



STREET TREES AND LANDSCAPE PLANTING

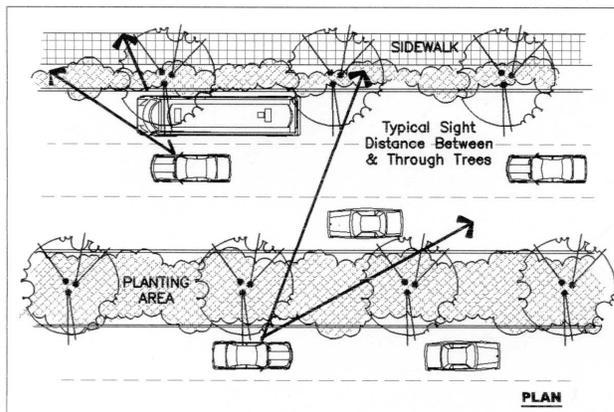
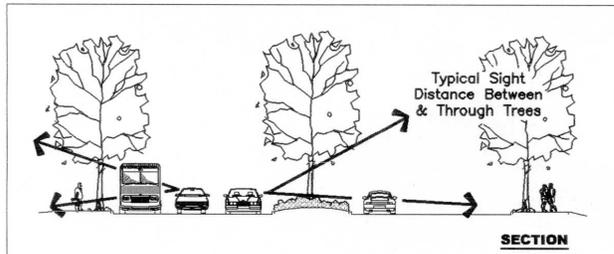
Aesthetic improvements for the Aurora corridor was one of the most frequently mentioned priorities by both the Community Advisory Task Force and the public attending the open houses at the start of the Aurora Corridor Project. Street trees and landscape planting areas not only help visually define pedestrian zones but also, when used adjacent to curbs, help separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic. Such trees and planting areas will be used to help define pedestrian areas and separate vehicular travel lanes from pedestrians to create a more friendly environment for people along the Aurora Corridor. The types of street trees and landscape planting types selected will be based on a number of concerns raised by both the City and adjacent businesses. Such concerns include maintenance, visibility of adjacent businesses, separation of pedestrian and vehicular uses, responding to existing infrastructure and enhancing the overall character of the Aurora corridor.

MAINTENANCE

Use of native and/or drought-tolerant plant material throughout much of the Aurora corridor will help reduce long-term maintenance requirements. Special water conservation irrigation design, increased

planting soil depth and use of soil polymers are other techniques that may be used to create a more sustainable, low-maintenance design solution. Street trees will be selected to avoid aggressive root systems and reduce the amount of litter from excessive nuts and berries.

TYPICAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN





VISIBILITY OF ADJACENT BUSINESSES

Selection of street trees and landscape planting must take into account the location of adjacent building entrances and signage. Tree selection will consider a number of factors that affect visibility through street trees and landscape planting areas, such as the overall tree form, tree spacing, tree branching height and the mature height of shrubs and groundcover plantings. Tree selection criteria will include minimum tree branching height of six to eight feet and a maximum shrub/groundcover planting height of three feet at maturity to allow see-through views to business entrances. A staggered spacing of trees along much of the corridor will be considered to allow sight lines between individual trees to adjacent businesses and signage. Clusters of trees and evergreen trees will be used only at specific “gateway” areas and/or to highlight bus stops or other special features along the corridor.

RESPONDING TO EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

Street tree locations and landscape planting areas will need to respond to existing and future improvements along the Aurora corridor, such as site utilities, lighting, overhead power lines, driveways, and adjacent uses. These elements will be considered as landscape and urban design improvements are defined in further detail during current and future phases of the design process.

SEPARATION OF USES AND OVERALL CHARACTER

Street trees and landscape planting areas have a significant impact on the character and scale of the street environment. These elements help “soften” the visual impact of roadways, parking lots and other adjacent uses by adding color, texture and diversity to the street corridor. Street trees and landscape planting areas will be used along with other urban design elements to provide a strong visual connection along the corridor and to help unify the overall design creating a unique character or “identity” for the Shoreline community.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on the Aurora Corridor Project please contact Anne Tonella-Howe, City of Shoreline at (206) 546-1700.