

# Arbor Heights Traffic Circles

SW 104th St between 39th Ave SW and 41st Ave SW  
39th Ave SW between SW 100th St and SW 106th St

## Applicant Problem

AH is a quiet residential neighborhood, with many pedestrians, lots of children wandering the neighborhood, and NO sidewalks. Most drivers abide by the speed limit, but MANY are travelling down these residential streets at very unsafe speeds, some in excess of 40mph, even when pedestrians are present. The N-S streets, like 41st Avenue SW are 1/3 mile straight-aways with several uncontrolled intersections that speeders don't even slow down for (there was an awful T-bone accident at SW 102nd and 41st Ave SW a few years ago). I've seen many people nearly hit, myself included, and because these uncontrolled intersections provide no incentive to slow down, speeders get up to 40mph racing toward SW 100th, the main arterial through Arbor Heights.

## Applicant Solution

Ideally, the neighborhood would finally get sidewalks (there are LOTS of pedestrians in this neighborhood) so there is a safe place to walk. But to slow down the dangerously excessive speeding, I would propose that traffic circles be installed at the uncontrolled intersections, slowing drivers down, so they don't have three blocks worth of built-up speed by the time they reach SW 100th. I would even accept four way stops. Or speed bumps. Anything.

### PROJECT TYPE

Pedestrian Improvements

### APPROXIMATE LENGTH

1,300 lf

### COST ESTIMATE

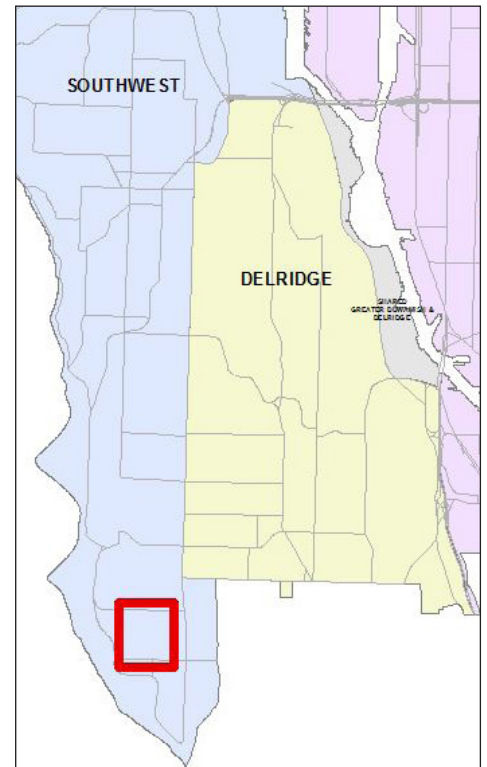
\$858,350

### SDOT CONTRIBUTION

\$200,000

### NSF FUNDS REQUESTED

\$658,350



# Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Review

## Project Description

SW 104th St and 39th Ave SW are non-arterial residential streets with gravel shoulders. There is no curb or gutter system within the project area with the exception of the SE corner of SW 104th St and 39th Ave SW. There are no sidewalks along these streets within the project area except for the east side of 39th Ave SW between SW 105th St and SW 106th St. Both Sts are designated as school walking routes. Arbor Heights Elementary School is located south of SW 104th St and east of 39th Ave SW.

Installation of traffic circles are recommended only at intersections where two collisions have occurred within the last three years. Since none of the intersections in the study area met this criteria, this conceptual design review looked at locations where low-cost walkways could be installed.

The proposed improvements include constructing an at-grade asphalt walkway along the east side of 39th Ave SW between SW 100th St and SW 106th St where there is no sidewalk today and constructing a new asphalt path on the south side of SW 104th St between 41st Ave SW and 39th Ave SW. Gravel driveways will be replaced with paved driveways to eliminate the tracking of gravel on the proposed path. Wheel stops are proposed along the edge of the roadway where path and planting strip reconstruction is proposed. On-street parking will be permitted on the side of the street where the walkway is installed. Parking on the other side of the street will still be permitted in the shoulder area.

These particular locations were selected as the best candidates for walkways due to vehicle speeds on these streets and the benefit that they expanded the existing sidewalk network around Arbor Heights Elementary School. This project includes funding from SDOT's Low Cost Walkway Program.

## Constructability

- Some re-grading may be necessary at the location of existing swales on 39th Ave SW near SW 100th St and on SW 104th St near 41st Ave SW

## Impacts

- Perceived reduction in parking with the addition of wheel stops along the edge of the roadway in the proposed path areas
- Private encroachments into the public right-of-way may be removed
- Some utility relocation may be necessary
- Several trees and shrubs may need to be removed

## Benefits

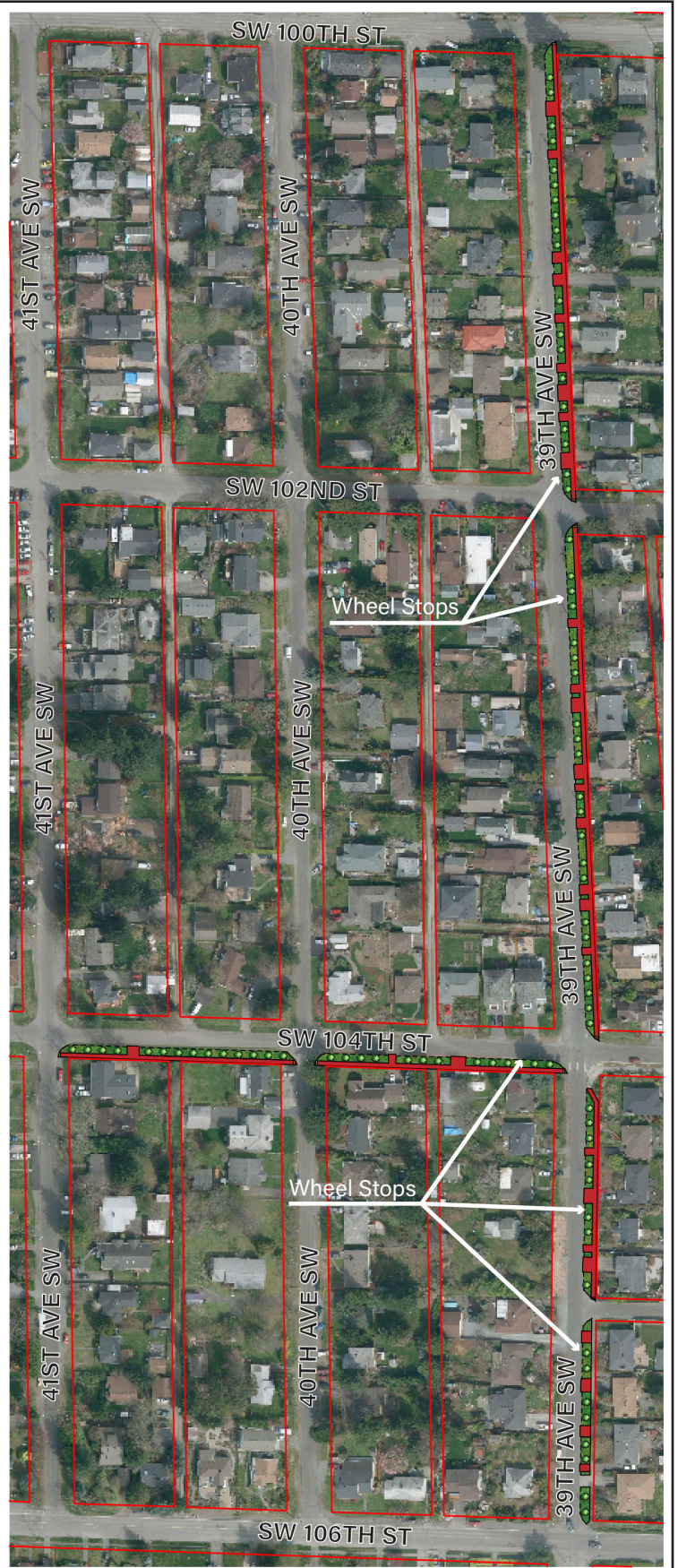
- Increased safety and accessibility for pedestrians along an expanded school walking route
- Reduced vehicle speeds due to the narrowed roadway
- Opportunities to plant trees in the planting strip area

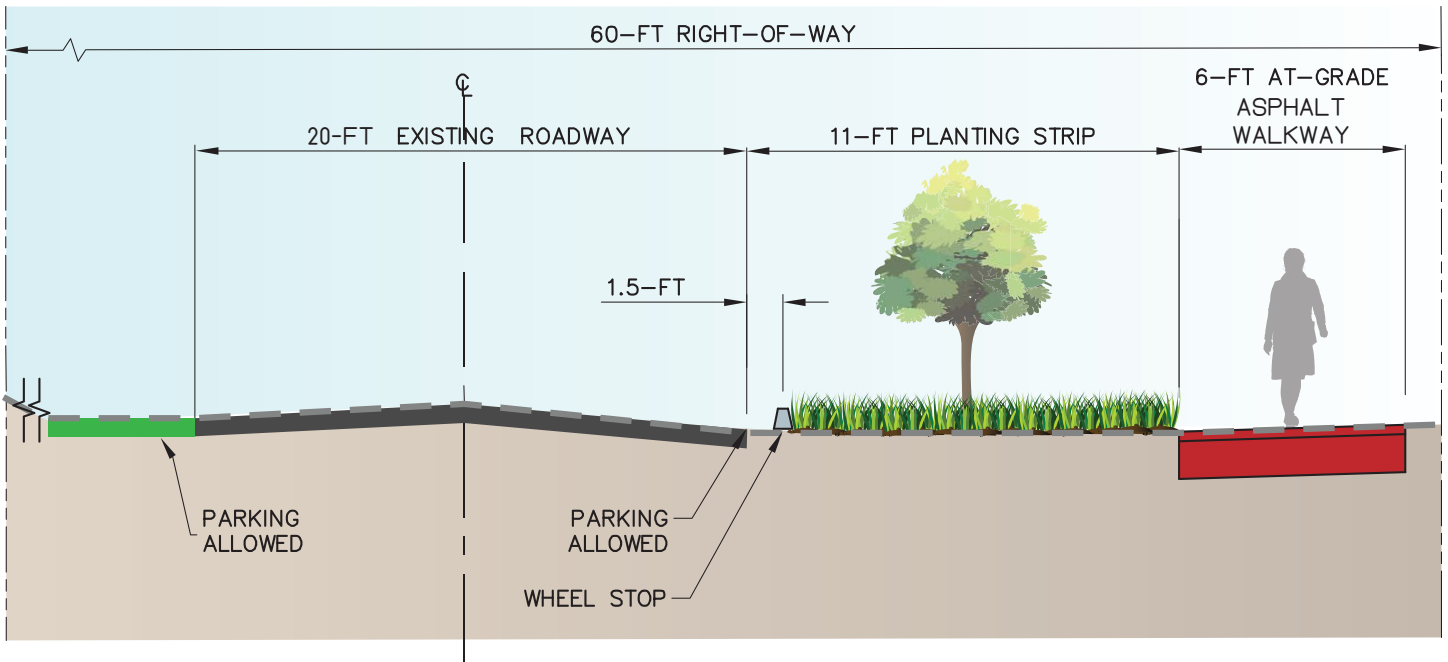


*Looking south from the east side of 39th Ave SW north of SW 102nd St*



*Looking west from the south side of SW 104th St east of 40th Ave SW*





**2016-041**  
**TYPICAL SECTION**  
 N.T.S.