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RE: Thank you for Permavoid presentation

Dear Shane,

The Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) would like to thank you for the hard work you and the Landscape Architect's Office of Urban Forestry at SDOT have been and continue to do for the City of Seattle's urban forest. UFC appreciated your recent presentation and was enthusiastic to hear about the soil cell pilot projects being installed along NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and the departments openness to testing new technologies such as Permavoid, Silva Cell, and Stratavault. The UFC would also like to voice their appreciation to ABT for joining in on the presentation and responding to our questions.

As the city continues to densify the public right-of-way is continually being asked to perform a greater range of functions. Maintaining accessible sidewalks, accommodating street furnishings such as benches, recycling receptacles, bike racks, mailboxes, outdoor seating for restaurants, underground utilities, and infrastructure vaults; have all impacted the amount of space leftover for trees and landscape. The Office of Urban Forestry has continued to be on the forefront in showing ROW space for trees isn't the leftover space, but a carefully planned component of our infrastructure and when given proper consideration ROW space can provide the necessary conditions for large, healthy trees. UFC commends this pilot program to test various soil cell technologies as a component of providing healthier conditions for a thriving urban forest, and their continued efforts at innovation and problem solving for our street trees.

The UFC hopes to see continued pilot programs such as the NE 43<sup>rd</sup> Street soil cell evaluations for technologies which benefit the city's street tree conditions. Installations such as this pilot program are complex, and opportunities for local, real world testing don't occur every day. UFC would like the Office of Urban Forestry to formally share their analyses and recommendations from this and future pilot programs with other departments and agencies who work in, or are affected by ROW, such as Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Parks, and even WSDOT and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Having SDOT's acceptance and support of new technologies to support healthier urban forest conditions will help accelerate their implementation in this rapidly growing city and region.

UFC supports SDOT in their implementation of Permavoid and similar technologies and encourages other departments to embrace these technologies where applicable. When development includes ROW improvements, the UFC also supports incentivizing installation of these technologies to further improve street tree conditions.

The UFC looks forward to getting continued updates on this project and hearing more about future pilot project being considered. If there are additional ways the UFC can support SDOT in promoting improved street tree conditions we would be pleased to support those efforts.

Sincerely,