

# 15th Avenue S S Columbian Way Improvement

Intersection of 15th Avenue S with S Columbian Way and S Oregon Street

## Applicant Problem

15th Avenue S. and S. Columbian Way is a dangerous area due to the design of the intersection and the confluence of pedestrians and vehicles. In the fall of 2015, a Mercer student was struck by a car while trying to cross the street to get to school. The school notifies families frequently about the dangers of the area.

Pedestrian crossings at this intersection are confusing and require navigating up to three crosswalks. Crossing requires pedestrians, many of them students, to wait for the signal on an “island” between the streets of this very busy intersection. The timing of pedestrian crossing signals is also an issue.

Additionally, the gradual transition from S. Columbian Way into 15th Avenue S. creates a situation where drivers tend to speed. As a major connector between neighborhoods with close proximity to I-5, this street is highly traveled. These factors – confluence of intersections, number of pedestrian crossing and a crossing “island” and the traffic volume and speeding issues – makes this intersection a high priority for redesign.

In addition to improving the overall safety of the intersection for pedestrians and drivers, redesigning could have other potential benefits, such as the creation a public space and bicycle lanes.

## Applicant Solution

Reconstruct the area to simplify the confluence of streets, improve pedestrian safety and slow vehicle speeds.

### PROJECT TYPE

Pedestrian Improvements

### APPROXIMATE LENGTH

400 lf

### COST ESTIMATE

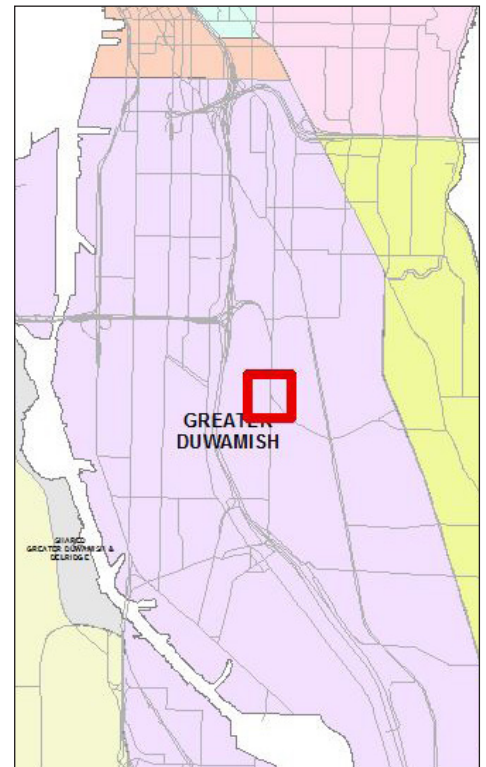
\$2,381,130

### SDOT CONTRIBUTION

\$1.3 Million

### NSF FUNDS REQUESTED

\$1,081,130



# Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Review

## Project Description

S Columbian Way is classified as a principal arterial and 15th Ave S is classified as a minor arterial. S Oregon Street west of 15th Ave S is a non-arterial neighborhood street with on-street parking on both sides of the street. 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way both have two thru lanes in each direction and on-street parking on both sides. Marked crosswalks exist on all sides of the S Oregon St and 15th Ave S intersection and across S Columbian Way at the northeast corner of the S Oregon St and 15th Ave S intersection. Traffic signal control is also present for all streets at this intersection. Mercer Middle School is located east of the project and students frequently use this intersection to walk to and from school. S Oregon St between 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way was closed to westbound traffic in 2015.

The proposed improvement involves a redesign of the intersection, which keeps S Columbian Way as the primary thru route and brings 15th Ave S into S Columbian Way. S Oregon St west of 15th Ave S will function as a right-in and right-out only street. Bus zones will likely be relocated north of the intersection on the east side of S Columbian Way. This concept is taken directly from the Southeast Transportation Study (SETS).

The project would receive leveraging from SDOT's Safe Routes to School Program, either from program funds or from a grant sources.

## Constructability

- Reconfiguration of drainage system, signals, and lighting will be required
- There is an opportunity for landscaping or a community plaza in the new bulb, however the community or adjacent property will need to maintain landscaping or non-standard elements
- Full community engagement will be needed for the reconfiguration of the intersection and creation of a plaza area

## Impacts

- Elimination of the 2-hour parking zone on the west side of 15th Ave S north of S Oregon St
- Adding a crosswalk on the north side of S Columbian Way at 15th Ave S would be desired for pedestrian connectivity, but would add delay to the intersection
- Motor vehicle traffic using S Oregon St will not be able to turn left to get in or out of S Oregon St
- Relocation/removal of a utility pole

## Benefits

- Increased pedestrian safety
- Reduced confusion for drivers navigating the intersection
- Creation of a plaza/gathering area for pedestrians or green space



*Looking northwest from the center of the island on the west side of S Columbian Way at S Oregon St*



*Looking east from the southwest corner of the intersection of S Oregon St and 15th Ave s*

