



# Walkable Washington

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For information about Walkable Washington and other Feet First programs

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## Case Study

### Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.



### Linden Avenue Complete Streets Project Seattle, WA

#### Description and purpose

The Linden Avenue project is an important part of Seattle's Complete Streets policy. Covering just shy of one mile between N 128th Street and N 145th Street, it is often referred to as the missing link to the Interurban Trail. This project improves bike safety with an urban cycle track modeled after those in Vancouver, B.C., which separates bikes from vehicles, improves visibility with green painted pathways, and improves intersection safety for bikers with special bike-first street lights and protection from left-turning cars. Pedestrian safety has been improved by the addition of continuous sidewalks, curb ramps, a new pedestrian crossing by the community center, and calmed traffic speeds.



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## Costs and funding

This project cost \$9.3 million and was funded in part by Bridging the Gap—a voter supported transportation levy—as well as by a Real Estate Excise tax, Street Vacation funds and by bonds.

## Implementation time-frame

Plans to develop Linden Avenue have been in the works for quite some time as they were initially outlined in the Vision 2020 Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake Neighborhood Plan in 1999. Following the adoption of the Seattle Complete Streets ordinance in 2007, Linden Avenue was identified as an ideal Complete Streets Pilot Project. Design for this project began in 2009 and construction began in June 2012. The project was finished in June 2013.

## Community involvement

Community outreach for this project has been ongoing since the development of the Vision 2020 plan in 1999. The most recent phase of the project, which resulted in its completion, reached out to community members extensively through email notification to and follow-up contact with stakeholders, the creation of a project website, conversation with key neighborhood groups including Broadview Community Council and Greenwood Aurora Involved Neighbors, door-to-door distribution of informational sheets. Design review open houses were held between 2009 and 2012 when construction began.

## Benefits and results

Community response to the project has been positive. Cleanup volunteers for Linden Avenue have notes that since the redesign littering on the street has been greatly reduced, as people are less likely to litter in attractive places. The project won the Puget Sound Regional Council's 2013 Vision 2040 Award for Excellence which recognizes work being done supporting the region's long-term growth, economic and transportation strategy.

## Project Contacts

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## Resources

Linden Avenue Complete Street Project

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/linden.htm>

Photo courtesy of the Seattle Department of Transportation.



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