

Pedestrian Master Plan Implementation Discussion

Problem: One quarter (27% actually) of Seattle lacks a safe place to walk. With the current levels of funding it will take 300 years to create a safe place to walk on all Seattle streets.

Current trajectory: The Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan is currently being updated and is in draft form. City Council ratification is expected in early 2017. After the plan is adopted, SDOT will work on an implementation plan based on currently available funding. However the implementation plan will not answer the most important question: how do we accelerate funding to make all streets safe to walk on within one generation – not twelve?

Proposed solution:

The City of Seattle can convene a conversation where all options are on the table to determine how to accelerate making all of Seattle walkable. These conversations will inform decision makers about what options are palatable and feasible, and help guide the Pedestrian Master Plan implementation process.

The City of Seattle should be straightforward with neighborhoods that don't stand to receive sidewalks for generations and engage them in a conversation of options. Can we cheaply implement a system of diverters that turn all sidewalk-less streets into local access only streets where it is more comfortable to walk? Can we find a way to leverage citizen demand and enable (perhaps subsidized through cost-share programs, reduced permitting or construction assistance from City crews) neighborhoods to pay for their own non-arterial sidewalks? Can we require significantly remodeled homes or homes that are sold to be upgraded with a safe place to walk?

Council mechanism:

Place a budget proviso on the DON and SDOT budgets directing both departments to collaboratively:

- 1) Research a menu of all possible options to accelerate pedestrian infrastructure investments
- 2) Conduct thorough and equitable engagement in communities that are currently lack sidewalks to receive feedback on the ideas
- 3) Report back to City Council and the mayor on their findings and proposed next steps



