

Northgate 5th Avenue Streetscape Design Project

Key Priorities for a Pedestrian Friendly Street

Three key themes emerged from the Visual Preference Survey, Interviews, and Questionnaires completed by Northgate area residents, users, and property owners when asked about the important qualities of a pedestrian-friendly street.

Those three themes are: Safety, Function, and Appearance. The images and text shown here demonstrate the key messages we heard from you regarding the ways in which 5th Ave. NE can be a safer, better functioning, and more attractive street.

Safety: Safety is the first key to a pedestrian-friendly street. Ways to improve the safety of pedestrians on 5th Ave. NE include:

Crosswalks: There should be an increased number of well-marked crosswalks. Crosswalk signals should provide longer periods for crossing.



Sidewalks: Sidewalks should be wide and open with few obstructions, have smooth surfaces, and serve as a buffer from cars travelling along the street.



Automobiles: Automobile traffic should be slowed so that pedestrians don't feel as though they're walking along a raceway.

Function: How the street functions as a place for pedestrians, transit and automobiles is important to Northgate area users. Each different group of users needs attention paid to the ways in which they use 5th Ave. NE.



Parking: On-street parking provides a buffer for the pedestrian, slows traffic and provides additional parking for the business uses located along 5th Ave. NE.

Sidewalks and Streetscape: Sidewalks should be sufficiently wide to permit outside furniture such as benches, garbage cans, and café tables and chairs, while still leaving room for pedestrians to pass by.



Bus Stops: Bus shelters should be covered, decorative, display time schedules, and feature garbage cans and places to sit. They should be both functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Appearance: Many Northgate area users and residents expressed their desire to walk more along 5th Ave. NE if the walk were attractive.

Landscaping: Landscaping and street trees should be used to improve the pedestrian experience through Northgate. Landscaping, whether street trees, median, or planting strips, provides an important buffer between pedestrians and automobiles. However, landscaping should not be so dense that it isolates or obscures the view of the street and stores from pedestrians, transit-riders or automobile passengers.



Interface Between Public Street and Private Property: Outdoor seating opportunities should be located inside a plaza adjacent to the sidewalk. Buildings should display awnings or overhangs that provide weather protection. Wide sidewalks should open onto plazas and entrances, creating a relationship between public and private spaces.



Amenities: Simple amenities unique to the neighborhood are preferred including pedestrian-scaled street lights, hanging baskets, and local systems of way-finding, such as neighborhood street signs.