



Neighborhood Street Fund
15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection Improvements
Community Drop-in Session
May 2, 2017



Table of Contents

PROJECT BACKGROUND	3
EVENT OVERVIEW	3
Event Goals	3
Key Themes.....	3
Survey Results	4
APPENDIX A – FULL SURVEY RESULTS	5
APPENDIX B - WHAT WE HEARD	18
APPENDIX C - MATERIALS	20
Fact Sheets.....	20
Comment Forms and Surveys	21
Display Boards	23

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will make improvements to the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection to improve safety for people walking and biking. Currently, people walking and biking, including Mercer Middle School students, must contend with confusing routes for getting from one side of the street to the other and may have to cross streets up to three times.

In 2016, the Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee selected the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection Improvements project as one of 12 projects to be funded through SDOT's Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) program. The NSF program funds projects requested by the community.

EVENT OVERVIEW

During early outreach for the design phase of this project in March and April of 2017, we received a volume of feedback about the designed left-turn restriction from S Oregon St onto northbound 15th Ave S. We received this feedback through stakeholder emails and phone calls and while conducting door-to-door outreach, staffing pop-up tables in the neighborhood, and making a presentation at the Beacon Hill Council meeting on April 4.

Following up on this outreach, we scheduled a community drop-in session to provide an "open door" way for neighbors to talk directly with our staff, dive into the details of traffic data and safety information, and have their concerns heard. The event was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 from 6:30 – 8 PM at the Mercer Middle School Cafeteria. To see the full list of materials presented at the drop-in, please see Appendix C.

Event Goals

- Answer community questions
- Understand and address community concerns about the project
- Inform participants about the project's purpose, need, and early design concept
- Solicit feedback on design concept
- Seek feedback on a possible new project element: a four-way stop at 15th Ave S and S Snoqualmie St

Key Themes

Roughly 125 people attended the event. Through conversations at the event and written feedback, we heard the following high-level themes:

- The signalized left turn at S Oregon St is critical to access onto northbound 15th Ave S for residents living on the west side of 15th Ave S. Otherwise, one must travel to S Lucile or S Spokane St
- Both support for and concerns about adding an all-way stop at 15th Ave S and S Snoqualmie St
- Support for making it easier for people to walk through this intersection
- It can take several minutes for drivers, including middle school parents and school buses, to exit the neighborhood at 15th Ave S on streets north and south of S Oregon St

- Traffic on 15th Ave S becomes congested when incidents occur on I-5, as drivers exit at Swift/Albro looking for alternate routes. The neighborhood also sees congestion during peak travel times
- VA Hospital employees and construction workers drive through and park in the neighborhood west of 15th Ave S

See Appendix B for more details on what we heard.

Survey Results

Printed surveys were available during the drop-in session on May 2, and the survey was also live on the project website from May 2 through May 16. From the survey results, we know that:

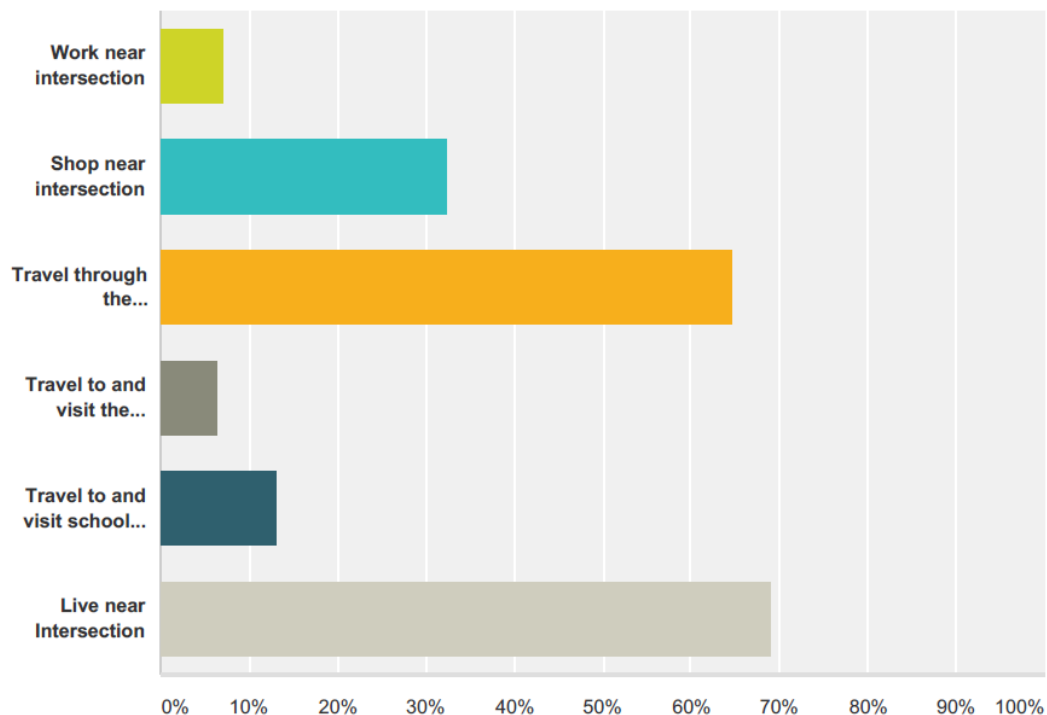
- A majority of the respondents live near the intersection and their primary usage of the intersection was traveling by car. We found that a large majority of respondents live west of 15th Ave S.
- The primary mode of transportation used for travel through the intersection is driving (daily), while a quarter of the respondents mentioned that they walk through the neighborhood (daily). About a third of respondents indicate they walk, bike, or take transit through the intersection occasionally.
- The most important project elements are safer crossings for walkers of all abilities and maintained or increased vehicle access to the neighborhood (these are marked very important by about half of respondents). About a third of respondents indicated travel times through the intersection is very important. Respondents indicated the creation of a new public plaza is least important to them.
- A slim majority (just over half) indicated that they would use the proposed four-way stop at S Snoqualmie St and 15th Ave S, if available.
- The most popular choice for the preferred bike lane, by slim margin, was one protected bike lane for the entire project length.

See Appendix A for the full survey results.

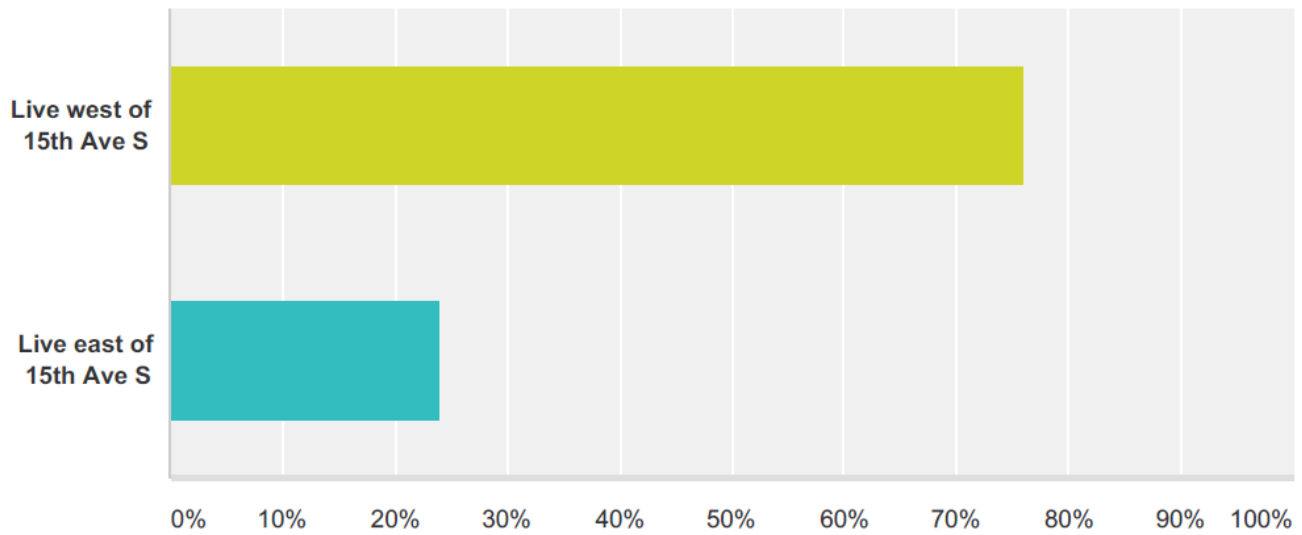
APPENDIX A – FULL SURVEY RESULTS

Q1: What is your primary relationship to the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection improvements?

Answer Choices	Responses
Work near intersection	7.07% 14
Shop near intersection	32.32% 64
Travel through the intersection	64.65% 128
Travel to and visit the hospital	6.57% 13
Travel to and visit schools in the neighborhood	13.13% 26
Live near Intersection	69.19% 137
Total Respondents: 198	

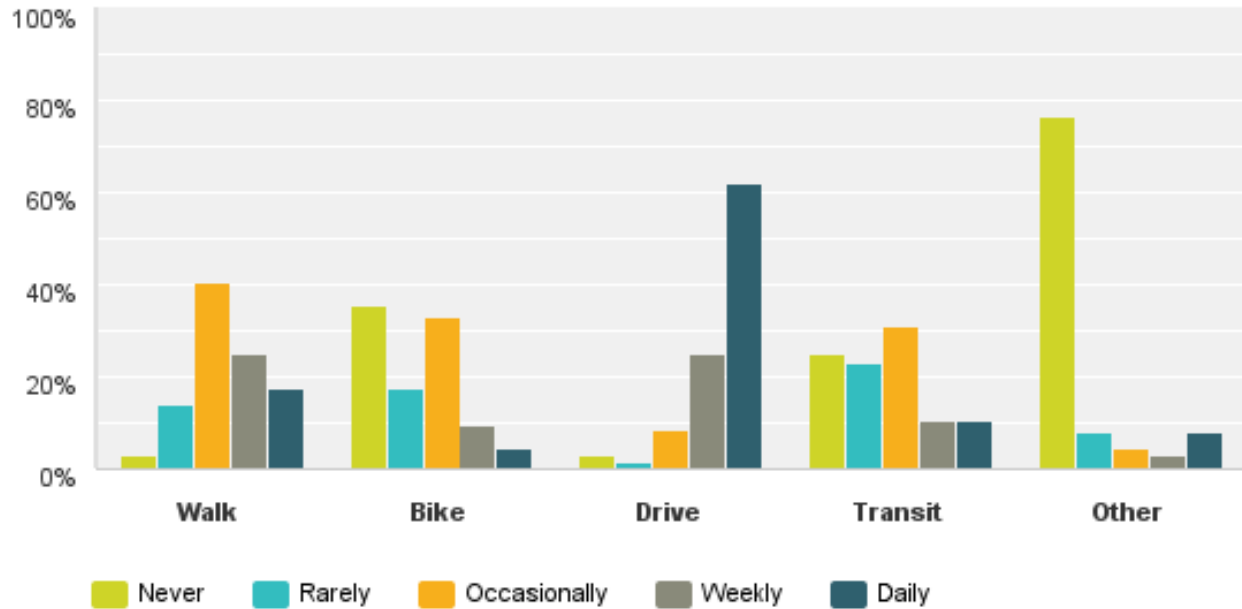


Q2: If you checked “Live near intersection” do you:



Answer Choices	Responses	
Live west of 15th Ave S	75.97%	117
Live east of 15th Ave S	24.03%	37
Total		154

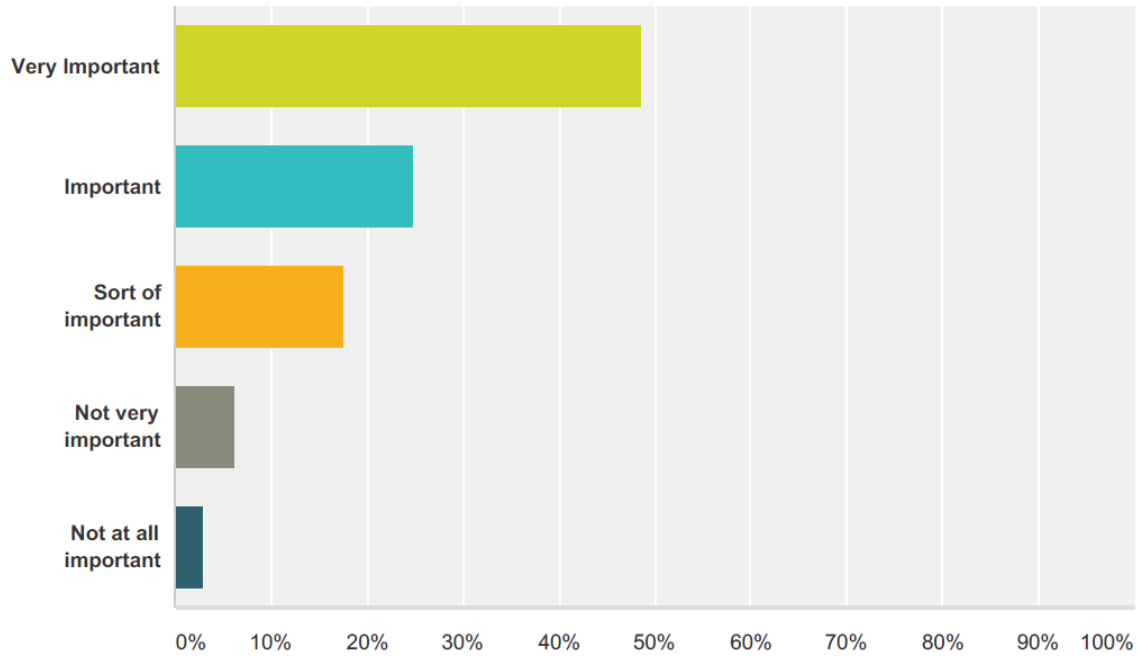
Q3: What modes of transportation do you use while traveling through the intersection?



	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Weekly	Daily	Total
Walk	3.19% 6	13.83% 26	40.43% 76	25.00% 47	17.55% 33	188
Bike	35.48% 55	17.42% 27	32.90% 51	9.68% 15	4.52% 7	155
Drive	2.91% 6	1.46% 3	8.74% 18	24.76% 51	62.14% 128	206
Transit	25.00% 41	23.17% 38	31.10% 51	10.37% 17	10.37% 17	164
Other	76.56% 49	7.81% 5	4.69% 3	3.13% 2	7.81% 5	64

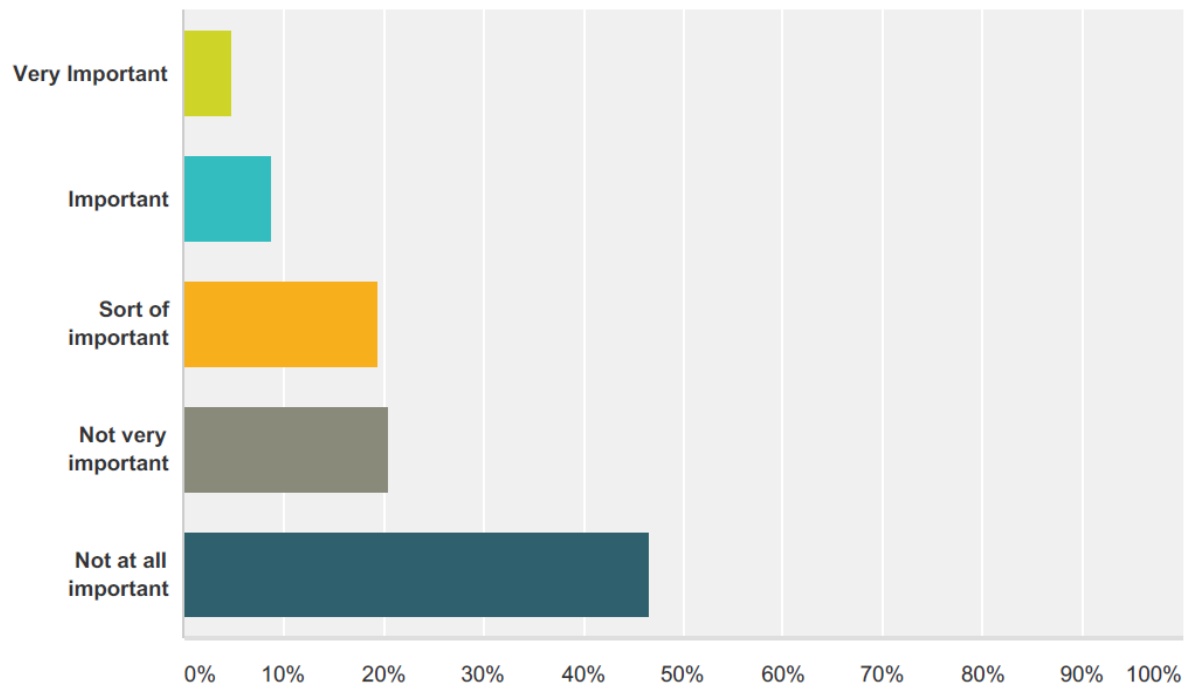
Q4. How important are the following project elements to you?

A. Safer crossing for walkers of all abilities



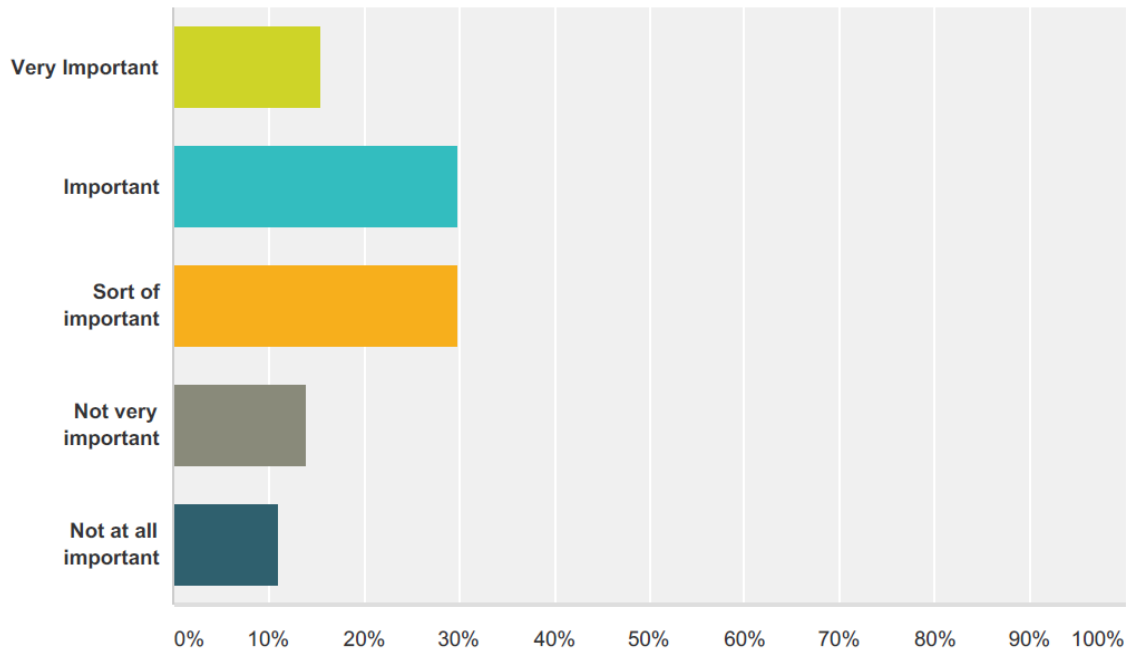
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	48.54%	100
Important	24.76%	51
Sort of important	17.48%	36
Not very important	6.31%	13
Not at all important	2.91%	6
Total		206

B. New Public Plazas



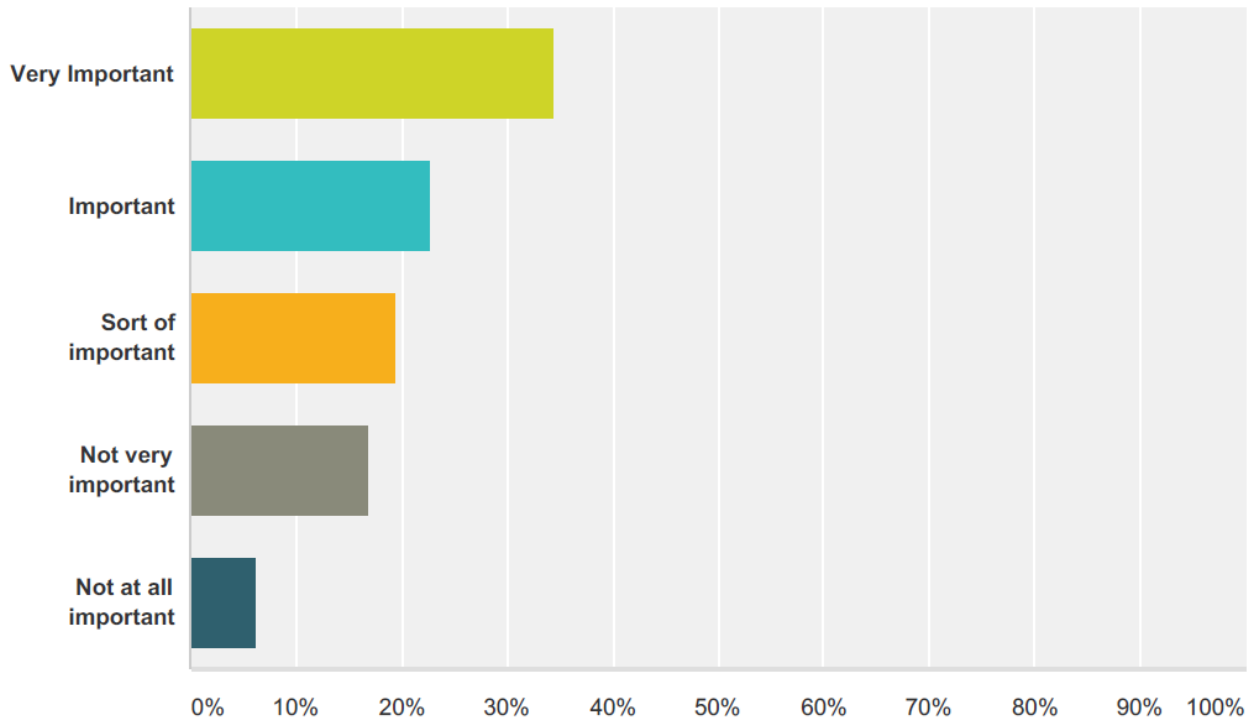
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	4.85%	10
Important	8.74%	18
Sort of important	19.42%	40
Not very important	20.39%	42
Not at all important	46.60%	96
Total		206

C. People's comfort while waiting at bus stops



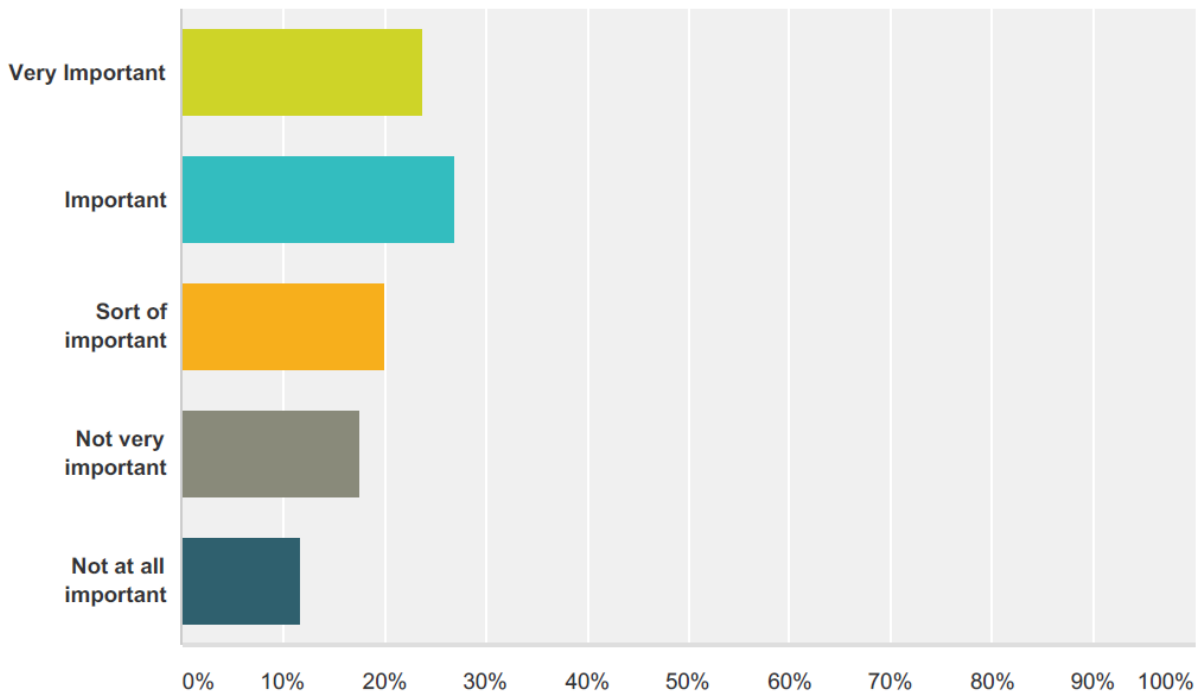
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	15.38%	32
Important	29.81%	62
Sort of important	29.81%	62
Not very important	13.94%	29
Not at all important	11.06%	23
Total		208

D. More efficient travel time through the intersection



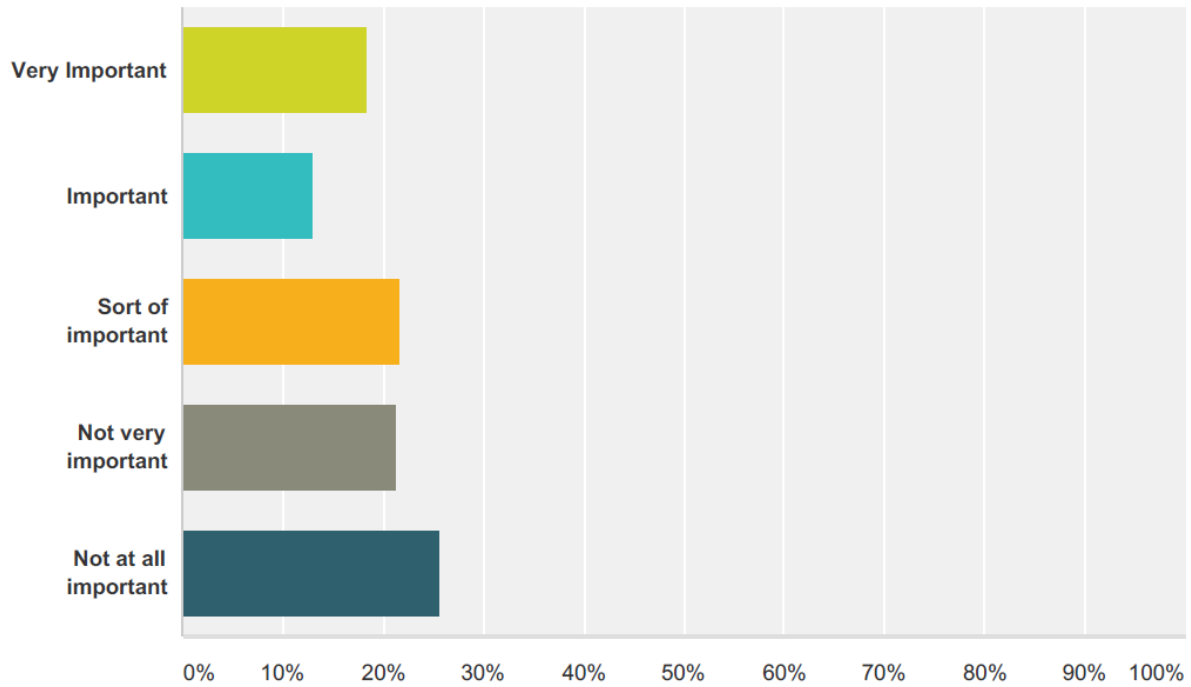
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	34.47%	71
Important	22.82%	47
Sort of important	19.42%	40
Not very important	16.99%	35
Not at all important	6.31%	13
Total		206

E. Reduced driving speeds along the corridor



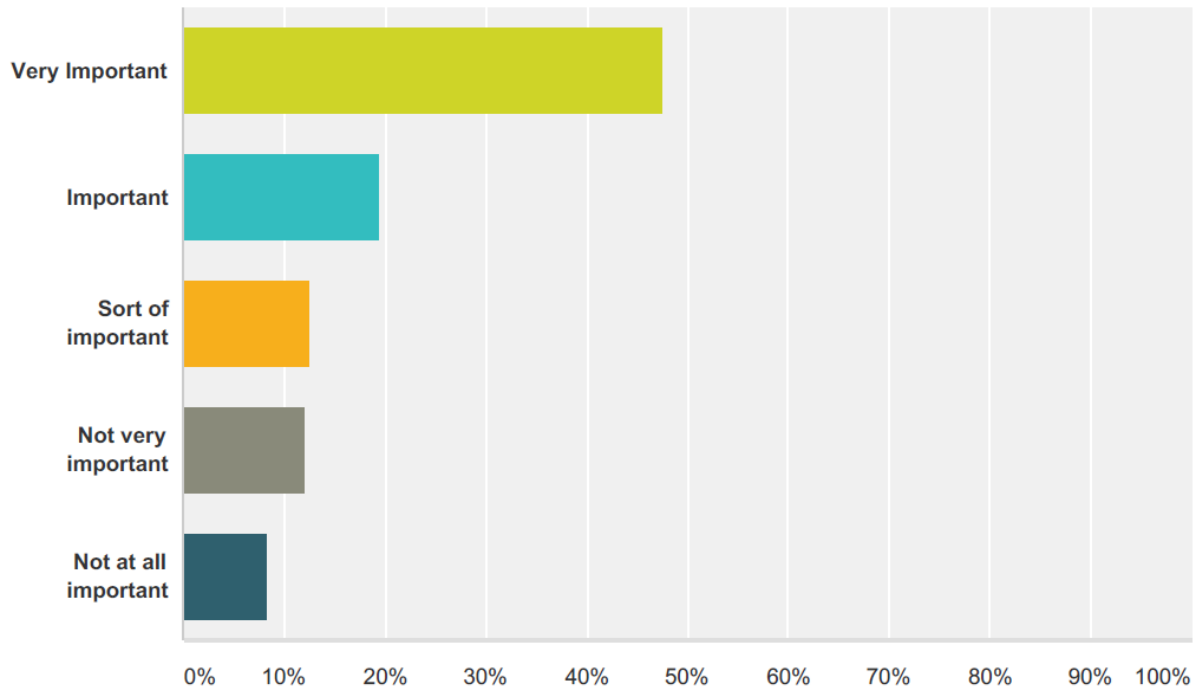
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	23.90%	49
Important	26.83%	55
Sort of important	20.00%	41
Not very important	17.56%	36
Not at all important	11.71%	24
Total		205

F. Improved connections to bicycle facilities



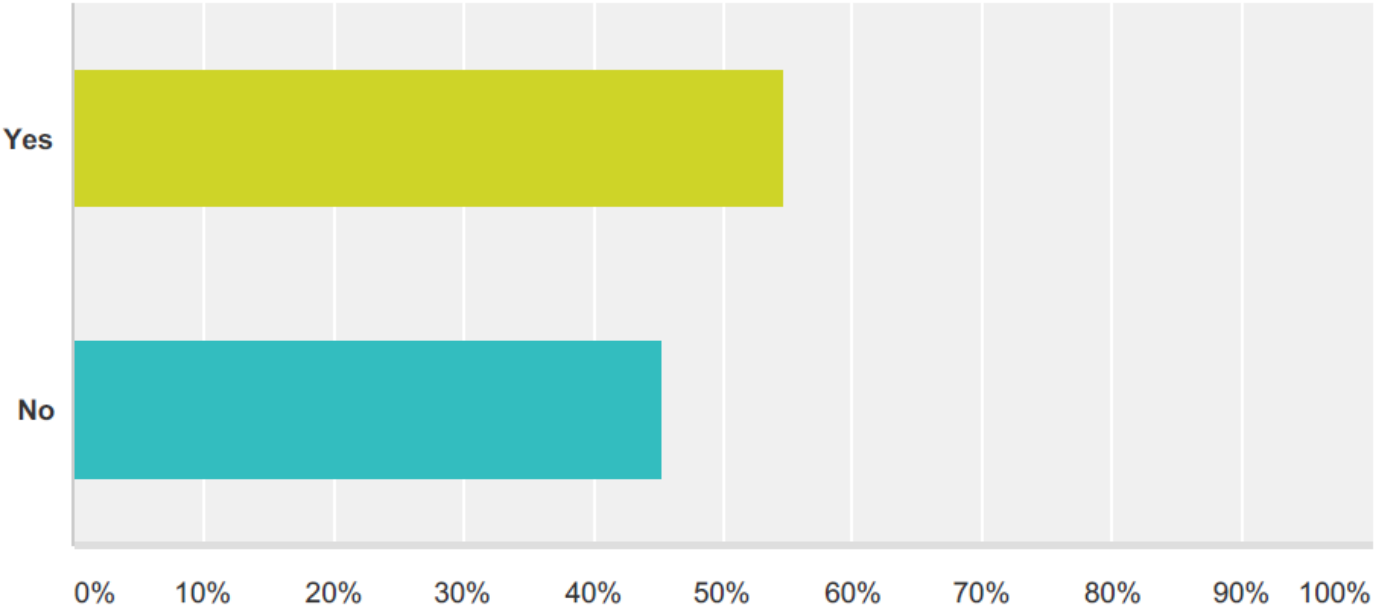
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	18.36%	38
Important	13.04%	27
Sort of important	21.74%	45
Not very important	21.26%	44
Not at all important	25.60%	53
Total		207

G. Maintained or increased vehicle access to neighborhood



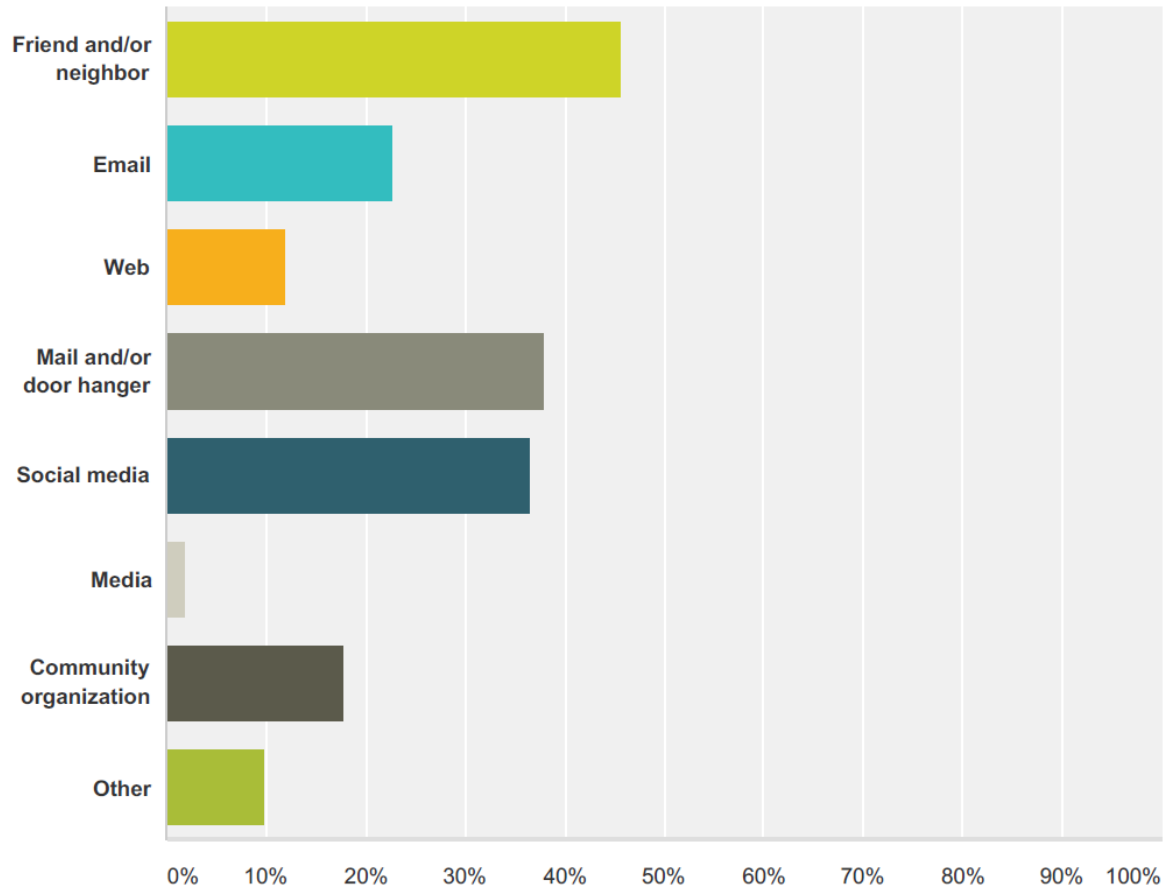
Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	47.57%	98
Important	19.42%	40
Sort of important	12.62%	26
Not very important	12.14%	25
Not at all important	8.25%	17
Total		206

Q5: We are considering adding a new four-way stop at S Snoqualmie St. & 15th Ave S to ensure a “controlled” intersection that permits left turns onto northbound 15th Ave S. Would you use this intersection to access northbound 15th Ave S?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	54.69%	105
No	45.31%	87
Total		192

Q6: How did you hear about this project?

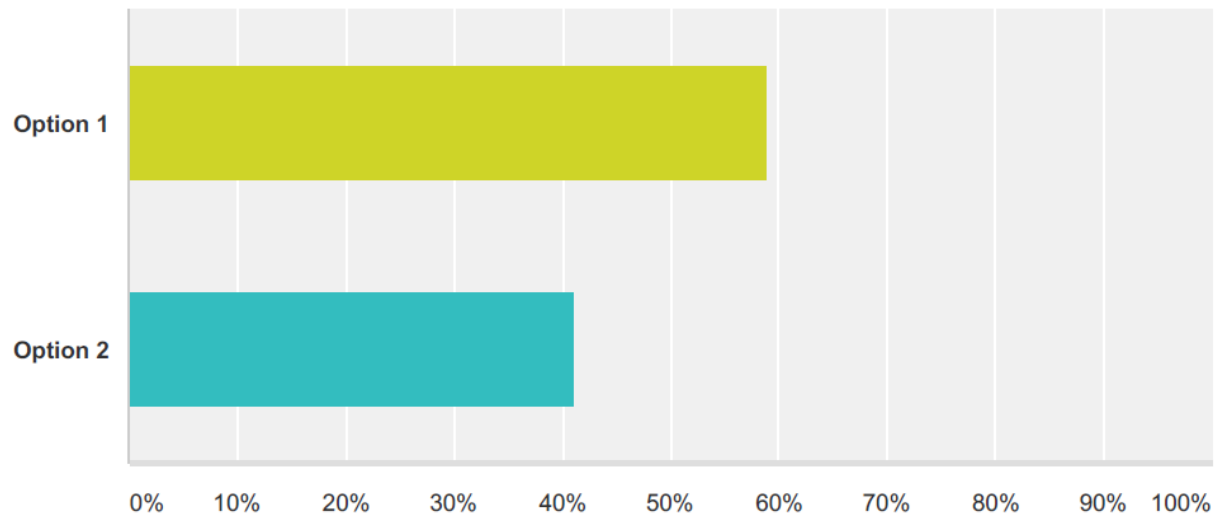


Answer Choices	Responses	
Friend and/or neighbor	45.81%	93
Email	22.66%	46
Web	11.82%	24
Mail and/or door hanger	37.93%	77
Social media	36.45%	74
Media	1.97%	4
Community organization	17.73%	36
Other	9.85%	20
Total Respondents: 203		

Q7: We'd like to upgrade the bike lanes between 15th Ave S and Beacon Ave S and connect them to new bike lanes being added to S Columbian Way when we repave it as early as 2018. Help us figure out the best way to do this. Which option of protected bike line do you prefer?

Option 1: One protected bike lane for the entire project length

Option 2: Two protected bike lanes for the entire project length. This option removes the center turn lane between S Snoqualmie St and Beacon Ave S.



APPENDIX B - WHAT WE HEARD

Comments most frequently made on the survey, on the comment form, and in conversation at the drop-in session had to do with traffic flow and congestion problems in and around the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way intersection. Feedback themes are summarized below.

General

- Many people commented that they don't think there is anything to be fixed and that the project would make moving around the neighborhood more difficult, while others expressed support for the intersection improvements.

Accessing the neighborhood

- Many community members expressed that the signalized left turn at S Oregon St is of paramount importance to residents living on the west side of 15th Ave S. Without it, one would have to travel to S Lucile or S Spokane St to get onto 15th Ave S northbound with a controlled left turn.
- Some commented that the four-way stop under consideration at S Snoqualmie St and 15th Ave S will not satisfy neighbors, because the street is too narrow (street parking is a factor) and will divert more traffic down side streets. Other community members expressed support for the four-way stop as an alternative, if needed.

Parking

- Multiple people expressed concern about parking impacts near the intersection, especially in front of businesses
- Several people asked that illegal parking be prevented close to intersections; it can often make it difficult to safely turn into and out of the neighborhood
- Some noted that VA Hospital employees and construction workers drive through and park in the neighborhood

Traffic concerns and congestion

- Many people commented that traffic is especially bad in the area during peak commute times, particularly on 15th Ave S. During these times, wait times are long and it is difficult to turn onto main arterials. There was some concern expressed that this project could increase congestion.
- Some commented that due to congestion and school speed zones, people tend to cut through the neighborhood and may speed. There was some concern expressed that the project would create more diversion onto side streets. Traffic calming and Seattle Police enforcement were suggested.
- Others requested that no traffic lanes be reduced as part of this project.
- Some commented that people make unsafe U-turns in the area (e.g., S Nevada St and 16th Ave S)

Safety for people walking and biking

- There was general support expressed for making it better for people walking at this intersection
- Some suggested better pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding signage
- Several people suggested installing better signage, markings, crossings, and crossing guards before fully changing the intersection
- Multiple people expressed a desire to preserve the crosswalk across 15th Ave S on the south side of S Oregon St

Plaza design

- Some questioned the need for public space, especially at the expense of removing the left-turn signal at S Oregon St., and noted that there are plenty of parks nearby
- Plaza design features suggested by participants included: arts (that highlight neighborhood diversity), space for vendors and tables, trees and planters, natural drainage/permeable pavement, garbage cans, and bike infrastructure. Additional ideas included hosting mini-farmers markets or community events in the space
- Many requested to keep the public space low maintenance, including deterrence of homeless populations, vandalism, garbage, keeping trees trimmed, etc.
- Some requested that child safety be kept in mind with regard to plaza design, suggesting, for example, bollards or a barricade to protect the plaza
- Some people questioned how much the plaza space will be used, as it is close to the noise and speed of traffic
- A few people did not like the idea of the plaza, saying it gentrifies the neighborhood

Other


- Some people commented that they would have preferred a formal presentation at the drop-in session
- Some people highlighted that they hope MacPherson's Produce is not impacted by the project
- Additional design suggestions included:
 - Improve the experience of waiting at bus stops at the intersection
 - Make school zone signage more visible
 - Make 15th and Oregon a 3-way signal
 - Make S Dakota St and 15th Ave S a vehicle-activated signal
 - Consider an all-way walk at the intersection
 - Consider a pedestrian bridge
 - Improve 14th Ave S and S Spokane St intersection to help traffic flow and access

APPENDIX C - MATERIALS

Materials used at the drop-in session to share project information and gather feedback (fact sheets, comment forms, surveys and display boards) are reproduced below.

Fact Sheets

The project fact sheet was available at the event in English, and also translated into Oromo, Somali, Spanish, Amharic, Tigrinya, Vietnamese, and Chinese.




15TH AVE S AND S COLUMBIAN WAY INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

FACT SHEET May 2017

PROJECT BACKGROUND


The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will make safety improvements to the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way intersection for people walking and biking in this area of Beacon Hill. Currently, people walking and biking, including Mercer Middle School students, must contend with confusing routes for getting from one side of the street to the other and may have to cross streets three times.

In 2016, the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection Improvements project was one of 12 selected by the Levy to Move Seattle Oversight Committee to be funded through SDOT's Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) program. The NSF program funds projects requested by the community.



A small pedestrian "island" sits in the middle of 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way, near fast-moving vehicles.

PROJECT LOCATION



RELATED PROJECTS

There are a number of improvements being made in this area, including:

- Paving a section of S Columbian Way in 2018
- Considering whether we can improve the bike connection along S Columbian Way between this intersection and Beacon Ave S, where the paving project is happening
- Creating a family friendly connection (neighborhood greenway) between Beacon Hill and the Mt Baker neighborhood

Email us (below) for more information on these projects!

PROJECT ELEMENTS



- New curb bulbs
- Crossing and signal consolidation
- Turn restrictions at 15th Ave S and S Oregon St; motorists will be able to make only right turns into S Oregon St from 15th Ave S and from S Oregon St onto 15th Ave S
- A new public space at the northwest and southwest corners of the redesigned intersection
- Improved connections to bicycle facilities to the north, west and south

PROJECT BENEFITS

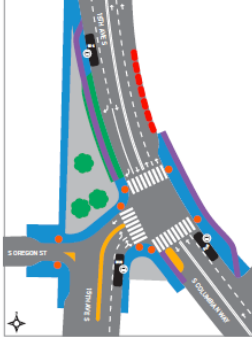
- Increased safety at the intersection for students and other people walking and biking
- Reduced confusion for drivers at the intersection
- Improved transit stops
- New public space for the community to enjoy

PROJECT INFORMATION AND CONTACT

www.seattle.gov/transportation/NSF15andColumbian.htm
NSF15andColumbian@seattle.gov | (206) 733-9361
NSF Outreach Lead: Michael Charles

EARLY DESIGN OPTION




NEW

- Curb ramps
- Curb bulbs
- Medians
- Public space
- Tree/landscaping
- Bicycle connections
- Bus stop with enhanced Metro transit facilities
- On-street parking

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Email us to let us know:

- What is your experience at the intersection?
- For the new public space that will be designed:
 - How would you like to use the new space?
 - What features would you like to see here? Places to sit? Places to play? Space for art or plants?



Example of public space on Bell St, downtown.

SCHEDULE

2016	2017	2018	2019
NSF applications and project selection	Project design	Project construction	NSF applications and project selection (new cycle)

FUNDING

Funding comes from the 2015 voter-approved, nine-year Levy to Move Seattle, which will improve safety for all travelers, maintain streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city. The levy includes \$24 million to continue the Neighborhood Street Fund program over the nine years.

This project also is receiving funding from SDOT's Safe Routes to School Program, which makes it easier and safer for students to walk and bike in Seattle.

STAY INVOLVED!

We are committed to keeping you informed throughout the life of the project. Feel free to contact us, and be on the lookout for more information.

Sign up to receive email updates:
NSF15andColumbian@seattle.gov

PROJECT INFORMATION AND CONTACT

www.seattle.gov/transportation/NSF15andColumbian.htm
NSF15andColumbian@seattle.gov | (206) 733-9361
NSF Outreach Lead: Michael Charles



Seattle
Department of
Transportation



The Levy to
MOVE SEATTLE

Comment Forms and Surveys

Ninety-nine surveys were completed during the drop-in session. The survey was also available online May 2-16 on the project webpage.



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

15th Ave S & S Columbian Way Intersection Improvements

Community Drop-in Session – May 2, 2017

COMMENT FORM

We want to hear from you! Please take our brief survey (paper copies are available here at this drop-in session or online at www.seattle.gov/transportation/NSF15andColumbian.htm) and make any additional comments here.

NEIGHBORHOOD STREET FUND PROGRAM

15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection Improvements

A community requested project

COMMUNITY SURVEY

1. What is your primary relationship to the 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way Intersection Improvements?

(check all that apply)

- ☐ Work near intersection
☐ Shop near intersection
☐ Travel through the intersection
☐ Travel to and visit the hospital
☐ Travel to and visit schools in the neighborhood
☐ Live near intersection
☐ Live WEST of 15th Ave S
☐ Live EAST of 15th Ave S

2. What modes of transportation do you use while traveling through the intersection?

	1 NEVER	2 RARELY	3 OCCASIONALLY	4 WEEKLY	5 DAILY
Walk					
Bike					
Drive					
Transit					
Other					

3. How important are the following project elements to you?

	1 VERY IMPORTANT	2 IMPORTANT
Safer crossings for walkers of all abilities		
New public plazas		
People's comfort while waiting at bus stops		
More efficient travel time through the intersection		
Reduced driving speeds along the corridor		
Improved connections to bicycle facilities		
Maintained or increased vehicle access to neighborhood		

4. We are considering adding a new four-way stop at S Snoqualmie St & 15th Ave S to ensure a "controlled" intersection that permits left turns onto northbound 15th Ave S.

Would you use this intersection to access northbound 15th Ave S?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
 If not, why?

This project will include new public space for people that could include trees, landscaping, lighting and space for vendors or games. We've collected your initial comments about what you'd like to see in this space, and will ask your opinion on specific designs this summer.

5. Is there anything else that you would like us to know now about how you want to see this space used?

6. Do you have any other thoughts about this project that you'd like to share?

7. How did you hear about this project?

- ☐ Friend and/or neighbor
☐ Email
☐ Web
☐ Mail and/or door hanger
☐ Social media
☐ Media
☐ Community organization
☐ Other:

OPTIONAL:

Please tell us a little bit more about yourself so we can understand how inclusive our outreach has been:

1. Do you rent or own your home?

- ☐ Rent
☐ Own
☐ I'd rather not say

2. What race/ethnicity best describes you?

- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
☐ Black or African-American
☐ Hispanic or Latino
☐ White or Caucasian
☐ Two or more races
☐ I'd rather not say
☐ Other:

3. What gender do you identify with?

- ☐ Female
☐ Male
☐ Transgender
☐ Genderqueer
☐ I'd rather not say
☐ Other self-identification

4. What is your age?

- ☐ 19 or younger
☐ 20-24
☐ 25-34
☐ 35-54
☐ 55-64
☐ 65 or older

PROJECT INFORMATION AND CONTACT

www.seattle.gov/transportation/NSF15andColumbian.htm
NSF15andColumbian@seattle.gov | (206) 733-9361
 NSF Outreach Lead: Michael Charles



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

PROJECT INFORMATION AND CONTACT

www.seattle.gov/transportation/NSF15andColumbian.htm
NSF15andColumbian@seattle.gov | (206) 733-9361
 NSF Outreach Lead: Michael Charles



Seattle
Department of
Transportation



Display Boards

Ten display boards were placed around the room for the drop-in session. Following the drop-in session, the boards were posted to the project webpage to make them available to those unable to attend.

WELCOME



Community drop-in session from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Through our outreach, we've heard support for adding predictability and making it easier to walk around the intersection of 15th Ave S and S Columbian Way.

We've also heard concern about restricting the left turn at S Oregon St to go north without providing an alternative.

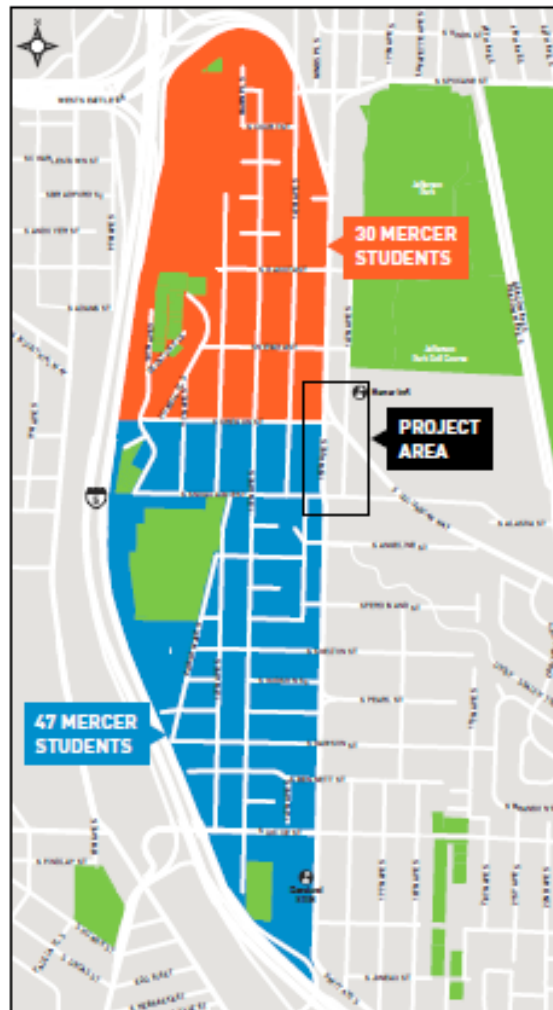
Tonight, we'll share project information and gather feedback on a revised project concept that we hope meets your needs.

Thanks for meeting with us.

MAY 2017**Seattle**
Department of
Transportation

WHY CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT?

- Project background
 - 2008 transportation study
 - 2016 Neighborhood Street Fund application
- Increases safety for people walking
- Simplifies intersection for all travelers
- Creates a new public space in business district
- Could add landscaping



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Line to
MOVE SEATTLE



TRANSPORTATION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD



10/7/2017

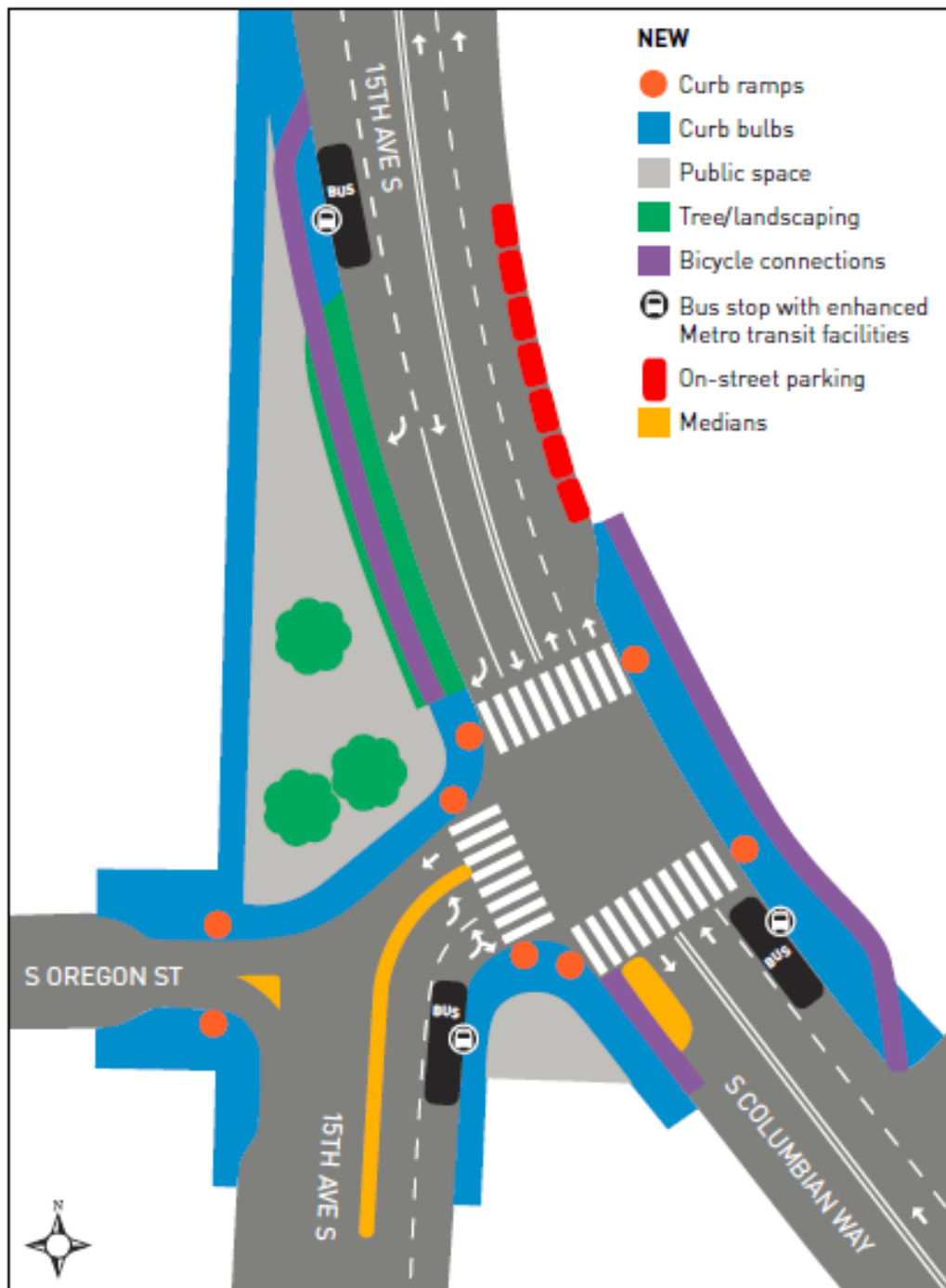


Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Leap to
MOVE SEATTLE



CURRENT PROJECT CONCEPT



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Link to

MOVE SEATTLE



CONCEPTS CONSIDERED BUT NOT SELECTED

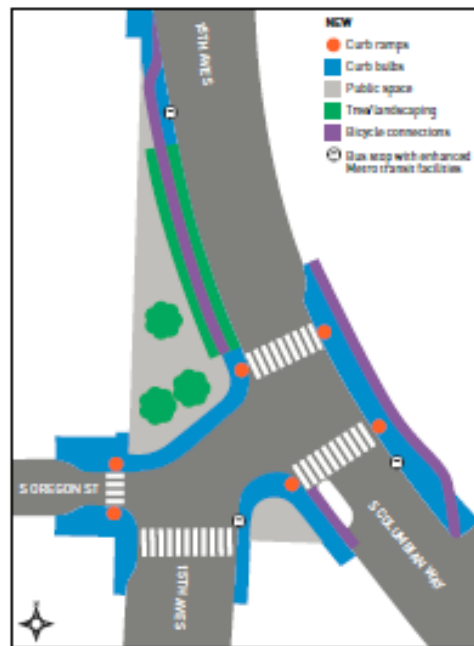
Concept A

- Increased delay at S Columbian Way, a major truck street
- Pedestrian safety compromised due to vehicle conflicts at crosswalks



Concept B

- Increased delay for all streets
- Complicates movements of people driving, walking, and biking



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Love to
MOVE SEATTLE



NEIGHBORHOOD PLAZA POSSIBILITIES

A new plaza creates opportunities not possible in the park, such as street vending; and offers a casual gathering space for neighborhood celebrations.

What would you like included?



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

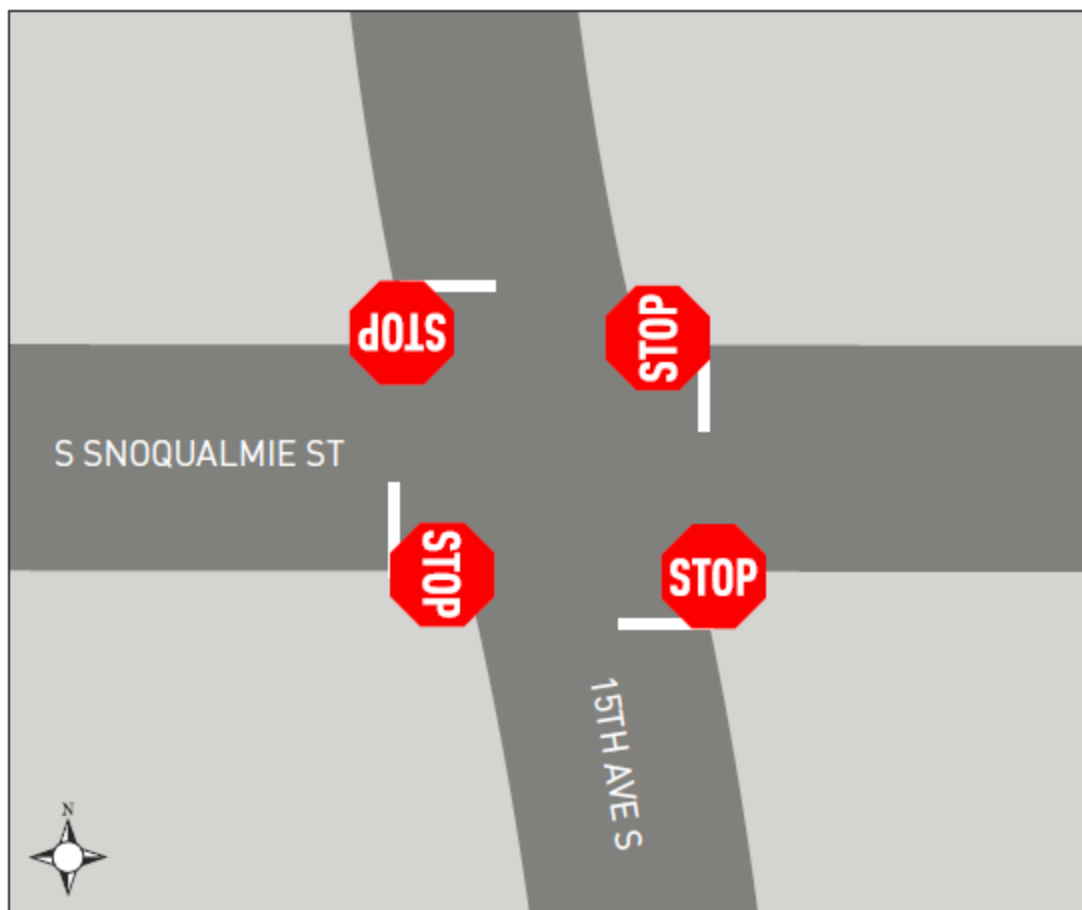
The Love to
MOVE SEATTLE



REVISED PROJECT CONCEPT FOR DISCUSSION

Consider installing an all-way stop at S Snoqualmie St and 15th Ave S. Benefits include:

- Protected left turns to go north on 15 Ave S
- Easier neighborhood access from Columbian Way (northbound left at S Snoqualmie St) across 15th Ave S



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Here's what traffic data shows.

Nearby collision history (2012-2016)



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

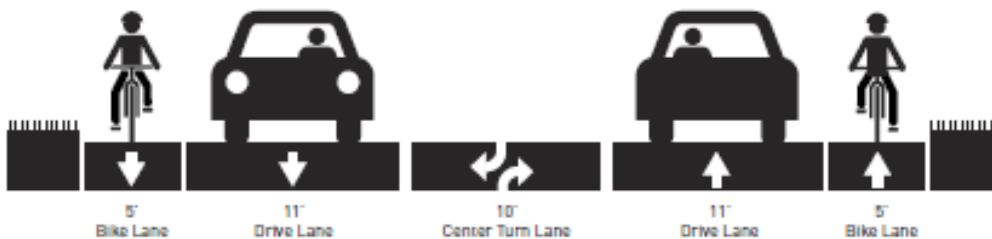
The Line to
MOVE SEATTLE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

S COLUMBIAN WAY PROTECTED BIKE LANE PROJECT

- Standard bike lanes
- 107 crashes (2012-2016)
- 4 crashes included people biking and 3 people walking
- 3 bus stops on north side, 2 on south side
- Average weekly daily traffic is 15,900 vehicles
- 31 MPH in 50th percentile/35 MPH in 85th percentile



Existing



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

The Line to
MOVE SEATTLE



S COLUMBIAN WAY PROTECTED BIKE LANE OPTIONS

We'd like to upgrade the bike lanes connecting 15th Ave S with the new bike lanes being added to S Columbian Way (between Beacon Ave S and MLK Jr Way S) when we repave it as early as 2018.

Help us figure out how.

OPTION 1

One protected bike lane

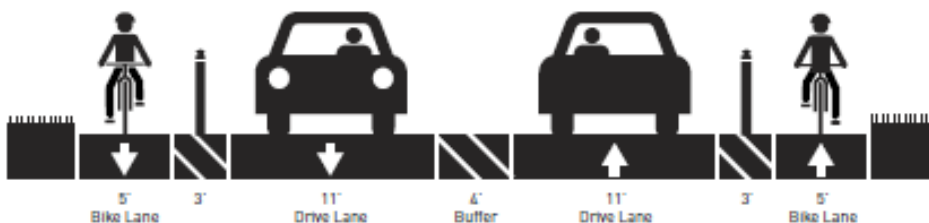


OPTION 2

Two protected bike lanes with center turn lane from S Snoqualmie St to 16th Ave S



Two protected bike lanes with center lane removal from Beacon Ave S to S Snoqualmie St



MAY 2017



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

