an SDOT plan; and to ensure the improvement is not redundant.

The full framework may be found in the Criteria Framework section. Minimum thresholds may be established for these categories as deemed appropriate.

## CRITERIA FRAMEWORK

- Pavement condition is prime for an overlay (Pavement Condition Index between 60 and 40)
- Is not on the 9-year paving plan
- Listed on a Bicycle Master Plan corridor
- Connects a missing link to existing bicycle facilities
- Builds or improves a pedestrian facility in the Pedestrian Master Plan Priority Investment Network
- Connect a missing link of sidewalk
- Builds an ADA curb ramp
- Builds or improves a transit facility on the Frequent Transit Network
- Implements a feature identified in an approved streetscape concept plan
- Transitions an interim SDOT project to a permanent improvement

### PROJECT CONTACT

Heather Marx  
Project and Construction Coordination Office Manager  
(206) 615-0801 | heather.marx@seattle.gov



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

## PROJECT EXAMPLES

### 450 Alaskan Way

- **Development project:** Required right-of-way restoration associated with the construction of an eight-story mixed-use tower in Pioneer Square
- **Voluntary improvement:** Expanding the required paving to include the entire block of S King St between Alaskan Way S and 1st Ave S



### Pike Street Hillclimb Skybridge

- **Development project:** Redesigning the Pike Street Hillclimb as part of the Pike Place Market renovation project
- **Voluntary improvement:** Removing the skybridge portion of the Hillclimb due to inconsistencies with the new market improvements



### 1320 University Park Plaza

- **Development project:** The construction of a mixed-use complex at 1320 University St
- **Voluntary improvement:** Making the Pavement to Parks installment at the 5-way intersection at this location permanent to provide additional public space



PARK CONCEPT - LOOKING WEST TOWARD PROJECT SITE



PARK CONCEPT - LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM E. UNION STREET