



City of Seattle

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Transportation

Scott Kubly, Director

June 16, 2016

Dear Interested Tribes, Organizations, and Members of the Public:

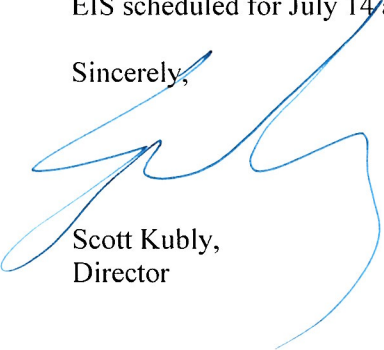
The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) proposes to complete the Burke-Gilman Trail, which is a regional, multi-use trail that runs east from Golden Gardens Park in Seattle and connects to the Sammamish River Trail in Bothell, except for a missing segment through the Ballard neighborhood known as the Missing Link. Currently, the trail ends at 30th Avenue NW by the Ballard Locks on the west and begins again at the intersection of 11th Avenue NW and NW 45th Street on the east. The project would connect these two segments with a marked, dedicated route to serve all trail users. SDOT is acting as lead agency under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) evaluates a No Build Alternative along with four possible Build Alternatives known as Shilshole South, Shilshole North, Ballard Avenue, and Leary. SDOT has prepared this document to inform the public and to assist decision-makers in understanding the environmental effects—both positive and negative—associated with the project both during and after construction and in relation to other projects in the vicinity. Potential impacts have been analyzed and proposed mitigation measures have been identified for the following elements of the environment:

- Geology, soils, and hazardous materials
- Fish, wildlife, and vegetation
- Land use and economics
- Recreation
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Parking
- Air quality and greenhouse gases
- Cultural resources

We encourage you to comment on this Draft EIS. Instructions for submitting comments are outlined on the Fact Sheet included in this document, which also includes details of two public hearings on the Draft EIS scheduled for July 14 and 16, 2016. All comments are due by August 1, 2016.

Sincerely,


Scott Kubly,
Director

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