

DRAFT 10-01-14

To: Seattle Department of Transportation

Seattle's goal of increasing our tree canopy to 30% by 2037 is going to require education and support by our citizens. We commend SDOT's efforts to encourage planting trees along our streets and its recent success in updating the street tree ordinance. You have also successfully updated and posted a list of approved trees to plant.

We would like to suggest an additional step for SDOT to undertake which we think will help in our efforts to get citizens to plant trees and make your work easier. In Spokane on the street leading into the Finch Arboretum they have planted a row of some of their approved street trees that citizens can see along with name identification signs people can read.

We would urge SDOT to consider finding a street corridor in Seattle that could be similar used, preferably one of the Neighborhood Greenway Streets, that would give Seattle residents a similar ability to actually see the street trees you recommend and approve and how they might look once planted. Trees have been shown to have a calming effect on traffic and reduce stress and brain fatigue in people.

Thanks for your consideration of this proposal. Let us know if we can help you implement it. Putting forward a proposal like this for an Avenue of Street Trees might be a good event to announce for Arbor Day or Earth Day.