

STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS



Helping Landowners Preserve the Environment

Sara Zora
Seattle Department of Transportation
PO Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Dear Ms. Zora:

I am writing in full support of the Melrose Promenade proposal, which would transform Capitol Hill's Melrose Avenue and neighboring publicly-owned land into a dynamic public open space and green street. The Melrose Promenade project should be a top priority for funding made available to transportation, parks and open space, green storm water infrastructure, and neighborhood planning initiatives. I am providing green storm water infrastructure guidance to this project and believe that it represents a good opportunity to further restore the ecological movement of water as well as human movement through our city's landscape, and will raise awareness around the issue urban stormwater.

The Melrose Promenade project would:

- Advance citywide efforts to make Seattle more sustainable, placing an emphasis on expanding and improving our pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure;
- Improve connectivity between residential neighborhoods and Downtown Seattle;
- Make Melrose Avenue safer and less prone to criminal activity due to better lighting, more people, and "eyes on the street";
- Create a new public open space that would offer visitors to the city and to Capitol Hill sweeping views of the Seattle skyline, the iconic Space Needle, and the Olympic Mountains; and
- Offer nearby residents a one-of-a-kind, easily accessible public amenity, a place to stroll or to enjoy a book, a gathering spot that would serve as the "front porch" to Capitol Hill.

The Melrose Promenade proposal is consistent with several citywide and neighborhood-focused planning efforts. The Comprehensive Plan includes a section on the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Plan, which recommends creating opportunities for new parks on publicly-owned land and enhancing existing public spaces. The Bicycle Master Plan recommends that the Melrose Promenade corridor should be a signed bicycle route connecting Lakeview Boulevard and SR-520 to the north with Pike and Pine Streets to the south, and Melrose Avenue is included as part of the city's Urban Trails and Bikeways system. Finally, in the Pedestrian Master Plan, portions of Melrose are rated as "Tier 1" and "high priority" areas in need of improvement.

I appreciate any assistance you can provide to helping to advance the Melrose Promenade project.

Sincerely,



Aaron D. Clark Ph.D., Rain Garden Program Manager