



Addressing Conflicts between Trees and Sidewalks

Project Overview

Urban Forestry Commission
December 11, 2013



Background

- Seattle's 4.35 million trees are worth \$4.9 billion
- Goal is to expand canopy cover to 30% by 2027
- SDOT manages over 140,000 trees in the right-of-way
- Since 2007, SDOT has planted over 1,200 trees annually





Project Purpose

- Develop a toolkit of options to address conflicts between trees and sidewalks (and other infrastructure) citywide
- Use case studies, including the 34th Avenue East corridor, to illustrate applications





Project Goals

- **Accessibility and Health:** To provide a safe, accessible, and inviting walking environment, following universal design principles
- **Environment:** To protect and expand a healthy urban forest
- **Equity:** To thoroughly consider the needs of all communities in accordance with the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative
- **Efficiency:** To preserve existing assets—both street trees and sidewalks—and use resources wisely





Draft Objectives

- Repair tree-damaged sidewalks with sustainable solutions
- Retain healthy, mature, and appropriately sited trees whenever possible
- Explore and implement innovative sidewalk repair approaches
- Evaluate sidewalk repair approaches across a range of criteria, including lifecycle and community costs and benefits
- Add to the urban canopy by planting new trees





Project Team

SvR Design

Harrison Design

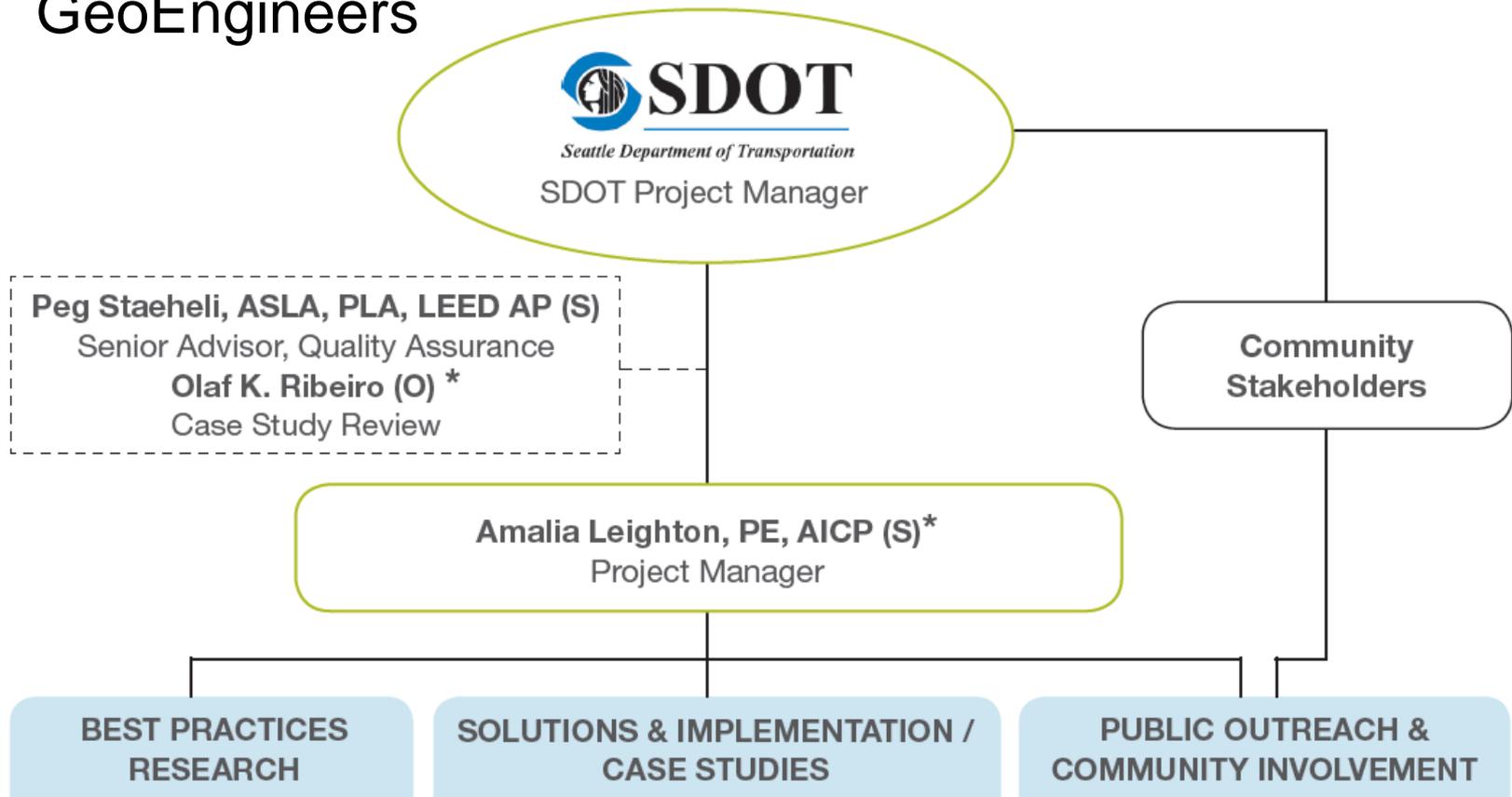
Norton-Arnold

GeoEngineers

Olaf Ribeiro

Stenn Design

Tree Solutions





Scope of Work

1. Project management
2. Existing and best practices research
3. Development of long-term solutions and approaches to implementation
4. Case studies
5. Public outreach and community involvement
6. Final operational plan





Best Practices Research

- National and international city research
- Current SDOT Practices
- Tree size
- Tree valuation
- Tree maintenance
- Root maintenance
- Root structure evaluation
- Sub-base installation
- Soil conditions
- Nutrients
- Water and irrigation
- Utility compatibility
- Sidewalk pavement types
- Accessibility and ADA
- Surface maintenance
- Street edge conditions
- ***Suggestions?***



Preliminary Schedule

		2013			2014					
Task		NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
1	Program Management	[Teal bar spanning from NOV 2013 to JUN 2014]								
2	Existing & Best Practices Research	● IDT	●	● IDT						
3	Solutions & Approaches to Implementation		● IDT	● IDT	● IDT					
4a	Case Studies: Madrona Corridor		●	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	
4b	Case Studies: Other Corridor Selections		●	●						
4c	Case Studies: Other Corridor Concept Plans			●	●	● Draft	●	▲		
5	Public Outreach and Engagement	● PIP	[Teal bar spanning from NOV 2013 to JUN 2014]							✳
6	Operational Plan Draft & Final					● Administrative	● Draft		● Final	

KEY: IDT - SDOT Interdepartmental Team Meetings PIP - Public Involvement Plan
 ✳ - Citywide Public Meetings ▲ - Case Study Public Meetings



Questions?

Project Website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treesandsidewalks.htm>

Contact Information:

Jennifer Wieland, 733-9970

jennifer.wieland@seattle.gov