

Seattle Urban Forestry Commission

Peg Staeheli, Chair • Tom Early, Vice-Chair

Gordon Bradley • Leif Fixen • Donna Kostka • Joanna Nelson • Jeff Reibman • Erik Rundell • Steve Zemke

October 28, 2014.

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

RE: Creating an Avenue of Street Trees

Dear Scott,

We commend SDOT's efforts to encourage planting trees along our streets. Street trees are essential to meeting Seattle's 30% canopy goal by 2037 and caring for them requires the active participation of our residents and businesses. In addition to encouraging planting of trees, clear examples of appropriate street trees will assist in expanding tree species in Seattle, which is a goal of the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan.

We would like to suggest an additional step for SDOT to undertake which we think will help in our efforts to get residents to partner with SDOT on planting trees. We believe locating "street tree corridor arboretums" in two to four areas of the city would encourage tree planting and understanding of canopy value. As an example, in Spokane, WA on the street leading into the Finch Arboretum they have planted a row of some of their approved street trees that residents can see along with name identification signs people can read. Doing something similar in Seattle would help our residents in selecting a broader selection of trees.

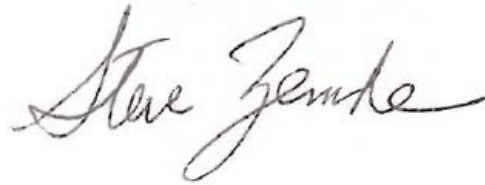
We would urge SDOT to consider finding a street corridor in Seattle that could be similarly used, such as one of the Neighborhood Greenway Streets, a park frontage, or even the new Waterfront, that would give Seattle residents a similar ability to actually see the street trees the City recommends and approves and how they might look once planted.

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.

Sincerely,



Peg Staeheli, Chair
Seattle Urban Forestry Commission



Steve Zemke
Urban Forestry Commissioner

cc: Mayor Ed Murray, Councilmember Rasmussen, Marshall Foster, Jill Simmons, Barbara Gray, Darren Morgan, Nolan Rundquist, Joshua Erickson, Eric McConaghy.

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