## **Thomas Street Redefined**

Susan McLaughlin, Urban Design Manager and Thomas Street Executive Sponsor Kay Yesuwan, NODO MAP Program Manager and Thomas Street Project Developer Mercer Stakeholder Group January 27, 2021



# **Presentation overview**

- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Design
- Implementation

Susan/Kay Susan/Kay

Marni

Marni

Susan

- Next Steps
  - Update to spending plan and schedule
  - 30% Design
  - Other outreach





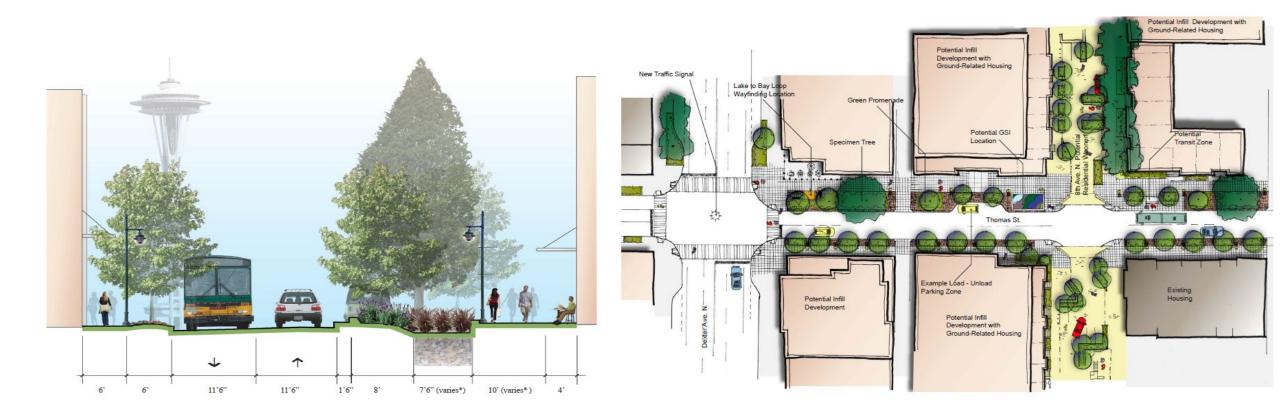
### **Overview of Street Concept Plans: Purpose**

- Solidify a vision for the street and guide physical improvements
- Useful in discussions with private development proponents and the City about bold visions that go beyond Streets Illustrated typologies
- Vetted and approved by SDOT, which helps to minimize delay and/or reduce risk to applicant





### **2013 Thomas Green Street Concept Plan:**





"Transform Thomas St into a green street- a low intensity street that prioritizes pedestrian and bike mobility over automobiles"

> -South Lake Union Urban Design Framework, 2010

# **Context: Supporting Policy and Best Practice**





- Green Streets are designed to give priority to pedestrian circulation and open space over other transportation uses.
- Green Streets are legislated in the land use code and discretionary pedestrian improvements on green streets enables private development to receive bonus density.





8th Ave N

City of Seattle

# Greenways

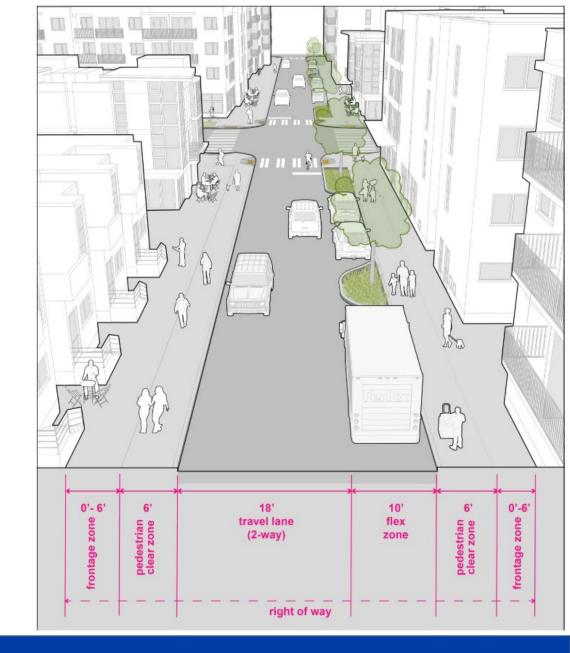
- Neighborhood Greenways are residential streets with low motorized traffic volumes and speeds that are designated and designed to give bicycle and pedestrian safe and pleasant travel priority.
- Neighborhood Greenways are recommended on non-arterial streets with less than 1,500 ADT and a max speed limit of 20 mph.





## **2018 Streets Illustrated**

- Urban Village Neighborhood Access
- 2-way Travel lane: 18' min 20' max
- More visionary than the 2013 Streetscape Concept Plan
  - Narrow vehicle lanes
  - Surplus ROW prioritized for: greening, public space programing, parking or widened sidewalks
- Implementation of 2013 Concept Plan Cross-Sections added protection to bike lanes
  - Based on pre-construction AWDT selected PBL over NGW treatment





# **2019 Thomas Street Charette**



# **2019 Thomas Street Charrette**

- 1. Go big and bold, be city-defining and make it unique
- 2. Prioritize people and place, support walking, biking and getting to transit
- 3. Build for all ages and abilities





### 2019 Thomas Street Charrette: 5th to Dexter Tables Takeaway

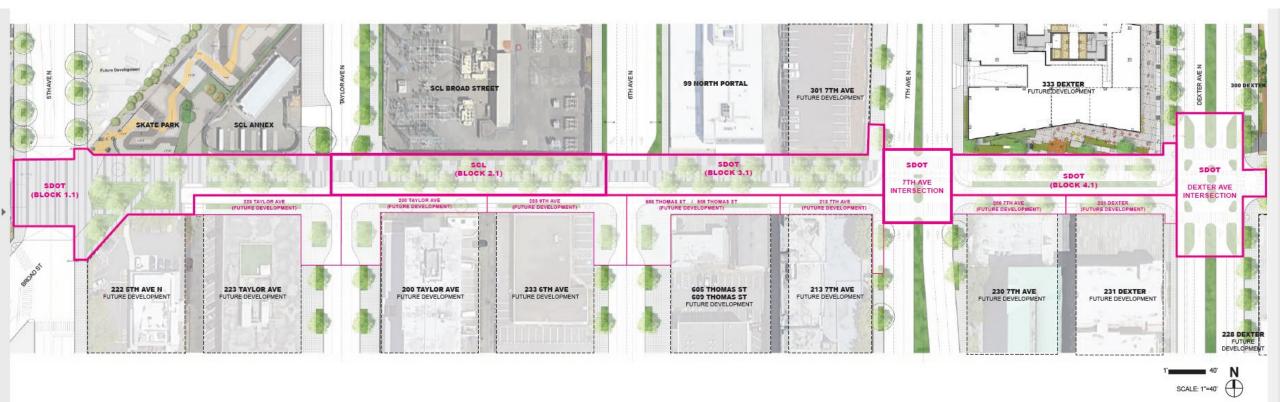




# **Thomas Street Redefined**



### **Thomas St Redefined - 5th to Dexter**





### **Thomas St Redefined - 5th to 6th**



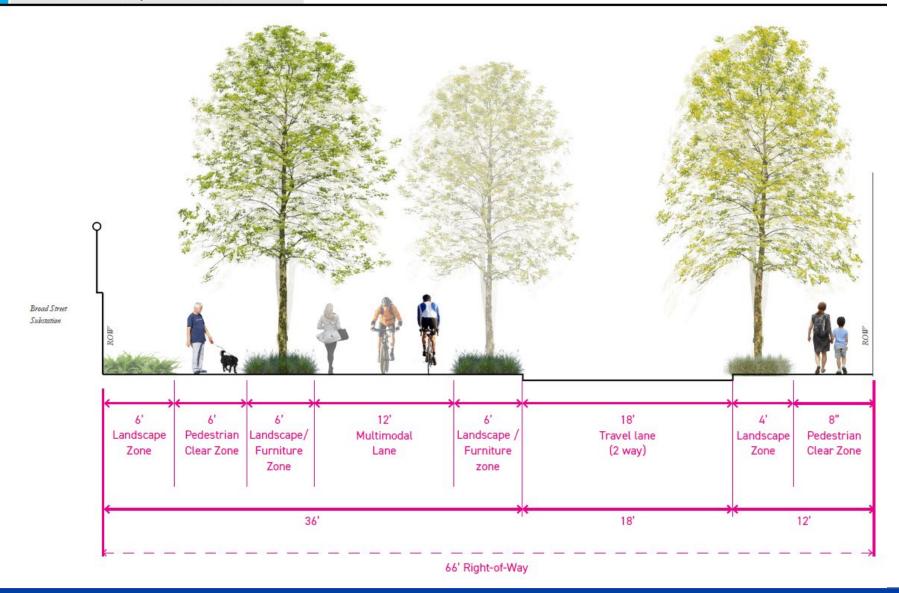


### **Thomas St Redefined - 6th to Dexter**





#### Thomas Street: Proposed Section









WAYFINDING







LIGHTING







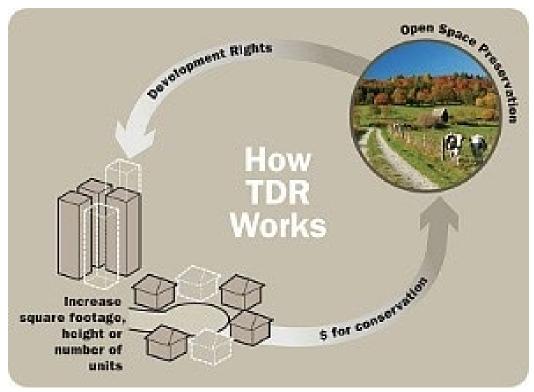


# **Funding Options & Opportunities**



### Local Conservation & Local Infrastructure Program (LCLIP)

- LCLIP program allows cities to receive a portion of future county tax revenue for local infrastructure investments if they implement a program to obtain regional Transferable Development Rights (TDR)
- Overall purpose is to preserve farm and forest land by transferring development capacity from these lands to cities, and to generate funds for local infrastructure projects
- In exchange for implementing a regional TDR program, the City would be entitled to receive **17.44% of property tax** revenue from new development for up to 25 years.





## **LCLIP Funding Strategy**

- Revenue generated from LCLIP program is required to be spent on streetscape, recreational, and open space investments.
- Funds split between projects in South Lake Union and Downtown
- Decisions about which projects to implement and when they will be implemented will be made by the City; a proposed project list for the first 10 years was attached to the legislation and includes:
  - Green Streets Thomas and 8th
  - Bike, Pedestrian and Transit Improvements Harrison & Denny
  - 3rd Ave Improvements



#### Local Infrastructure Project Area



### North Downtown Mobility Action Plan (NODO MAP)

- Developer of Climate Pledge Arena, Oak View Group (OVG), is required to construct or contribute to transportation projects as part of the SDCI Master Use Permit (MUP) decision
- OVG will contribute \$40 million over 39 years to a City (Arena) Transportation Fund (CATF) at \$1,025,000 per year, starting in 2018
- North Downtown Mobility Action Plan (NODO MAP) identified and prioritized the recommended projects to be implemented using the City Arena Transportation Fund (CATF) and other funding sources







### NODO MAP's Commitments to Thomas St Redefined

#### THOMAS ST GREENWAY C

#### **Project Description**

#### C-west: Seattle Center to Waterfront Greenway

Improve and highlight the walking and bicycling connections between the Seattle Center and the Central Waterfront via the Thomas St overpass.

Build upon the longstanding vision for the Thomas Green Street and leverage intersection improvements at Thomas St and 1st Ave N and Queen Anne Ave N to establish a safe and obvious walking and biking connection between Seattle Center and the Thomas St overpass.

Establish an all ages and abilities bicycle connection between the Thomas St overpass and Seattle Center by working with the topography to prioritize people riding bicycles along the least steep routes along 3rd Ave W.

#### C-east: Protected Intersection at Dexter and Thomas

Implement a key element of the community's vision for a pedestrian and bicycle friendly Thomas Green Street. A protected intersection at Dexter and Thomas will include diverters to prohibit through vehicle travel across Aurora Ave N (now 7th Ave N) and a new signal.

#### **Greenway treatments**

. Thomas St from 1st Ave N to 3rd Ave W via 2nd Ave W, Republican St, and Harrison St

#### **Bicycle connection to Seattle Center**

 Wayfinding and greenway treatments from Thomas St overpass to Seattle Center via 3rd Ave W and Republican St

Traffic management in Uptown

· Stop signs, crosswalks, and signal modifications

#### New signals:

- Dexter Ave N and Thomas St
- Thomas St and 1st Ave N\*
- Thomas St and Queen Anne Ave N\*



- 🚳 Create high-quality, safe, pleasant connections between North Downtown neighborhoods
- K Create east-west bicycle connections across Seattle Center between Uptown and South Lake Union
- S Enhance neighborhood character with pedestrian and public realm improvements
- Decrease drive-alone mode share and improve safety and accessibility for all people using the transportation system
- Improve pedestrian safety throughout North Downtown and walking connections between neighborhoods

#### Tier 1 Projects Incorporated

Thomas St Neighborhood Greenway

Bicycle Connection between Thomas St Overpass and Seattle Center

between Seattle Center and Thomas St Overpass

#### Thomas Green Street Concept Plan

Lake2Bay and Market to MOHAI Age-Friendly Improvements

New signals on Thomas St



#### **Community Support**

Pedestrian Safety and Crossing Enhancements

\*OVG funded per master use permit condition



673)

Guiding Principles / Evaluation Framework

stainable Transportation

#### **Potential Funding Sources and Partnerships**

City Transportation Fund SDOT Neighborhood Greenways Program Private Development I CLIP Oak View Group

Planning-Level Cost Estimate

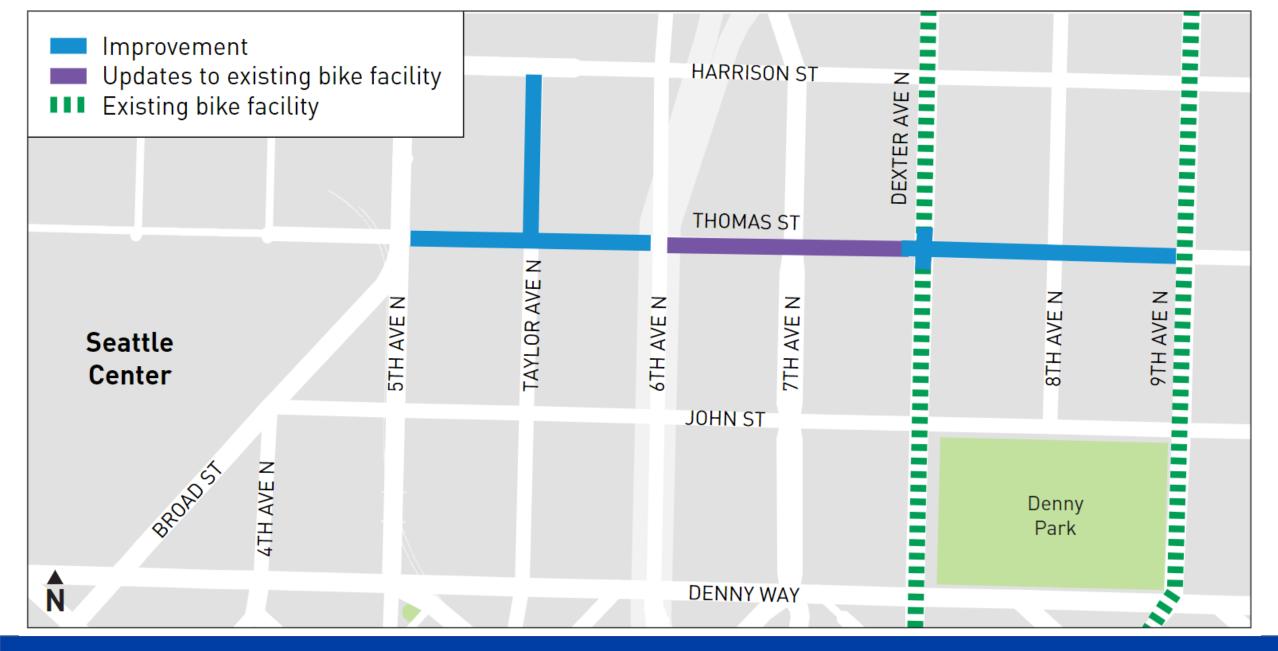
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# Thomas St: 5th Ave N to Dexter Ave N (CIP)

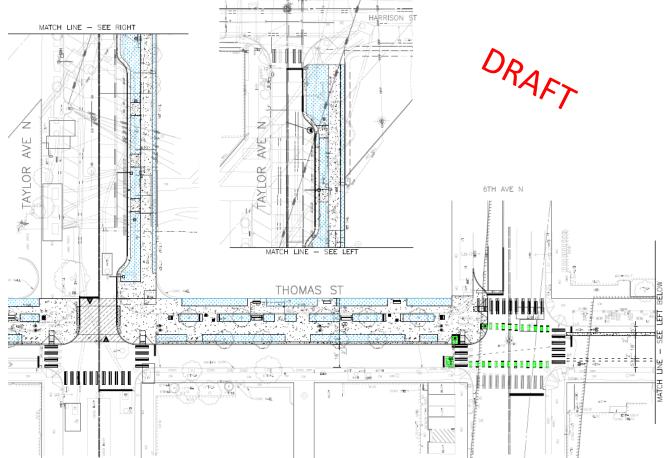






# How does the Thomas St CIP Project differ from Thomas St Redefined?

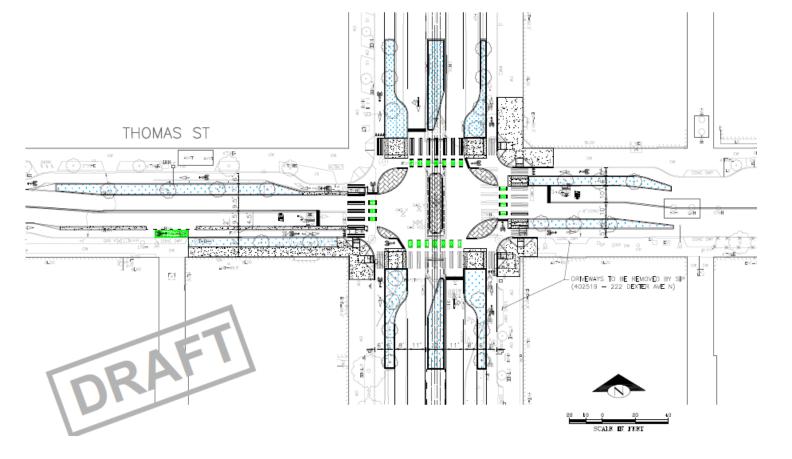
- Northern promenade ends at 6th Ave N, transitions to one-way each side protected bike lanes
- Taylor Ave N street improvements for SCL



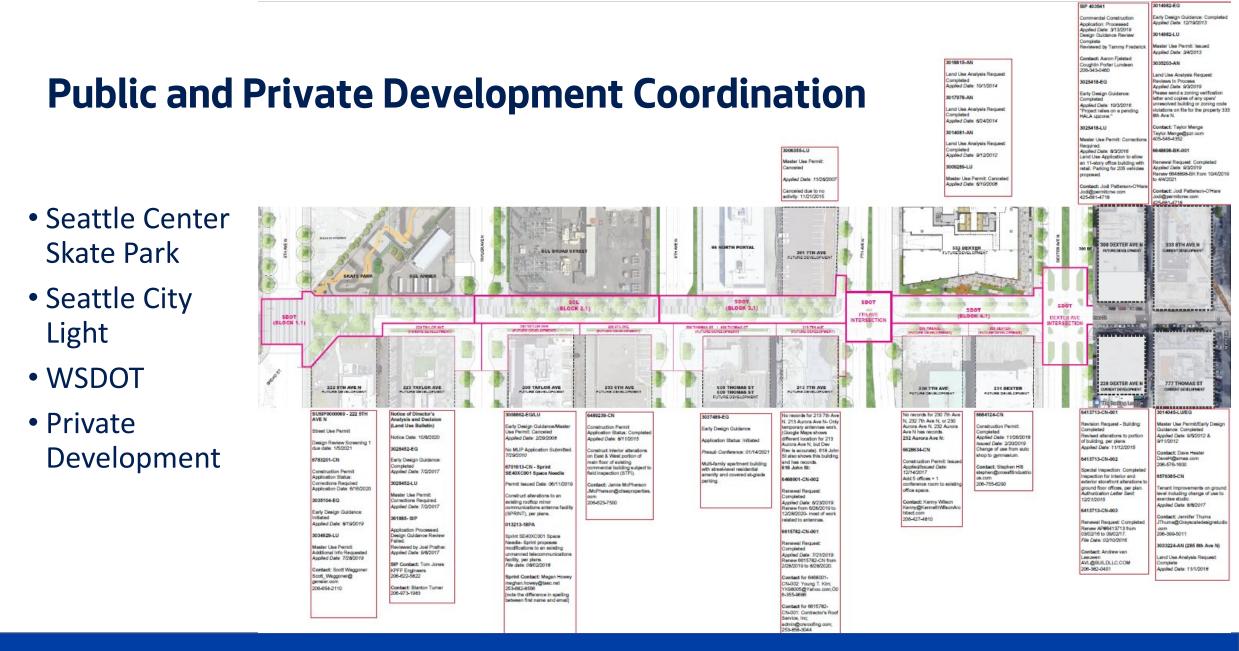


# How does the Thomas St CIP Project differ from Thomas St Redefined?

- Protected Intersection is designed to accommodate one-way each side bike lanes
- Install sharrows east of Thomas St & Dexter Ave N to enter and exit protected intersection, and to provide a bicycle connection to existing bike facilities on 9th Ave N









# **Next Steps**



Thomas Funding		t Redesigned ation		
Year		Item	Funding Source	Amount
	2019	Q4 Supplemental	LCLIP	\$1,100,00
	2020	NoDo Thomas Street in CIP	LCLIP	\$990,00
	2020	Council Budget Action 12-C-1	General Fund	\$510,00
	2020	Council Budget Action 12-C-1	General Fund (TNC Tax)	\$1,250,00
	2021	BIP SDOT 199/299 Mercer Megablock	Property Proceeds	\$1,000,00
	2022	BIP SDOT 199/299 Mercer Megablock	Property Proceeds	\$1,000,00
				\$5,850,00

### Spending Plan/Next Steps

#### □ Complete and circulate 30% Design

- Update spending and funding plan, and schedule, based on preliminary cost estimates and remaining funds
- □ Prioritize Protected Intersection at Dexter/Thomas and Plaza at 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N
- **Complete SCL frontage improvements per interdepartmental agreements**



City of Seattle

# Thank you!

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www.seattle.gov/transportation/thomas5thDexter

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