

Arbor Heights School Walking Route Improvements

Applicant(s): Tim Walsh & Aaron Utigard

Location: 35th Ave SW between 100 St SW to 104th St SW on the west side of 35th Ave SW.

Problem: There are currently no pedestrian facilities on the west side of 35th Ave SW between SW 100th St and SW 104th St. This is an arterial street with high speeds and traffic volumes and is also a walking route to and from Arbor Heights Elementary School. In addition to Arbor Heights Elementary, Westside K-8 recently announced that this school will relocate to 34th Ave SW and SW 104th St - just one block east of this project. With a new school setting up in the area, there will be an increase in demand for pedestrian facilities and an increase in vehicular volume as well. Pedestrians currently must walk on the gravel shoulder just feet away from vehicles going 30+ mph and must navigate through haphazardly parked vehicles and large puddles.

Proposed Solution: This project would construct sidewalks along the west side of 35th Ave SW from SW 100th St to SW 104th St and pedestrian improvements at each intersection. According to SDOT's Pedestrian Master Plan, constructing sidewalks on this stretch of 35th Ave SW is a top priority (Tier 1). This project would connect to new sidewalks that were recently built on 35th Ave SW from SW 97th St to SW 100th St. Funding for that work came from Mayor McGinn through his Walk Bike Ride program. This project would start where the Mayor's project left off - at SW 100th St. The intersection of 35th Ave SW and SW 100th St is also a top priority (Tier 1) for crossing improvements according to SDOT's Pedestrian Master Plan. This project would complete the pedestrian infrastructure at this intersection by constructing curb ramps on the southwest and southeast corners of the intersection. The sidewalk would continue south on 35th Ave SW to the intersection with SW 102nd St. Curb ramps would be constructed on all four corners of this intersection as well. Continuing south, the new sidewalk would reach the intersection of SW 104th St where curb ramps would be built on the northwest and northeast corners of this intersection and connect to the existing designated school crosswalk on the south leg of the intersection. This crosswalk is patrolled by an adult crossing guard on school days and accompanied by a reduced school zone speed limit (20 mph). At SW 104th St, students will be able to connect to existing sidewalks on SW 104th St to reach Arbor Heights Elementary to the west of 35th Ave SW and the Westside School just east of 35th Ave SW. Pedestrian facilities at the intersection of 35th SW and SW 104th are critical since there will be an increase in both pedestrian and vehicular volumes with the opening of the Westside School at 34th SW and SW 104th St. With the addition of the Westside School to the Arbor Heights neighborhood, this project would provide the facilities necessary to handle a considerable increase in the number of students coming to this area by car, by bike, and as pedestrians. This project would significantly improve the existing conditions by providing pedestrian facilities for students and residents, by formalizing parking, and by improving drainage. This work may also reduce speeds on 35th Ave SW by narrowing the roadway through curb and gutter. SDOT has documented high speeds on this segment of 35th Ave SW in the past.

City Staff said to be contacted: Thomas Whitmore, Stan Lock, Jim Curtin

Asserted benefits: Environmental Benefits, Neighborhood character, Quality of Life, Sense of Place, make the neighborhood not look like a slum with open ditches and haphazardly parked cars

Included elements: New sidewalk or sidewalk repair, new curb or curb repair, bike path or trail, traffic calming, crosswalk(s)