

April 17, 2020

Shoreline City Councilmembers

City of Shoreline

17500 Midvale Ave N

Shoreline, WA 98133

Via email to [council@shorelinewa.gov](mailto:council@shorelinewa.gov)

SEATTLE AUDUBON

FOR BIRDS AND NATURE



**RE: WSDOT Regional Headquarters Remodel Project ROW 19-2371**

Dear Shoreline City Councilmembers,

Greetings from Seattle Audubon, one of the largest and most active Audubon chapters in the country. We lead westside King County communities from Shoreline to Des Moines in appreciating, understanding, and protecting birds. We write to you in support of Save Shoreline Trees' efforts to preserve trees during WSDOT's regional headquarters remodel, project ROW 19-2371.

The current WSDOT frontage improvements plan would remove 133 significant trees. This level of loss is unnecessary; an arborist report, for instance, outlines a creative solution that could achieve 100% retention of these trees.<sup>1</sup> We ask the City of Shoreline to work with community advocates like Save Shoreline Trees to retain trees at the WSDOT site and across the city. By doing so, Shoreline can demonstrate its commitment to urban forests, live up to its "Tree City USA" designation, save money, and preserve critical habitat.

Big trees and trees that provide contiguous canopy cover, such as those threatened by the frontage improvements, contribute to public health, stormwater management, and climate resiliency. They provide critical habitat too; over 100 bird species use Shoreline's trees. Decisions to remove these valuable resources should not be made lightly. Once they are gone, they are not quickly nor cheaply replaced. Cities across the country and around the world spend millions to improve their urban forests. New York City, for example, spent over \$350 million in recent years to get greener.<sup>2</sup> With 37% city-wide coverage,<sup>3</sup> Shoreline's canopy is enviable. Preserving what you have now will be more cost effective than reforestation in the future and will maintain the livability and character of Shoreline.

Please work with neighbors and community groups like Save Shoreline Trees to achieve both frontage improvements and tree preservation. Ideas you may consider could include reducing sidewalk width, prioritizing root protection, and installing a raised sidewalk. Creative solutions like these will keep Shoreline a place where people and birds thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joshua Morris", written over a horizontal line.

Joshua Morris

Urban Conservation Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John S. Farnsworth", written over a horizontal line.

John S. Farnsworth, PhD

Chair, Conservation Committee

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager  
Caleb Miller, Associate Planner

<sup>1</sup> Petter, Josh and Katie Hogan. *Arborist Memo*. Tree Solutions, Inc., February 26, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> "New York Just Planted 1 Million Trees. Here's How We Did it." NYRP.org. New York Restoration Project, Jan. 6, 2016. Web. April 13, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Plan-It Geo, LLC. *An Assessment of Urban Tree Canopy Shoreline, Washington*. Prepared for the City of Shoreline, July 2018.