WALKABLE WASHINGTON

Transformation towards walkability is taking place all over the state of Washington. From urban, suburban and small town initiatives, the program showcases the effects of a renewed focus on creating great places for people to walk. The case studies are exceptional projects and programs showcasing how cities, counties, school districts, and community organizations throughout the state are making it safer, easier, and more inviting for people to walk.

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

We promote walkable communities and empower people throughout Washington to connect to the world by foot.

CASE STUDY

SOUTH 180TH STREET PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
CITY OF SEATAC, WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: The project was designed and constructed to provide a safe walking path along South 180th Street in the city of SeaTac, a space that was previously used for on-street parking. The walkway connects to retailers along South 176th, and to the RapidRide B line on International Boulevard.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS: SeaTac citizens and the Police Department’s community service team brought concerns about pedestrian safety on the corridor to Public Works. A curb-and-gutter improvement package was not possible due to a constrained budget. Many community members were concerned that the walkway would take away the free street parking, and this issue was an obstacle to implementation of the project.

Working closely with the SeaTac Police community service team, SeaTac Public Works educated motorists regarding the safety issues on the corridor and the benefits of a safe walkway. The implemented project is a paved, striped, marked path on the street right-of-way. The path was implemented relatively inexpensively and quickly. Public Works has coordinated with SeaTac Police to help educate motorists on the purpose of the walkway and the need to keep it clear of cars.

The time spent on stakeholder meetings and outreach was approximately 8 months.
COSTS AND FUNDING: The project cost roughly $8K and was funded directly by the City of SeaTac.

IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAME: approximately 1 month

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: The project was described as a multi-department effort, with a lot of help from SeaTac Police community service team. Public Works and SeaTac Police created the initial design and did all the community involvement. Public Works then partnered with King County Roads for traffic engineering, pavement markings, and road signage. There were 8 months worth of planning, stakeholder meetings, and community outreach.

BENEFITS AND RESULTS: The path is well-used according to Assistant City Engineer Florendo Cabudol, and retail and public transportation destinations are now more easily accessible to pedestrians. Additionally, Public Works has not received requests for additional signage or heard of issues from SeaTac Police regarding compliance. Public Works credits this to the work of the community service team at SeaTac Police.

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