

Brandon Green Superhighway

Applicant(s): Jacob Vanderplas & Chas Redmond

Location: On Brandon St SW, between 16th-17th Aves, 21st-23rd Aves, and 30th-34th Aves.

Problem: East-west mobility is a challenge in West Seattle due to topography, dead-end streets, and a general lack of connections. The Puget Ridge, Delridge, Highland Park, Highpoint, and Fairmount Park neighborhoods in particular are close geographically but very isolated in practice. This has a detrimental effect on not only on mobility, but on businesses in the community, for example: restaurants in the Brandon node of Delridge are entirely inaccessible to residents who live just a few blocks east, except by a long, circuitous route. The barriers between neighborhoods stifle community partnership, as residents respond to these geographical barriers.

Proposed Solution: The Brandon Green Super Highway concept centers around the creation of three new bike/ped staircases or paths along currently unimproved sections of the Brandon St. right-of-way: between 16th & 17th, between 21st & 23rd, and between 30th & 34th. Together with the existing pedestrian stairway at Fairmount Park, these would result in a straight, unbroken 1.5 mile bike/ped route from South Seattle Community College to the east, all the way to the California business district to the west, and serving all communities in-between.

This route would provide a safe and needed connection between the 21st Ave and 26th Ave greenways, which are currently being designed by SDOT. With the eventual addition of greenway treatments along the length of SW Brandon, this route would become a vital east-west connection between the neighborhoods and communities of West Seattle.

This is a large proposal, and may not be suitable for implementation all at once. If building the project in phases is more manageable, we suggest the following timeline:

Phase 1 (2013): 21st-23rd: this offers a connection between West Seattle's first two greenways, gives a large part of Puget Ridge access to metro route 120, and increases access to businesses at the Brandon Node.

Phase 2 (2014): 30th-34th: this connects Delridge and Puget Ridge to Fairmount Park and the California business district.

Phase 3 (2015): 16th-17th: this short stretch will complete the route, giving access to the Community College and the Duwamish Green Belt trail system.

City Staff said to be contacted:

Asserted benefits: Economic Benefits, Neighborhood character

Included elements: Pedestrian lighting, landscaping, staircase or handrail, bike path or trail