

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Leif Fixen, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Donna Kostka • Joanna Nelson de Flores • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Peg Staeheli • Steve Zemke

February 4, 2015.

Scott Kubly, Director
Seattle Department of Transportation
700 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Retrofit of Downtown tree grates

Dear Scott,

In the process of producing the 2014 Annual Report, the Urban Forestry Commission was looking for photos to show the damaging effect tree grates can have when they become embedded on street trees. Commissioners were very pleasantly surprised to find that the trees they were planning on using as examples were no longer being choked by the tree grates.

The Urban Forestry Commission commends you and your staff for your prompt response to our September 2014 recommendation.

Now that retrofits are underway, the Commission believes that the creation of a center city grate retrofit and maintenance strategy, perhaps in partnership with the Downton Seattle Association, would be the best way to address this issue in the long term, protect our street trees, and support the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan's 12 percent canopy cover goal for the Downtown management unit.

Sincerely,



Leif Fixen, Chair



Peg Staeheli

cc: Mayor Ed Murray, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant, Jill Simmons, Barbara Gray, Darren Morgan, Nolan Rundquist, Joshua Erickson, Eric McConaghy.

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