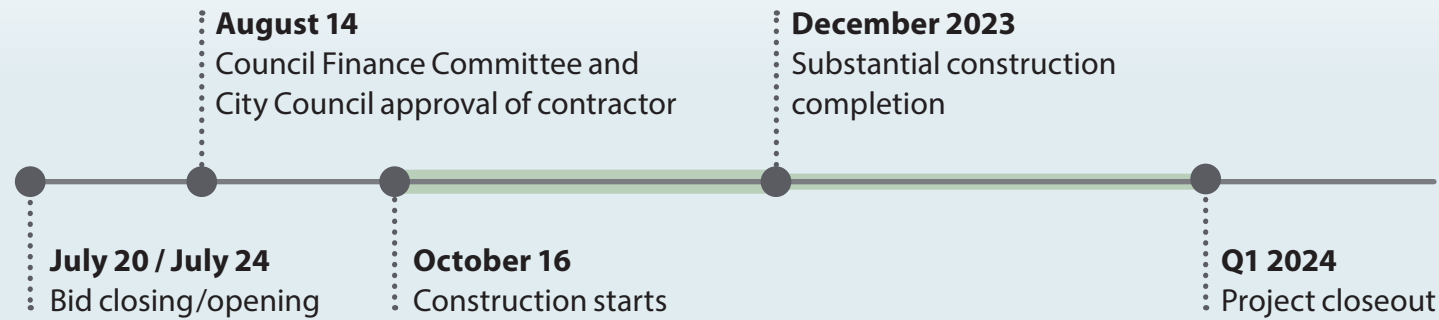


Downtown Streetscapes Williams Avenue S Improvements

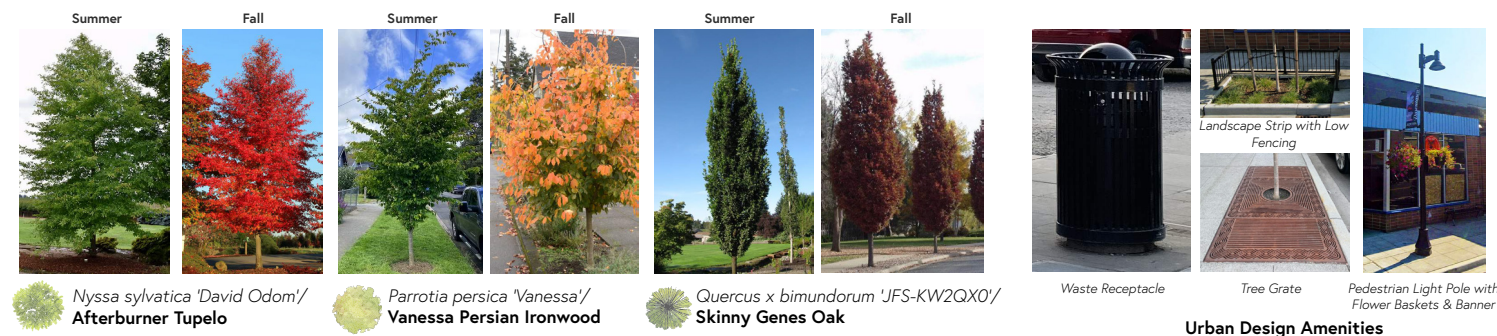
Project Schedule Dates are tentative as of October 12, 2023



Williams Avenue S (200 block) Streetscape Estimated Project Costs: \$1,449,000



Street Tree Legend



Frequently Asked Questions

What work is being done on the 200 block of Williams Ave S?

- The attached visual shows the project design. Improvements are intended to match the streetscape treatments completed on the 200 block of Wells Avenue S (one block east) in 2021.
- All sidewalks and driveway aprons will be replaced.
- Twelve (12) existing street trees will be removed and replaced with 14 new trees in several new species intended to add seasonal variety. The new trees are best suited to survive and thrive in an urban environment.
- Six (6) of the removed street trees will be replanted along streets within several blocks of the project.
- Six (6) existing streetlights will be removed and replaced with 12 pedestrian-scale streetlights outfitted to host street banners, flower baskets, irrigation for baskets, and holiday lighting.
- Street and parking lanes will be repaved and restriped from intersection to intersection.

Will parking on the block be affected?

- On-street parking for the block will be affected by construction. However, free parking will be provided during the construction period at the nearby City Center Parking Garage. The garage can be accessed to the west via S 2nd Street between Burnett and Logan. It is approximately a 1.5- to 2-block walk from the project area.
- After construction is complete and as part of a downtown pilot program, the block's two loading zones will be restricted for loading from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Saturday, but available for public parking at all other times.

Will there be access for pedestrians/cars during construction?

- Efforts will be made to keep the block open for pedestrians to walk and cars to drive through the block to access local businesses during construction. Due to construction involving existing sidewalks, curbs, and street areas, pedestrian/car access may change from day to day. Signage to notify pedestrians and drivers of accessible paths will be provided throughout the project construction period.
- Construction is planned to start on the west side of the Williams block first. Once completed, construction will start on the east side of the block. Weekly updates can be found on the project webpage.
- Emergency access will be maintained at all times.
- Reconstruction of sidewalks at doorways and driveways at off-street parking areas will require short closures while concrete is poured and curing.

Will the project include public art?

Plans are underway to include public art that is envisioned as a nod to Renton's history. The project team is working closely with the Renton Municipal Arts Commission on this component. Please stay tuned for updates and details on the proposed artwork.



What are you doing to minimize impacts to businesses?

- The project team has previewed the project with all the businesses on the block and will share project information with businesses throughout Downtown Renton leading up to start of construction in October 2023. The project team is working closely with business owners to ensure timely information is being shared, access is maintained during construction, and concerns addressed in a timely manner.
- Businesses and the general public will be kept updated through numerous social media channels, including those managed by important community partners like the Renton Downtown Partnership.
- A project webpage (use QR code above) will provide up to date information on project progress and impacts, along with email and phone contact info for the city's project staff.

How is the project funded?

The primary source of funding is from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), which is a federal program to develop viable urban communities using resources to provide decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities. City of Renton general funds will supplement CDBG funding.



Downtown Streetscapes Williams Avenue S Improvements



Project Background

THE CITY OF RENTON started improving the streets and sidewalks of downtown blocks in 2017 in conjunction with several key initiatives.

These public rights-of-way improvements, collectively know as “streetscapes,” provide the opportunity to improve the appearance and safety of sidewalk and street areas fronting Downtown’s commercial buildings and public amenities.

Streetscape improvements cover all the physical elements that pedestrians and drivers experience, including replacement and/or addition of sidewalks, streetlights, street furniture like bicycle racks and litter receptacles, street trees and landscaping, street banners, flower baskets, public artwork, and new street curbs, gutters, and paving.

Several street intersection projects over the past several years have installed streetscape improvements at 2nd, 3rd, and Houser at Main, Wells and Williams, as well as along the 200 block of Wells.

Next in line is the **200 block of Williams Ave S (between 2nd and 3rd)**, which will receive streetscape improvements similar to those completed on Wells Avenue in 2021.



Why are Streetscapes Important?

DOWNTOWN’S ONE-WAY STREET CONVERSIONS to two-way vehicular traffic have been considered for many years, but with an uptick in pedestrian traffic over the past decade, the city has prioritized these projects starting in 2017 to improve public safety and provide a consistent and upgraded street and sidewalk design for downtown visitors to experience.

As a guide to creating that consistent and upgraded design, the city developed the Downtown Streetscape Design Standards and Guidelines. The “Streetscape Standards” provide a tool kit for city staff, property owners, and developers to use in designing improvements to Downtown’s public realm and are intended to:

- Provide a more consistent urban design signature that reinforces Downtown’s identity and utilizes a relatively limited palette of elements and treatments to increase the sense of unity, along with high-quality finishes and features that will upgrade Downtown’s overall visual character.
- Facilitate maintenance and reduce long term costs, as recommended fixtures and surfaces are proven to be durable and low maintenance.
- Promote pedestrian safety, accessibility, and comfort.
- Enhance Downtown’s economic activity as streetscape improvements have been shown to increase retail sales when coupled with other marketing and business promotion activities.

The Downtown Civic Core Vision and Action Plan, approved in 2018, recommends utilizing the Streetscape Standards as part of the plan’s many strategies and recommended projects to improve the Civic Core and Downtown environment. The plan recommends activating downtown blocks to create a more engaging pedestrian environment through streetscape improvements by providing:

-  **ADDITIONAL GREENERY** and shade through consistent placement of a variety of street trees
-  **BETTER SECURITY** through pedestrian-scale streetlights
-  **BETTER ACCESSIBILITY** through new sidewalks with level pavements, curb ramps, and bulb-outs
-  **ENHANCED LIVABILITY** and usability through installation of street furniture like bike racks, litter receptacles, benches, and public artwork
-  **EASIER NAVIGATION** between destinations through consistent and attractive wayfinding signage
-  **GREATER MOBILITY** options through additional and upgraded bicycle racks

Streetscape improvements are typically made in conjunction with replacing and upgrading underground infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater) that is many times decades old, along with repaving streets and adding updated communication technology.

The city’s investment in the streetscape and infrastructure projects creates value for city residents and businesses through accommodation of more development and economic activity, landscape beautification, improved infrastructure capacity, and reduction of flood hazard due to major storm events.

Communication

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY OWNERS can email comments directly to or phone the project team members listed below. Weekly e-blasts with project progress updates and expectations for the upcoming week will be provided throughout the project construction.

City of Renton
1055 S Grady Way
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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Michael Sippo
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Collum
Redevelopment Manager
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Visit the project webpage through this QR code for general project information and updates throughout the construction period.

