



Dear Director Spotts

Mayor Bruce Harrell supports Councilmember Dan Strauss's request for the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to plan and design an alternate route through Ballard along NW Market Street, NW Leary Avenue, and 17th Avenue NW to complete the "Missing Link" of the Burke-Gilman Trail. Mayor Harrell still supports the Shilshole Avenue NW option; however, given the ongoing litigation surrounding Shilshole, he recognizes the value of exploring an alternate route. To this end, over the next 6 months, he is asking SDOT to conduct an outreach and engagement process that leads to a 30% design of a Market/Leary/17th alternative that could complete this vital element of the Burke-Gilman Trail.

We share the councilmember's desire for SDOT to conduct meaningful outreach and engagement with residential, commercial, business, and bike and pedestrian safety advocates. We are asking SDOT to work in partnership with the councilmember's office to develop an outreach and engagement strategy that builds upon previous work SDOT and the councilmember's office has done.

In January 2023, Councilmember Strauss and the Mayor's Office participated in listening sessions with representatives from the commercial, business, and bike and pedestrian safety communities. In those listening sessions, participants provided suggestions, feedback, and recommendations for the councilmember's proposal for the Market/Leary/17th alternative. They also verbalized useful feedback on previous engagement efforts and what they perceive as meaningful outreach and engagement going forward. We believe a coordinated approach informed by this recent feedback to engage with this community will not only help build lasting and trusting relationships, but also lead to a 30% design that people can support.

To complete work bringing the proposal to 30% design, I recommend using the existing budget in the Burke-Gilman Trail Extension CIP. If you prefer to use a different funding source, you are welcome to propose an alternative net-neutral budget to pay for this work for my consideration. The Mayor's Office supports SDOT in developing a communications plan to share this new direction and any potential impacts to existing Levy deliverables.

Mayor Harrell is committed to improving safety for all modes of travel including pedestrians, bikes, cars, freight, and other methods of transportation. While the current Shilshole Avenue NW route remains halted due to ongoing litigation, we ask that SDOT use their maintenance and operations budget to explore safety and operational improvements along Shilshole Ave NW. These improvements could include repairing the road, refreshing the striping, and exploring updates to the parking along the roadway. We ask that SDOT work with the stakeholders along Shilshole to inform maintenance and operational updates along this stretch of road.

Your SDOT team has put in incredible time, effort, and work into the "Missing Link" project over the years, for which we are profoundly grateful. There are huge opportunities ahead, and we look forward to working with SDOT and Councilmember Strauss as we advance towards completing the longstanding "Missing Link."

Sincerely,

*Adiam Emery*

Adiam Emery (Mar 23, 2023 16:14 PDT)