

February 22, 2017

Dear Neighbor:

Hello. I'm writing to share an update on the sidewalk and drainage improvements planned for 30th Ave NE. I'm happy to report that the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) secured funding for this project and are moving forward.

### **Project background – What's happening?**

As described in our June 2015 letter, this project includes a new sidewalk, partial curb and gutter, and natural drainage systems along the east side of 30th Ave NE between NE 130th St and NE 137th St. This project will make it safer, easier, and more pleasant to walk along 30th Ave NE by replacing the existing dirt path with a new sidewalk.

Additionally, SDOT has partnered with SPU in its efforts to reduce polluted runoff and improve the water quality of Thornton Creek by including natural drainage systems (NDS) adjacent to the new sidewalk.

*Figure 1. Example of current street conditions from Google Streetview*



*Figure 2. Sample of new sidewalk and natural drainage system*



### **What are natural drainage systems?**

Natural drainage systems (NDS) are constructed depressions along the road in the right of way or "planter strip." They are a type of green stormwater infrastructure and are built to capture runoff and filter pollutants. When it rains, large volumes of polluted stormwater flow into Thornton Creek, but NDS can help slow and clean the stormwater before it reaches the creek, improving water quality and reducing pollution in Lake Washington.

**Figure 2 illustrates potential sidewalk and natural drainage system improvements. The project design may include elements shown in figure 2. For full project elements and a detailed map, please see the map included with this letter.**

### **Project design – What will it look like?**

This project will build a new sidewalk along the east side of 30th Ave NE between NE 130th St and NE 137th St. The project will also incorporate new sidewalk infrastructure including retaining walls and new curb ramps. Natural drainage systems will be located next to the new sidewalk.

- **What will happen to existing trees in the right of way?** The planned improvements in the public right of way will affect some trees. Trees are important to reducing stormwater pollution and will be preserved where possible. Licensed landscape architects will conduct a full tree assessment on all blocks in the project area to determine which trees should be protected and which may be replaced or transplanted. It is a priority to retain and protect trees throughout the project area. Any tree removed will be replaced with 2 young trees in the project area, however, not necessarily in the same specific locations as the removed trees. SPU will also prune trees or shrubs located in the natural drainage system as needed. SDOT will maintain any new trees for 2 years after they're planted. After that time, homeowners are responsible for tree upkeep.

- **Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the natural drainage system?** SPU is responsible for the watering, weeding, and general upkeep of the natural drainage systems to ensure proper function. Residents are not required to pay for or perform any maintenance. In fact, it is important for residents to stay out of the natural drainage system areas to maintain their function.
- **What kind of plants will I see?** The project team selects plants that help the natural drainage system do its job: clean stormwater and allow it to slowly seep into the ground. We select plants that are easy to maintain and able to withstand wet winters and dry summers. We'll keep you updated on plant palettes throughout the design process.
- **Will this project remove parking in front of my house?** We understand that parking is very important to residents. SDOT conducted a parking study over multiple time periods to estimate the number of parking spaces available and the use of parking space in your neighborhood. This project will remove on-street parking from the east side of 30th Ave NE, but there will be no changes to parking on private property and existing driveways will remain at their current location.
- **Will transit lines be impacted?** The bus stop at NE 133rd St will be removed. We are working with King County Metro to determine the impacts project construction will have on routes 64 and 65 that serve this area. We'll continue to keep you updated as we move closer to the project construction phase.

### **Project timeline – What's next?**

We're currently in the design phase, and we anticipate construction will begin in fall 2017. We'll continue to work with project area residents to finalize the project design. Additional project activities may include outreach in your neighborhood to answer questions, provide information about the project, and seek input on design.

New sidewalk and storm drainage infrastructure are just some of the several improvements being made to 30th Ave NE. SDOT's paving program will repave 30th Ave NE from NE 130th to NE 135th streets after the completion of this project. We anticipate this work will begin in 2018 and continue through 2019.

We encourage you to reach out with questions, comments, or concerns about this project. In this letter we've included the final project area map with detailed potential planned project elements. To ensure we have your current contact information, **please let me know how best to reach you** using the information listed below.

Sincerely,

**Emily Reardon**

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**For more info or to sign up for email updates,  
 visit our webpage:**

[www.seattle.gov/transportation/Sidewalks\\_30thNE.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/Sidewalks_30thNE.htm)

**Need materials translated?**

如果您需要把下列資訊翻譯成中文，請致電(206) 727-3575 。  
 Si usted necesita esta información traducida al español por favor llame al  
 (206) 727-3575.