

The Public Realm: Streets, Trails and Plazas

What is missing in the public realm?

- Outdoor meeting spaces, benches. Public and private “pocket parks” – can be more picnic tables & trees in front of businesses
- Intimate, inviting spaces
- Bury power lines
- Bike lanes
- Calming devices
- Interesting, human-scale spaces
- “Complete street” concept – move “bumps” to create bike lanes & create 2 lanes w/ central turn lane... widen existing sidewalks toward the property not further into the street
- Street island for pedestrian refuge
- Roundabouts not lights
- Noise reduction / mitigating I-5 noise
- Plantings – trees, flowers, hangings
- Lower speed limit
- Separate cars from people by planting strip, etc
- Variable lane width
- Long straight away, not good, increases probability of speeding
- Cut back on curb-cuts
- “Grid” system – an exciting alternative
- Right-of-way easement
- Otis-Samish intersection - a good, natural interest spot (near Rocket Donuts)
- Space along I-5 for trail... wetlands?
- Set trails up with choices
- Regional stormwater system makes it more developable
- Rain Garden
- Area was naturally a pond
- Stormwater management critical
- Crosswalks need thoughtful design – not “mechanical” looking - use surface changes
- Ability to shut a street down periodically
- Plantings early on
- Focal point at turn
- Build 35th Street with auto access to Samish and pedestrian access to 34th
- Rain Garden / Park / Plaza
- Street art / trash cans / drinking fountains
- Line street and sidewalk with trees
- Community Garden
- Quality signage – NO neon
- Make safe places to cross Samish
- Landscape requirements for parking lots
- Require commercial / retail to provide landscaped green / public spaces
- Street lighting – solar / compact fluorescent – environmentally friendly
- Bus shelters
- Mid-block crosswalks – enough to meander
- Pedestrian overpass Maple to Maple

- Connect to Sehome Village / apartments – extend Urban Village
- Bus pull-outs
- With I-5 off ramp closed, new access – maybe 37th Street
- Consolidation of curb-cuts

Top 2 Immediate Improvements:

- Create inviting spaces (including landscape median)
- Better street crossings / crosswalks, especially mid-block
- Crosswalks – Abbott and Consolidation
- Regional stormwater treatment along I-5 / Humboldt St. with multi-modal trail crossing to arboretum
- Land banking (city acquiring property as it come available)
- Pedestrian connectivity – crosswalks
- Additional sidewalks
- Human-scaled public lighting
- Traffic calming on Samish – stop signs / crosswalks / landscape median
- Landscape median
- Pocket parks – specifically at the triangle intersection of Bill McDonald Parkway and 34th, with sidewalk connection across to Sehome Village

Top 2 Five-Year Improvements:

- Better design standards / incentives for private development
- Better pedestrian connections and crossings on Samish
- More housing / multi-use buildings
- Sprinkle amenities
- Pocket Parks – places to sit
- Create a grid out of the superblocks
- Planting strips / buffer
- Planting strip between sidewalk and street
- Bike Lanes on Samish
- Improve grid – “smart car” depot
- Boulevard down middle – slower and green
- Traffic circle at Samish / Maple (with fountain)

Top 2 Ten-Year Improvements:

- Buildings to street - parking spaces in back
- Redesign access into corridor
- Lane striping changes
- “Smart car” stations at Byron
- Sound proofing from I-5
- Improve the Gateway at I-5, Byron, Samish Way, McDonald Parkway spot.
- Add side streets off of Samish for parking (new through streets)
- Angled parking on side streets
- Bioswales for stormwater, rain garden, park plaza (37th, 35th, and Humboldt)
- Siding road that connects 37th to Humboldt
- Bike / Pedestrian I-5 overpass at Maple Street
- Bill McDonald Parkway improvements – move offramp, roundabout, pedestrian crossing, etc)

Other Comments:

- Rename it "San Juan Boulevard"
- Open private spaces at Rocket Donuts, Aloha, and Pizza Pipeline. City help with improvements
- Power poles on Samish are ugly
- Samish is BORING. Alienating
- Development character (current) is WRONG, nurture private redevelopment
- Attract a more diverse community of businesses
- Build housing
- Pedestrian fountain – only runs when it rains – celebrate the rain