



2018 Neighborhood Safety Program Application

Application Deadline: February 15, 2018

(Note: One project location per application)

Contact Information

Neighborhood Association: NORKIRK

Neighborhood Chair: Cindy Randazzo & Deanna Mortensen

Phone: 425-443-5927

E-mail: norkirkna@outlook.com

Project Coordinator: Deanna Mortensen

E-mail: danskerD@hotmail.com

General Project Information

Location: 7th ave from 3rd st to 6th st

Nearest Cross Street(s):

☐ Project Priority 1 (or only project) ☐ Priority 2

Project Type:

☐ Bicycle Improvement

☐ Rapid Flashing Beacon

☐ Trail Improvement

☐ Crosswalk Improvement

☒ Sidewalk Improvement

☐ Walkway Improvement

☐ Intersection Improvement

☐ Street Lighting

☐ Radar Speed Sign

☐ Traffic Calming

Describe the Project Scope:

Please include all aspects of the project (e.g., ADA ramps, street lights, thermoplastic, hand rails, asphalt vs. gravel).

7th ave is the busiest street in the entire Norkirk neighborhood and, with increased traffic, pedestrian safety on 7th ave has become a serious concern. There have been two hit-and-run incidents and multiple near-misses with pedestrians walking on the north side of 7th ave between 3rd and 6th streets, where sidewalks are incomplete, the pedestrian right-of-way is blocked, and pedestrians are forced to walk in traffic to pass. This is particularly an issue for the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with young children, who are less able to dodge traffic as they compete for space with oncoming cars.

The requested project would provide an off-street pedestrian path between existing sidewalks on the north side of 7th ave between 3rd and 6th streets, however, the city engineers have reduced the scope to the 2 blocks between 4th and 6th streets due to cost. They have also defined the improvement as an asphalt walkway connecting the sidewalks. The proposed sidewalk connections would be on city property, which is the 20 feet between the street and home owners' property lines, in the first 10 feet from the street (known as the pedestrian ROW).

City Cost Estimate: \$ 56k

1. Neighborhood Benefit/Support (0–60 points)

Please explain how the project will address a recognized safety need (especially with school kids or other vulnerable populations) and result in a positive and lasting neighborhood benefit (e.g., creates an important neighborhood pedestrian or bicycle connection):

For local pedestrians, 7th ave is both a main connector street to the Cross Kirkland Corridor and is an official walk to school route. Most pedestrians walking from their Norkirk homes to downtown must cross 7th ave and the intersections of 4th and 5th streets with 7th ave are currently quite hazardous. Completing an unobstructed pedestrian path would enable people to more safely walk along 7th ave, wait out of the way of traffic to cross the street, and cross at marked intersections rather than in the middle of the street where cars are not expecting pedestrians to be. This is particularly important for those who can't move as quickly to dodge traffic, such as the elderly, the disabled, and young children, and those who can't cross mid-street because they need the ramps at the intersections to access the sidewalks, such as those with wheelchairs, strollers, or children riding bikes.

Were adjacent neighbors who will be impacted by the project contacted (e.g., street lights)? Yes X No ____

Is there support for the project within the neighborhood (e.g., businesses, schools, and PTAs)? Yes X No ____

Note: Please attach letters, emails, or a petition of support for your project.

2. Community Benefit/Support (0–30 points)

Please explain how the project benefits people outside of the neighborhood (e.g., creates a community-wide connection):

7th ave is used as a traffic through-way to downtown, the highway, and Redmond by many Kirkland neighborhoods as well as some in Kenmore and Bothell. It is also used by bicyclists accessing the CKC trail and pedestrians coming down from the Highlands to downtown. Installing basic infrastructure to provide greater pedestrian safety and avoid collisions with pedestrians in the street benefits all parties involved in using 7th ave.

Is there broad community support for the project outside the neighborhood (e.g., businesses, schools, and PTAs, and community groups)? Yes X No ____

Note: Please attach letters, emails, or a petition of support for your project.

3. Neighborhood/Community Project Partnership (0–10 points)

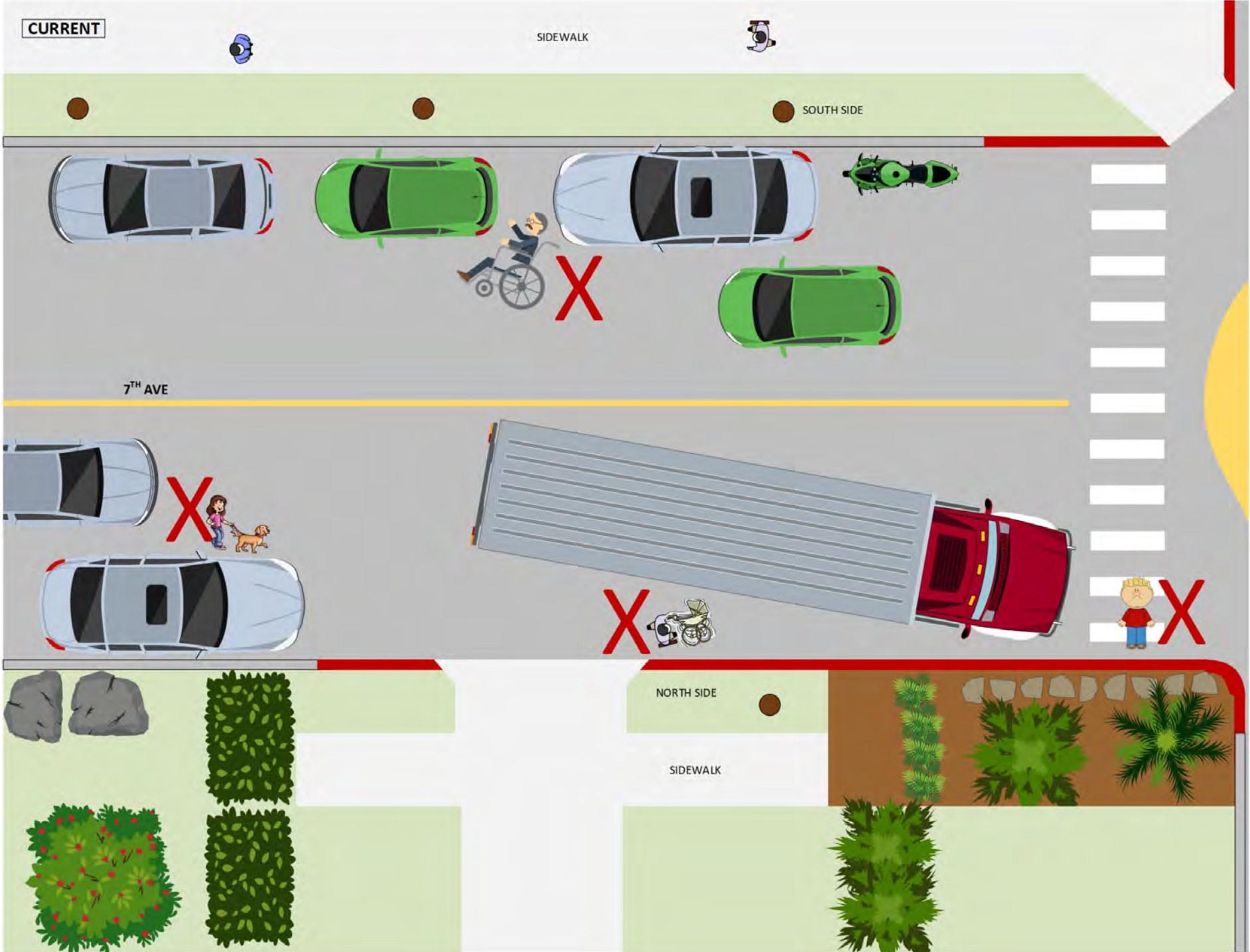
Will there be financial contributions and/or volunteer hours for this project (e.g., trail construction or maintenance)? If so, please provide details of the contributions. (**Note:** Volunteer value is \$23.56.)

Description	Financial Contribution (\$)	Volunteer Contribution (# of Hours * \$23.56)	Total
Helping owners move and replant plants that are obstructing the pedestrian path	TBD \$500-\$2000	20	\$1k – 3k

Please submit application to:

City of Kirkland, Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator, 123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033

For any questions or further information, please contact Kari Page at kpage@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3875.





BLOCKED PEDESTRIAN ROW, POOR SIGHTLINES FOR DRIVERS SEEING CARS ENTERING FROM DRIVEWAYS, PEDESTRIANS FORCED TO BE IN TRAFFIC LANE



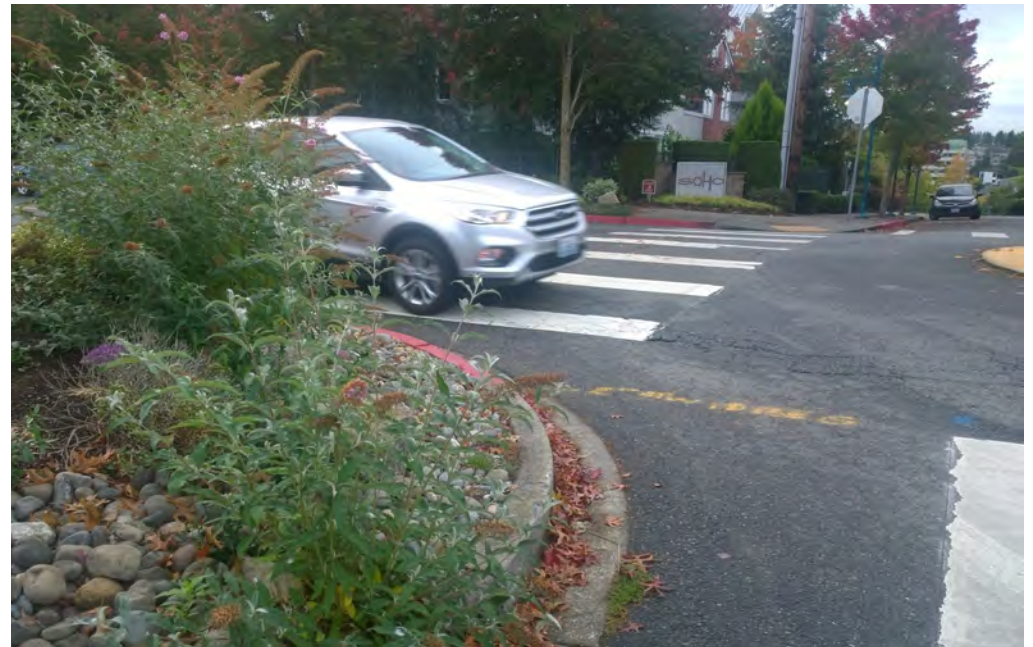
BLOCKED PEDESTRIAN ROW, PEDESTRIANS FORCED TO BE IN TRAFFIC LANE



BLOCKED PEDESTRIAN ROW, POOR SIGHTLINES FOR DRIVERS SEEING CARS ENTERING FROM DRIVEWAYS, PEDESTRIANS FORCED TO BE IN TRAFFIC LANE



BLOCKED PEDESTRIAN ROW, PEDESTRIANS FORCED TO BE IN TRAFFIC LANE, POOR VISIBILITY FOR CARS TURNING DUE TO NON-REGULATION ROW



BLOCKED PEDESTRIAN ROW, SOME EASILY CORRECTED WITH TRIMMING, LEVELING, & REMOVING SMALL OBSTACLES







February 12, 2018

To the City of Kirkland:

Safe walk-to-school routes and pedestrian safety in general are an important part of our growing community. I strongly support the request for the Neighborhood Safety Program to fund completing the off-street pedestrian paths between existing sidewalks on 7th Ave, particularly the intersections of 4th, 5th, and 6th streets with 7th Ave.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Maureen Crabtree'.

Maureen Crabtree

President,

Peter Kirk Elementary PTSA

This is a dangerous intersection for pedestrians that we have repeatedly complained to the city about. I was advised to report it here to be officially counted as an incident. We have previously been hit twice and had countless near-misses walking around the NE corner of the intersection of 5th st and 7th ave due to the lack of sidewalk and blocked pedestrian right-of-way. Yet again as I walked around the corner with my 2 year old twins in the stroller on my way to pick up my older son at Peter Kirk Elementary, a car turning right onto 5th st from 7th ave didn't see us until it was right on top of us. As I am ever vigilant at this corner, I heard the car behind us, looked back to see it, and shoved the stroller over towards the curb while the car swerved out. We avoided getting hit this time, but this is a far too common occurrence at this intersection and it seems nothing will be done about it until someone gets seriously hurt.

To the Norkirk Neighborhood Association-

I wanted to send a note to express my support for the following neighborhood safety projects:

Pedestrian Safety on 7th Ave

I live on 7th Ave. I walk on my street daily to get to Kirkland Transit Center, get my mail (which is on a stand a few houses down), or to exercise. There is no sidewalk for large sections of 7th. In fact, there's no way to safely reach my house from either side of the block (between 5th and 6th street on 7th Ave), so I have no choice but to either cross from the south-side mid-block or walk in the street. Especially on dark winter days, I have had many close calls with drivers going fast and not looking for pedestrians.

It's sad and frustrating that a road so close to downtown Kirkland feels so unsafe for me as a pedestrian. I feel uncomfortable when friends with small children come to visit and we want to go downtown-- I don't feel like there's a safe way for them to get to downtown, which is a shame because we're so close.

If we want to start the process of making 7th a welcome place for pedestrians and bicyclists, we need to start by making the obvious investments to make those individuals have a basic level of safety on their streets.

Thanks,
Erika Palmer

I am glad that someone is looking into the 5th and 7th intersection. It has been a pedestrian problem for years and will only be more important with the completion of Kirkland Urban. Terrible intersection for safety of all who cross. Homes on the corners that were able to place rocks and vision impairing bushes in what should be the easement should be required to remove them. At the very least, there should be roughly 3-4 ft of grass so that oncoming cars are visible to people and vice versa. To that point, the lack of sidewalk between 6th St and 4th St on the north side, does not allow a pedestrian to get to a safe crossing.

Thanks,
Nichole Swanger

Please finish the sidewalks on 7th. We have young children walking in the street and our 10 year old son is deaf so he can't hear the cars coming. It's really dangerous and I don't understand why this hasn't been done yet. We just have grass so people can walk across our property, but other people have planted bushes to block the path and there is no sidewalk. We live in a city, right by downtown Kirkland, of course we should have sidewalks!

Thank you!

Alicia L, 7th avenue resident

Hello!

I am adding my support to a project that has been submitted for neighborhood improvement. Pedestrian safety is critically important and sidewalks need to be installed on the north side of 7th Avenue.

Thank you.

Mary Jessen
114 6th Avenue
425-822-9249

We live on the south side of 7th and my 9 year old boys play with kids on the other side of the street, but I always have to walk them to the door because the sidewalks are blocked and we have to cross in the middle of the street. 7th avenue is really busy and it's super dangerous. These kids walk to and from school together and have to walk into the traffic lanes to leave their property. Isn't this supposed to be a walk to school route? It's ridiculous. Please fill in the gaps in the sidewalk before a kid gets hurt.

Thanks,
Leslie

The city really needs to finish the sidewalks here on 7th. This is such a busy street and we have young kids. We don't have a sidewalk, but we don't have a big chunk of money to spend on it ourselves just for a sidewalk on our property that doesn't event connect to anything.

Rick Froton

Supporting the sidewalks on 7th Ave.

I live on 7th, I don't have a sidewalk, the city is welcome to put one in. It's about time.

Greg

I wanted to express my strong support for the two proposed Norkirk neighborhood safety projects, completing the off-street walkways and adding bike lanes on 7th Ave.

Regarding off-street walkways on 7th Ave:

I live on the North side of 7th Ave, and there is no walkway from my house to any other sidewalk. I have two options when I leave my house: I can either cross the street mid-block, which is dangerous because cars don't expect pedestrians to cross there, and cars drive fast on that section of road, or I can walk in the street past the parked cars, which is also dangerous since I have to walk in the travel lane with my back to traffic. Given that this block is close to downtown Kirkland and on a Safe Walk to School route, it should have a safe way to walk on both sides of the street. Completing the off-street walkways on these blocks would go a long way towards making this street safer for pedestrians. I strongly support this proposal.

Thanks,
Daniel Broekman

To the city of Kirkland:

I strongly support completing the sidewalks on 7th ave. I am retired and not as quick and mobile as I used to be, so it's difficult for me to cross in the middle of the street to get to the sidewalk and sooner or later I'll be needing a mobility scooter, so I need to use the ramps at the crosswalk. Right now I would have to drive in traffic to get to the crosswalk. This is such a busy street, right by downtown, I can't understand why there are still no sidewalks here. It's ridiculous and dangerous. Please put in sidewalks.

Thank you,
Jennifer B.

Please help us with the sidewalks on 7th Avenue. It's dangerous and we really need them.
Lee Ann Gallie

I live at 524 7th ave, Kirkland. I walk and ride my bike all the time in Kirkland. It is very bizarre to me how there are sidewalks in some places and not in others. I have to cross the busy 7th ave to get downtown because there are no sidewalks in some places on my side of the street (north side). Bizarre and dangerous.

This whole thing of having sidewalks in some places not in others is absolutely ridiculous. Someone is going to get killed. I have a torn rotator cuff because of it. Someone needs to get some guts in this town and fix this issue before you get a huge lawsuit perpetuating from an event that could have been prevented. You will be forced to at some point.

Jim Stack

Regarding pedestrian safety crossing 7th Avenue, Kirkland:

That intersection is completely blind coming down 5th street. The ROW plants rules are vague, but I had to plant only things under 12" high so as not to block the view (I was recently inspected and compliant). This is not followed at all by some at this corner and it makes it a very treacherous intersection. I will completely avoid it during Peter Kirk drop off and pick up times because it's downright scary! I've never seen the people who live there or I'd have said something to them in the spirit of being neighborly and asking that they help keep it clear for the benefit of cars and pedestrians.

McKenzie Russo

I am requesting the City of Kirkland to prioritize the completion of the sidewalks on the North Side of 7th Ave and use the funding for the NSP to do this. This is an extremely busy road used by pedestrians frequently to get downtown. Not having a side walk in this portion of the road forces pedestrians to walk in the traffic lanes and will result in a serious accident. There have been near misses on this road.

If the city values the safety of our residents the city should fund this project .

Thanks

Ramola Lewis

A Norkirk resident

My family and I have lived in the Kirkland Highlands for about 15 years. We absolutely love it here. We drive down 7th Avenue most days of the week and we know at least five families who live on that street so we spend a lot of time there and have noticed a major safety issue with regard to the sidewalks. As you know, it's a very busy street, with cars racing down it in spite of the roundabouts and stop signs. We're very concerned with the lack of sidewalks (or lack of accessibility to sidewalks) on 7th Avenue. This is a major walk-to-school route for Peter Kirk, and it is one that requires children and parents with strollers to often navigate into the street as people have either blocked their pedestrian right-of-ways or there is simply no sidewalk available.

I understand it's been brought to the City's attention, but nothing has been done and I'm wondering why since it seems like a major safety issue related to children and families (and a liability). If there is an area that is supposed to be clear for pedestrians (since it's City property), but a resident places large rocks or something else in the way so that people can't pass without walking into the street, is that something the City could enforce? Can you please tell us what plans are in place to make 7th Avenue a safe street for pedestrians?

Many thanks,

Steph and Geoff Lecovin, Highlands Residents

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in strong support of completing and connecting the sidewalks along the north side of 7th Ave, especially between 3rd St and 6th St. where there are a couple of small traffic circles. I have had to walk that stretch and, not only is the sidewalk not complete, but there are spots where the thick foliage is not allowing pedestrians to pass at all without going into the street to get by. This is an extremely dangerous situation on a VERY busy arterial, as it is difficult to even get to the marked crossings.

This busy street needs sidewalks on both sides! It is a school walking route and the density in the neighborhood is increasing rapidly. This needs to be a priority project.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Janet Pruitt

To the city of Kirkland:

I have two kids and two dogs and it is difficult to walk on or cross 7th ave going downtown and to visit friends because there are missing sidewalks and it's a busy street. I think the NSP project is great and I hope the city will finally fix the sidewalks.

Christina J.

If the ROW was cleared as it is supposed to be and it was just grass or other ground cover, we would be able to walk off street. We do this several places around the neighborhood where are level stretches of grass between sidewalks. The only issue is if we come to a corner, as the curb makes it difficult with strollers and bikes and we are standing in the street for longer as we turn and maneuver up it, if possible. We are not able to cross in the middle of 7th street with children and a stroller; we need to get to an intersection/cross walk. Walking on my own, it's no big deal to cross in the street, but with children and/or a stroller or a wheelchair, the opposite side is usually blocked with parked cars (as the apartment buildings across the street only allot 1 parking space to most units) and the curb makes getting up to the sidewalk more difficult. Also, 7th is a busy street, a designated through-way by the city, busy with many cars, trucks, and busses, and it's hard enough to get drivers to notice us at the intersection and stop for us, nevermind in the middle of the street. It's rush-hour when we leave for school, so it's particularly bad then, and there are many children walking to school alone in this neighborhood. We have issues getting to the crosswalk on 7th, at the intersections with 6th st and 5th st: For the one on 6th st., the ROW is blocked by bushes right at the intersection and the curb juts out to narrow the lane, so we have to walk in the street into oncoming traffic before we are in the crosswalk and any cars can see us. Going the other way to 5th st., the corner property has raised the ground elevation and planted many bushes in the ROW, which is more of an issue coming home as, again, cars can't see us coming round the corner (and we can't see them until we do), coupled with a round-about, which makes cars swing out closer to the curb. This is all really the basic stuff of why we have sidewalks in cities...

There is a serious flaw in the city's plan to let homeowners pay for the sidewalk only if they improve the property more than \$200k, and that's using the city's cost evaluation rates, which is less than market rates. There are so many homes that are already improved/developed beyond the point of needing that large of an investment, so many simply don't ever get sidewalks. Several houses on these blocks have changed owners recently with no significant changes and there are lots of million -plus dollar homes in our neighborhood without sidewalks. Perhaps for future general pedestrian safety in the neighborhood, we could ask the city council to change the requirements for paving so more get done, but in the mean time, the city needs to take responsibility when a resident alerts them to a serious pedestrian safety issue on a busy street by either enforcing the planting rules or putting in sidewalks where they are missing. On 7th ave, we're talking about 3 blocks that lack continuous sidewalks on the north side. It shouldn't take us getting run over for them to do their jobs.