



Shoreline Area Pedestrian and Bicycle Connection for the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop

2700 block of Fairview Ave E between E Edgar and E Hamlin Streets

Applicant Problem

The worst barrier facing pedestrians and bicyclists on the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop around the lake is between Edgar and Hamlin Streets. Current signage directs pedestrians and bicyclists on the Lake Union Loop to use the named alley (named Yale Place East) between Edgar and Hamlin Streets. This alley of course lacks any space for sidewalks, and is so steep that drivers of motor vehicles approaching from either Edgar or Hamlin Street cannot see even a few feet ahead, placing pedestrians and bicyclists at extreme risk. This already unacceptable situation will become still more dangerous with the imminent opening of a major office building (now under construction) whose only parking and loading entrance is from this same alley.

The only alternative to pedestrians and bicyclists is to use Eastlake Avenue north-south, a route that requires them to climb and descend on the steep Edgar St. and Hamlin St. Both the alley and the Eastlake Ave. routes are unsafe, inconvenient, and topographically daunting. They lack the level topography and the shoreline amenities for which the Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop is otherwise prized.

PROJECT TYPE

Crossing

APPROXIMATE LENGTH

N/A

COST ESTIMATE

N/A



Applicant Solution

Several possible design solutions are possible, some on existing SDOT right of way, and some that could involve acquisition of an easement across a small portion of private land. In adopting the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan, the Mayor and City Council directed that SDOT as lead agency work engage with the community in exploring the possibilities and working toward the best solution.



Existing E Edgar St street end



Unimproved steep slope ROW from the end of E Edgar St looking down the hill toward Lake Union



Existing street end at Fairview Ave E showing the entrance to the private parking for 100 E Edgar St

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Review

Project Description

Ideas considered in the past for the missing section of Fairview Ave E between E Roanoke St and E Hamlin St have included at-grade routes along the shoreline and routes over Lake Union. They have included floating bridges, a cable ferry, and a shoreline connection that would utilize property that is privately owned. This conceptual design process focused on one portion of the missing connection – that between E Edgar St and E Hamlin St.

The project area is located on the east shore of Lake Union at the street end of E Edgar St and the street end of Fairview Ave E. The existing street end at E Edgar St is a densely vegetated steep slope with power poles. Currently it is not possible to get down to the shoreline from E Edgar St on public property.

As part of this process, SDOT evaluated the potential locations of both a ramp and stairs from the parking lot of 100 E Edgar St off Fairview Ave E to the top of the hill at E Edgar St. Based on this evaluation either facility would have to be designed for approximately 20 feet of elevation gain.

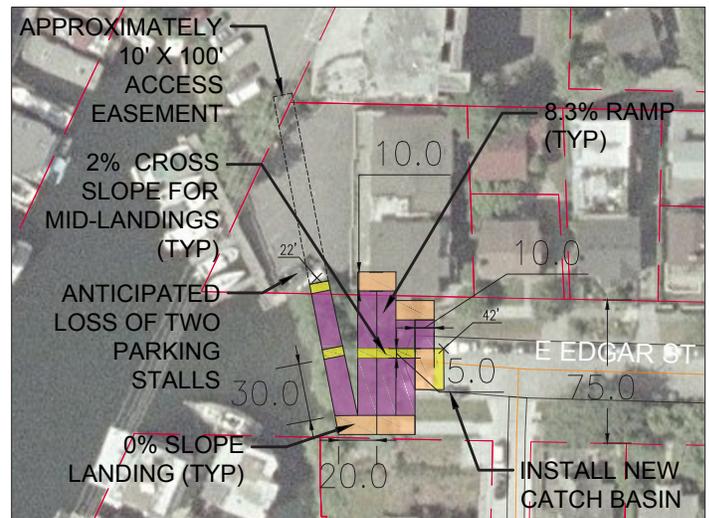
Neither design concept can be constructed as part of the NSF program due to the private property and environmental issues. One concept involves access and construction on private property which the NSF program does not have funding to purchase. In addition, the environmental review and permitting as a result of the proximity of the facility to the Lake Union shoreline would be too extensive for the NSF program to be able to construct the project in 2018.

Constructability

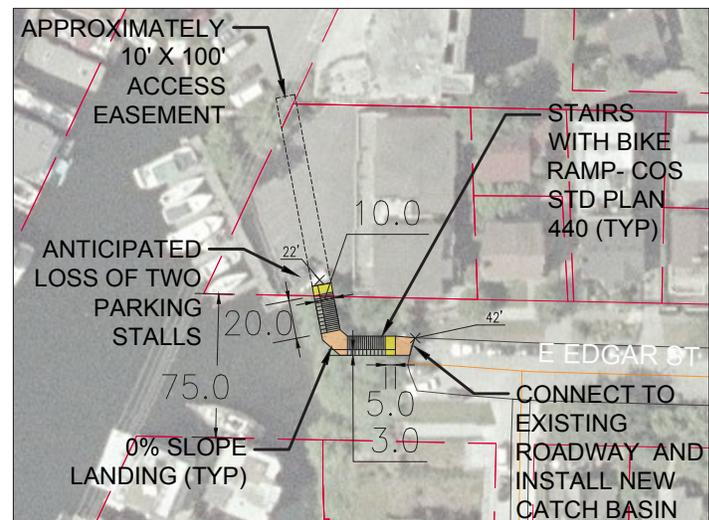
- This project would require easement onto private property to connect Fairview Ave E and E Edgar St which cannot be funded through the NSF Program.
- Environmental review and permitting would need to be completed prior to construction.
- Survey information is needed to confirm the slope of the hillside, the location of the shoreline and the change in elevation between the street ends.

Impacts

- Parking on private property would be removed at 100 E Edgar St.
- Some of the wall likely needed for either facility would be located within the parcel for 100 E Edgar St.
- Shoreline restoration and/or enhancement would be required as part of this project.
- Trees would have to be removed as part of this project.



Evaluation of a ramp connection between Fairview Ave E and E Edgar St



Evaluation of a stair connection between Fairview Ave E and E Edgar St

Scale in Feet

