

Urban Forestry Commission - Project/Policy Review

8-3-2012

Name of Project: Elliott Bay Seawall Project

Purpose: Replacement of the failing waterfront seawall from Washington to Broad Streets

Name of City Department or Private Entity: Seattle Department of Transportation

Contact: Jennifer Wieland, Project Manager

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The Urban Forestry Commission requests that presenters review and complete the following general questions as applicable to the project being considered:

- **Please name department lead for this project**
 - Jennifer Wieland, SDOT Project Manager
- **Please verify the City department permitting lead for this project:**
 - Mark Mazzola, SDOT Sr. Environmental Analyst
- **Identify other city departments that may have an interest or role:**
 - Mayor and City Council
 - Office of Intergovernmental Relations
 - Department of Planning and Development
 - Seattle Parks and Recreation
 - Seattle City Light
 - Seattle Public Utilities
 - Department of Neighborhoods
 - Seattle Fire Department
 - Finance and Administrative Services
- **Please list city codes or ordinances that may be a factor for this project:**
 - SEPA
 - Land Use Code (Shoreline Substantial Development)
 - Noise Ordinance
- **Is this project requesting any policy or permit exemptions? (i.e. from DPD or SDOT)**
 - Noise variance
 - Potential variances or waivers of specific shoreline development standards
- **Does this project link (within ½ mile) to another significant project, site or city park? Y/N If so please describe.**
 - The Elliott Bay Seawall Project spans the waterfront between Washington and Broad Streets. Other significant projects, sites, and city parks within close proximity to this project include the following:
 - **Projects**
 - Waterfront Seattle
 - WSF Seattle Multimodal Terminal at Colman Dock Project
 - Seattle Aquarium Expansion
 - Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program

- **Sites and City Parks**
 - Washington Street Boat Landing
 - Pioneer Square
 - Colman Dock
 - Central Piers (Ivar's, Argosy, Pier 57)
 - Waterfront Park
 - Seattle Aquarium
 - Bell Street Harbor/Bell Harbor International Conference Center/Pier 66
 - Edgewater Hotel
 - Port of Seattle/Victoria Clipper
- **Does this project involve the use of any public funds (city, county, state or federal)? Y/N**
Please provide source and amount.
 - Yes; \$30M from King County Flood Control District, \$30M from City of Seattle General Fund (\$60M total)
 - Pending: City Council will place a \$290M bond measure on the November 6, 2012, ballot that would fund the construction of Phase 1 of the seawall (Washington to Virginia Streets).
 - Future: Federal funding will be sought for Phase 2 (Virginia to Broad Streets) via a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- **How does this project tie into the goals of the urban forest management plan? What are the specific goals for this project?**
 - The goal of Urban Forest Management Plan is to support an urban forest that is a thriving and sustainable mix of tree and understory species and ages and creates a contiguous and healthy ecosystem that is valued and cared for by the City and all of its residents as an essential environmental, economic, and community asset.
 - The Elliott Bay Seawall Project includes enhancements to upland riparian vegetation along the seawall in an effort to benefit the nearshore marine habitat.
 - Construction of the seawall will require removal of existing urban trees. SDOT will work within the Urban Forest Management Plan to replace trees, as possible, in coordination with future waterfront projects.
- **Are there impacts to existing trees or vegetation? Y/N Please describe: (include positive or negative impacts including maintenance)**
 - Fifty-six trees would be removed on the west side of Alaskan Way and 160 on the east side for the Central Seawall. For the North Seawall, eight trees would be removed on the west side and 127 on the east side. Most of these plants, however, are ornamental and provide little natural habitat or support few native species.
- **Does this project involve invasive removal (trees or vegetation)? Y/N If so please describe:**
 - No
- **Does this project involve re-vegetation with native species? Y/N If so please describe extent:**
 - Yes. Native riparian vegetation will be planted in a new habitat area south of Colman Dock and at various other locations along the seawall.

- **Is there a long term maintenance plan associated with this project?**
 - A long-term vegetation management plan will be developed in conjunction with final project design.
- **Does this project involve the planting of street trees? Has this project allocated for early street tree management such as pruning within the first 7 years?**
 - Vegetation proposed as part of the Elliott Bay Seawall Project would primarily be to benefit habitat. Street trees would be part of an overall urban design for the waterfront implemented Waterfront Seattle and other waterfront projects.
- **Will this project/policy promote an increase in tree canopy from existing conditions through the number and type of trees planted (or required), also considering potential trees removed? Please explain.**
 - The project will promote an increase in native vegetation in the waterfront area. The planned habitat enhancements would replace and substantially augment existing vegetation with native species that would be placed in areas more appropriate for ecosystem support.
 - An increase in tree canopy is proposed as part of Waterfront Seattle, a project that will follow on the heels of the Seawall Project.
- **Will this project/policy improve the overall ecosystem health of the affected site (or citywide if applicable) through benefits to habitat from trees encouraged, planted, or retained? Please explain.**
 - Yes. Trees and other vegetation have been included in the project for their benefits to the marine ecosystem. Inputs from riparian vegetation provide nutrition and shelter for a wide variety of marine organisms.
- **Does this project/policy promote community outreach related to the urban forest? Yes/No**
 - Yes; a community outreach plan has been implemented and will communicate messages regarding urban forestry issues as they become more defined.
- **Are there any unique conditions or unique trees associated with this project?**
 - No
- **Describe the benefit of this project at 20 years: (i.e. size and mix of trees; extent of vegetation; canopy coverage)**
 - TBD