



2018 VOTER-APPROVED

**SIDEWALKS**

Program



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW (NW 190<sup>th</sup> Street to NW 193<sup>rd</sup> Street) Sidewalk Project

#### Background

In preliminary design/concept work on the improvements, City staff reviewed alternatives for sidewalk location and width and determined that sidewalk on the west side of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW best fit into the existing right-of-way limits and would have the least impact on properties, trees, and utilities in the vicinity of the project. Direction was provided to the engineering designer to develop a 60% concept based on a 10-foot sidewalk with a small centerline shift to further minimize impacts. In the preliminary effort leading to the 60% design direction, no tree removals were shown to be needed.

As part of the 60% design, an arborist completed a site visit to evaluate potential tree impacts and provided the designers a draft report of their findings. The report showed that the 10-foot sidewalk in some areas would likely have major impacts on, but not require the removal of, existing mature trees. The City sought community input on the design and in particular on preferences for: a 10-foot shared use sidewalk (to accommodate users of all ages and abilities) vs. an 8-foot sidewalk with “sharrows” in the roadway for bicyclists, additional measures to reduce tree impacts, and determining whether to include a raised crosswalk (or “speed table”) to slow vehicle speeds along 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The community input received was used to help decide the sidewalk width and how the City will finalize design.

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#### What are the results of the 60% design survey?

The City requested additional community feedback with a second survey to Shoreline residents from May 7<sup>th</sup> – June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The 3-question survey yielded 162 responses. The key points were related to sidewalk width, the crosswalk and tree removal are:

- 72% supported 8-foot-wide vs. 10-foot-wide sidewalk
- 86% supported a raised crosswalk
- 66% wanted additional measures to reduce tree impacts
- 35% of comments included mentions of saving trees and reduced sidewalk size (smaller than 8-feet)

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#### What changes to the project improvements will be included in the final design?

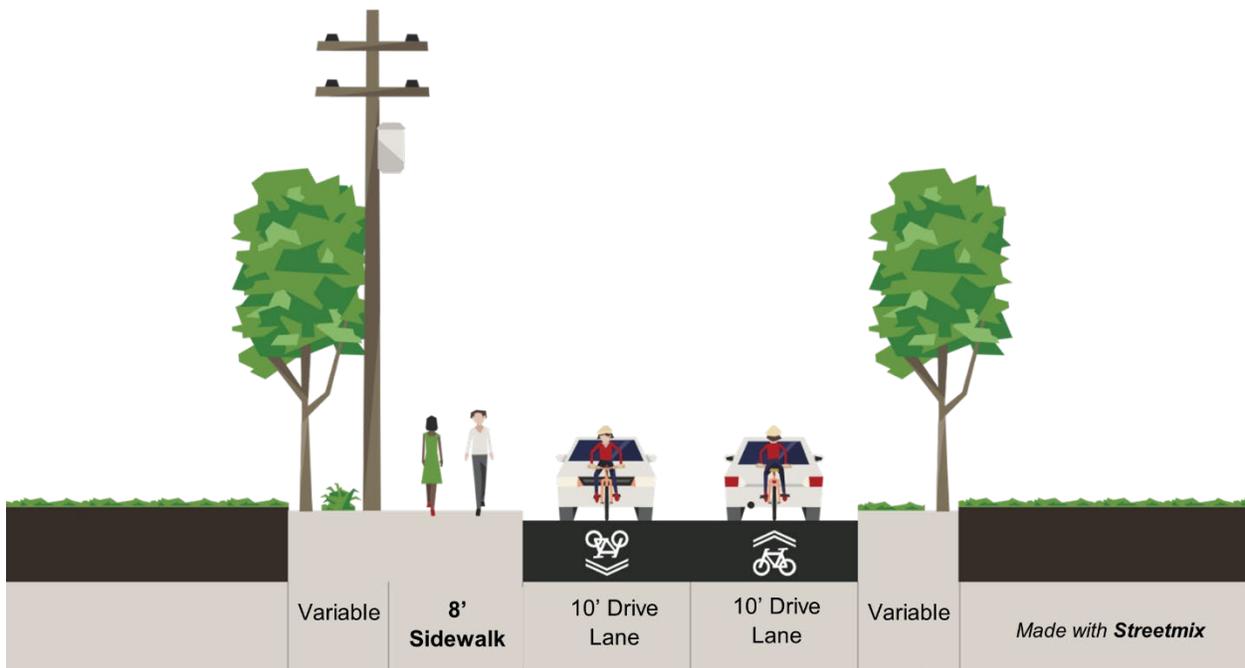
With the continuing design development, arborist information and community input, the City has decided to construct at an 8-foot-wide sidewalk for the full length of the project (NW 190<sup>th</sup> – 195<sup>th</sup> Street). Key drivers in this decision are the very constrained public right-of-way width along 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, and the number existing mature trees near the roadway. Although no trees were proposed to be removed in the preliminary design or in the current 60% design, utilization of the 8-foot wide sidewalk provides additional space between the sidewalk and the

trees which reduces the potential for tree impacts. It is also meets the minimum width for a sidewalk directly adjacent to traffic.

Sidewalks are designed according to the land use of the adjacent property, the current edition of Shoreline's Engineering Design Manual, and for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The City strives to encourage pedestrian mobility and to create a more comfortable pedestrian environment for all users.

Also based on the community's feedback we will be designing a raised crosswalk (speed table) at the intersection with NW 193<sup>rd</sup> Street to slow vehicle speeds along 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The City only has available funds for one raised crossing. You can learn more about speed tables from the [National Association of City Transportation](http://www.nacatrans.org) website.

Adjustments to curb ramps and drainage infrastructure from our 60% design will be completed to reduce impacts to the maximum extent feasible. Infiltration facilities will be constructed at NW 192<sup>nd</sup> Street and NW 193<sup>rd</sup> Street where collected runoff will be allowed to soak into the ground below. There is no existing stormwater infrastructure along 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW so these improvements should greatly improve existing ponding issues. Along with permeable pavement, the infiltration facilities will provide a green alternative to traditional stormwater management.



**Figure 1:** Proposed 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Cross Section showing 8-foot Sidewalk on the West Side

2018 Voter-Approved Sidewalk Program information available at:

[Shorelinewa.gov/Sidewalks](http://Shorelinewa.gov/Sidewalks)

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## How will the City limit tree impacts?

**No trees removals** are expected as a result of this project.

The City appreciates the value and significance of trees in the community and designs sidewalks to minimize impacts to trees. Conceptual designs for sidewalks are initially laid out to best meet all City standards and goals. From there, we review impacts to private property and trees.

As part of this review, the City uses a consulting arborist to evaluate the health of the trees that may be impacted and prepares a report on their findings. The arborist will also provide information on reducing impacts during construction for trees near the project site work. Arborist reports are uploaded to specific sidewalk project web pages when they are finalized. Options are then carefully considered for reducing these impacts to private property and trees, especially trees in good health. The City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department are consulted during this process and they help evaluate other options for reducing tree impacts.

Specifically on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, in collaboration with City staff, design engineers and arborists were able to help us come up with unique solutions to avoid/limit tree excavation within tree root zones. These solutions include:

- A revised grading design at the intersection with NW 190<sup>th</sup> Street, which will eliminate the need to excavate near the trees for a wall.
- Realignment of proposed storm infrastructure to carefully place catch basins and storm pipe where they will have the least impact to existing trees.
- Permeable concrete to move water into tree root zones.
- Reduction of sidewalk width from 8' to 10' to reduce walls (and therefore excavations) required near trees.

If shown to be required from our final arborist review, additional tree protection measures will be considered including root pruning, tree monitoring, and hand digging or pneumatic excavation near tree roots.

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## When will this sidewalk be built?

We expect construction to start in Spring 2023 and be complete by Fall 2023.

The existing utility poles are directly interfering with the sidewalk construction on 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. Before the City can solicit bids from contractors to complete this construction, the power and cable utilities who own the poles must move their existing facilities out of the work area. This process has been shown to take over a year and the City is continuing to coordinate with those utilities to get this work completed.

### Additional Questions?

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