Addressing Conflicts between Trees and Sidewalks

Project Overview

Urban Forestry Commission
December 11, 2013
Background

- Seattle’s 4.35 million trees are worth $4.9 billion
- Goal is to expand canopy cover to 30% by 2027
- SDOT manages over 140,000 trees in the right-of-way
- Since 2007, SDOT has planted over 1,200 trees annually
• Develop a toolkit of options to address conflicts between trees and sidewalks (and other infrastructure) citywide

• Use case studies, including the 34th Avenue East corridor, to illustrate applications
Project Goals

• **Accessibility and Health:** To provide a safe, accessible, and inviting walking environment, following universal design principles

• **Environment:** To protect and expand a healthy urban forest

• **Equity:** To thoroughly consider the needs of all communities in accordance with the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative

• **Efficiency:** To preserve existing assets—both street trees and sidewalks—and use resources wisely
Draft Objectives

• Repair tree-damaged sidewalks with sustainable solutions
• Retain healthy, mature, and appropriately sited trees whenever possible
• Explore and implement innovative sidewalk repair approaches
• Evaluate sidewalk repair approaches across a range of criteria, including lifecycle and community costs and benefits
• Add to the urban canopy by planting new trees
Project Team

SvR Design
Harrison Design
Norton-Arnold
GeoEngineers

Olaf Ribeiro
Stenn Design
Tree Solutions

SDOT Project Manager

Peg Staeheli, ASLA, PLA, LEED AP (S)
Senior Advisor, Quality Assurance
Olaf K. Ribeiro (O) *
Case Study Review

Amalia Leighton, PE, AICP (S)*
Project Manager

BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH
SOLUTIONS & IMPLEMENTATION / CASE STUDIES
PUBLIC OUTREACH & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Stakeholders
Scope of Work

1. Project management
2. Existing and best practices research
3. Development of long-term solutions and approaches to implementation
4. Case studies
5. Public outreach and community involvement
6. Final operational plan
Best Practices Research

- National and international city research
- Current SDOT Practices
- Tree size
- Tree valuation
- Tree maintenance
- Root maintenance
- Root structure evaluation
- Sub-base installation
- Soil conditions
- Nutrients
- Water and irrigation
- Utility compatibility
- Sidewalk pavement types
- Accessibility and ADA
- Surface maintenance
- Street edge conditions
- Suggestions?
## Preliminary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>DEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing &amp; Best Practices Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solutions &amp; Approaches to Implementation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies: Madrona Corridor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies: Other Corridor Selections</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies: Other Corridor Concept Plans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Outreach and Engagement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Plan Draft &amp; Final</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY:**
- IDT - SDOT Interdepartmental Team Meetings
- PIP - Public Involvement Plan
- * - Citywide Public Meetings
- ▲ - Case Study Public Meetings
Questions?

Project Website:
http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treesandsidewalks.htm

Contact Information:
Jennifer Wieland, 733-9970
jennifer.wieland@seattle.gov