

**PROJECT TYPE** Pedestrian Plaza, Bicycle Improvements  
**APPROXIMATE LENGTH** 1 block  
**COST ESTIMATE** \$280,000

# SDOT-C East Union Street

between E Madison St and 13<sup>th</sup> Ave

## APPLICANT PROBLEM

Neighborhood planning efforts for Pike/Pine and the Central District have designated the intersection of Union, Madison, and 12th Ave as an important neighborhood gateway location. This six-leg arterial intersection results in long, angled crossings that are particularly uncomfortable for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as turn restrictions that limit the usability of certain roadway segments. At Union between Madison and 13th St, for example, westbound traffic cannot go through the intersection and is forced to turn eastbound (right) back up Madison St. Since westbound traffic is encouraged to use 13th St anyway, vehicles can be prohibited from this segment of Union St and the roadway can be reconfigured for improved pedestrian and bicycle comfort, and new landscaping.

Previous efforts at improving this area were hampered by the need to maintain vehicle access to the small triangular lot bounded by Union, 13th, and Madison. Now that a new business has closed these driveway access points, urban design opportunities for improving this street are greatly enhanced. In addition, several new developments are under construction or in the permitting process immediately adjacent to the area, which will increase pedestrian and bicycle demand in the near future.

## APPLICANT SOLUTION

“Reclaim” approximately 3500 sq. ft. of roadway by narrowing Union St and providing wider sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, landscaping, angled parking, and improved bicycle connections. Reduce pedestrian crossing distances along Madison and 13th St. Per the Bicycle Master Plan, SDOT has also prioritized improving bicycle connectivity along and across this complicated intersection. Together with a large NSF project, improvements in this area could include wider sidewalks and/or a shared use trail connecting Madison and Union, new pedestrian lighting, significant new landscaping, designated bicycle facilities, angled parking, and new crosswalks. Pedestrian crossing distances would be shortened along Madison St and 13th, while space can be made available for future potential neighborhood gateway or public art projects. The exact scope of the project and priorities would need to be discussed with the community.



### LEGEND:

- RIGHT-OF-WAY (R.O.W.)
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED PLANTING STRIP
- PROPOSED PARKING
- PROPOSED BIKE LANE
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK REPAIR
- BUS STOP

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## SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (SDOT) REVIEW

Expand the existing sidewalk on the north side of Union to 18' wide, add a 9' planting strip and 7' bike lane (westbound). Install a new curb, 7' parking lane, 12' eastbound one-way through lane, 7' bike lane, 7' parking/bus lane and match into the existing curb on the south side of the Union. The street use will be one-way east-bound only.

### Constructability

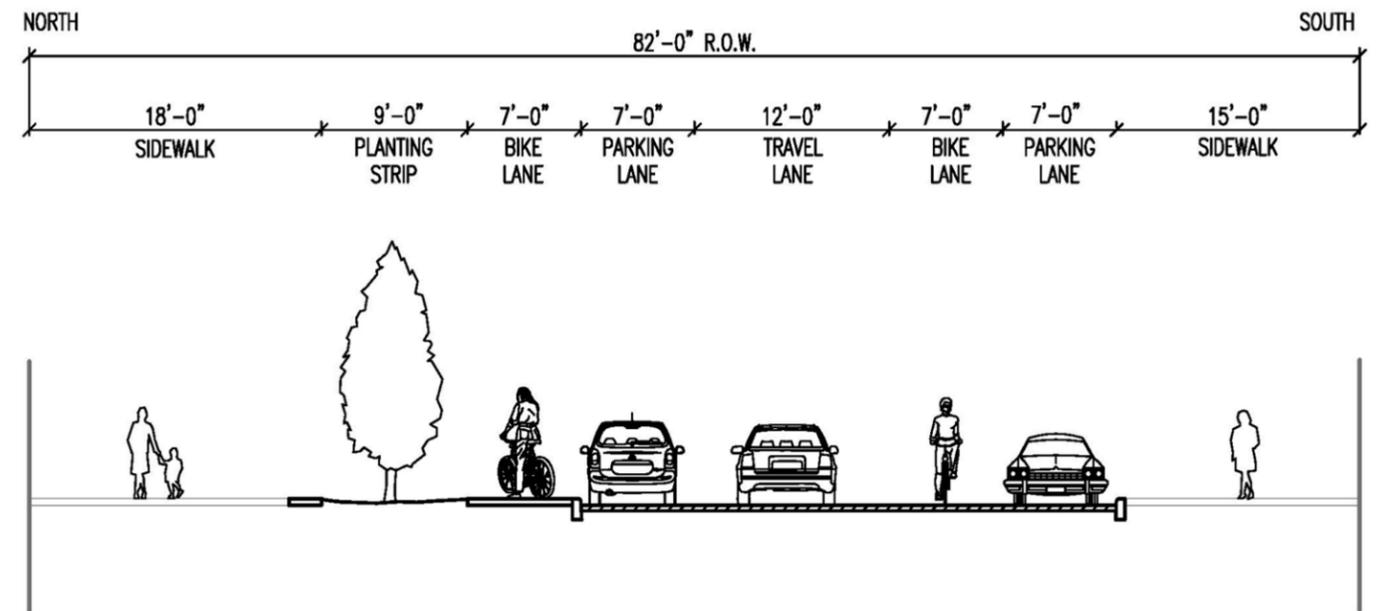
- Existing drainage infrastructure.
- The sidewalk extension on the north side of the road will be going against the grade of the crowned road which can create drainage problems on the sidewalk. That should be minimal since the longitudinal slope of the sidewalk will keep water from ponding.

### Community Issues

- SDOT has been working with the community for many years to construct this improvement.
- Initial community outreach shows support for one-way operation.
- No parking impacts anticipated. There is a parking space on the NW corner of Union and 13th behind the commercial building that is non-standard.

### Benefits

- Improves facilities for bicycles by providing bike lanes in both directions. Improves bicycle access to existing bike lanes on E Union Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and helps bicycles navigate this challenging intersection.
- Improves facilities and safety for pedestrians by providing wider sidewalk, wider planting strip and shorter crossing distance (across E Union Street).
- Improves access to/from transit stop on southside of E Union Street (METRO route #2).
- Improves roadway and intersection geometry to reduce collisions.
- Improves school safety by reducing vehicle conflicts and providing access to Seattle Academy which fronts Union Street at 12th Avenue and Seattle University which is just around the corner on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Provides access to business district along 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



E UNION AT MADISON - SECTION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'- 0"



At E Madison St - looking east



At 13th Ave E - looking west