

November 20, 2020

**RE: ONE MILE OF LAKE WASHINGTON BLVD OPENS TO PEDESTRIANS FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS**

Greetings-

Starting **Wednesday, November 25 thru Sunday, November 29**, one mile of the northern portion of Lake Washington Blvd from Mt. Baker Park to Stan Sayres Park opens to people walking, rolling, and biking and closes to people driving. Barricades will be removed on Monday, November 30. Electronic message signs will be placed in up to 3 locations prior to alert people driving.

As COVID-19 cases increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate [Thanksgiving is at home with people who live with you. Staying at home helps](#) flatten the curve reducing demand on our hospitals and essential workers. Changing plans and leaving traditions behind is tough, and we hope adding space to recreate while keeping 6-feet apart makes this time a little less challenging.

We here at SDOT wish to share our gratitude. Thank you to everyone who took the time to write and join in conversations about how this summer's pilot worked for you, your family, and your neighbors. We received hundreds of comments ranging from the joy it brought to have a comfortable place to have children learn to ride bikes to frustration at losing a beautiful commute route. It spurred discussions about how the street might become more flexible to accommodate different uses, and requests the department consider travel patterns throughout the neighborhood before making any decision. It was touching to talk with those who want to continue to accommodate elders, people with mobility challenges, and long-time residents.

What was clear is a robust, inclusive engagement process is required before considering any permanent changes to the way Lake Washington Blvd operates. Should this time come, we'll use the many recommendations we received to reach out to community members. Having said this, **travelers and neighbors should expect additional openings of Lake Washington Boulevard to people walking, rolling, and biking until the pandemic is under control.** The need and length may vary depending on how COVID-19 cases are trending, remote study for students, and working at home mandates for adults. This makes it hard to predict when having extra space will be most important. However, we'll do our best to notify you as far in advance as possible. We're in this together.

Finally, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, [one-block closures](#) are allowed from 9 AM to 9 PM each day from Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27. If you'd like to have [Streetsgiving](#) on your street, you'll need to register by noon Tuesday and follow the Stay Healthy Block Program [guidelines](#).

Please send your comments to [StayHealthyStreets@Seattle.gov](mailto:StayHealthyStreets@Seattle.gov). Due to the high volume of emails, we cannot always respond to each one individually, but we read and value your input. You can also follow the Stay Healthy Streets Program evolution on our [web site](#).

Happy Thanksgiving,

SDOT Staff