February 6, 2018

Dear Councilmembers Johnson and Juarez and Mayor Durkan:

We own and operate small businesses along 35th Avenue NE. We are urgently writing to ask that you work with SDOT to change the high-risk bicycle lane configuration in SDOT's 35th Ave. NE Paving Plan, slated to begin construction in April 2018.

We are not against bicycle lanes. But we fear and oppose the consequences of the unnecessary, unsafe, and redundant bicycle lanes proposed here.

SDOT's plan will hurt our businesses by destroying our number one asset: Convenience.

Neighborhood businesses succeed because they meet customer and client needs, including convenience. What makes a business convenient? It's close, it's easy to get there, and parking is readily available. Neighborhood businesses also succeed because they are often more accessible to elderly and disabled people who are uncomfortable driving on highways, going downtown, or making their way through congested shopping centers. SDOT's plan ignores this:

- *No west side parking*. The bulk of the parking in the 35th Ave. business district is on the west side of the street. People come and go constantly as they:
    - Pick up their dry cleaning at Sunshine Cleaners;
    - Grab a coffee or donut at Starbucks, Grateful Bread, or Top Pot;
    - Take a class at 8 Limbs Yoga or Orange Theory;
    - Drop off and pick up their children at All That Dance;
    - Go out for pizza at Mioposto or a burger at the Wedgwood Alehouse; or
    - Take their elders or pre-schoolers to the NE Branch of the Seattle Public Library.

  SDOT's plan totally eliminates all of this street parking. Why? To create dedicated bike lanes when we already have a nearby greenway for bicycle riding that was funded and built in 2012 that goes directly to the Burke-Gilman Trail.

- *Limited, inconvenient eastside parking*. The parking along the east side of 35th Ave that will remain will be seven feet from the curb, outside a protected bicycle lane. Getting out of a car in such a parking space is uncomfortable for many of us, and even more so for people who are disabled or elderly. They will have to cross the bike lane to get to the curb or cross the street to any destinations on the west side; in many instances they will be unable to park near where they are going. It is not clear if there will be ADA parking.

The bike lanes would create unsafe conditions in your District.

- *As a citizen who "drove for Metro transit 35 years" wrote you on November 3, 2017*: "The proposals for 35th NE from 65th to 75th are concerning to me because there are so many business on both sides of the street and with more buses running more frequently to support light rail, **there are bound to be accidents**. 65th to 85th has no buffer and a 5-foot section for bikes; given that Metro buses are 8 feet 6 inches wide,

not including mirrors, that potentially adds another 4 to 8 inches. Not much room for error." In fact, **the vehicle lanes in the plan are below the standard width Metro sets for buses**.

- *As a City of Seattle Fire Lieutenant wrote SDOT on October 22, 2017*: "My specific concern for Fire Station 40 is that we utilize and depend upon both NE 95th St. and 35th Ave NE as they are our major arterials when responding to an emergency. **The implementation of these street projects . . . will negatively impact our response time for critical fire and emergency calls**. . . . On a daily basis we are going on emergency runs including cardiac events and fire responses where every second of response time is extremely important."

The Plan disregards most people's needs and will create gridlock from Bryant to Wedgwood.

- The City's plan includes only one vehicle lane in each direction. This will result in gridlock as vehicles are stopped behind delivery trucks, garbage trucks, emergency vehicles, buses, and left turners, especially in the Wedgwood-Bryant business district. The main benefit of a neighborhood business district is that it's easy to get there. Facing a frustrating drive down 35th, many of our customers may just decide to go elsewhere.

- Perhaps the City's busiest branch library, the NE Branch, is on 35th and has almost no parking of its own. The west side of 35th is full of cars during library open hours. Given the massive increase in housing near the library, there is little side-street parking either.

- The neighborhood has a large number of elderly people and families with young children. They cannot conduct their lives on bicycles. People with mobility impairments also live here and their needs are completely ignored by this plan. The removal of key bus stops along 35th makes it worse.

We are not alone in opposing the proposed bike lanes. The Save35thAveNE petition has attracted over 1500 signatures, and counting. More than 50 bicyclists are among them.

You are our representative—our voice on projects like SDOT's 35th Ave. NE Paving Plan.

The district election system was intended to give each district its own representative to advocate for its interests. Our neighborhood's small businesses need to be supported, not thwarted, and we are asking for our representatives' (and our mayor's) help.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Very truly yours,

The Undersigned 35th Ave. NE Business Owners

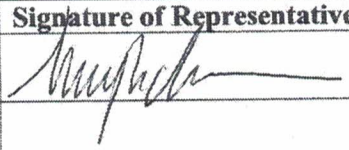
Cc: Goran Sparrman, SDOT Interim Director
Seattle City Council

Name of Business – Print!	Street Address	Signature of Representative
Johnsons Autorep	9418 35th Ave	
	8246 35th Ave	
	8039 35th AVE NE	
Dr.	8034 35th AVE NE	
	8032 35th Ave NE	
Raingow Airbrush tanning	7506 35th Ave NE	Kelly Johnson
Duplicate Sunshine Lounge	1329 35th Ave NE	
Loanne Pham Salon Divine	1341 35th Ave NE	
Wedgwood Barber	7507 35 AVE	
Tonic Salon	3406 NE 55th	
Wedgewood Move	6256 35th Ave NE	
FOX CHIROPRACTIC P.S	7502 35th Ave NE	Nancy K Fox DC
I HEART BENTO - TERIYAKI Seong H. Lee	7510 35th Ave NE	
Sound Strength + Conditioning	3416 NE 55th St. 5500 35th Ave. 98105	
van Gogh Coffeehaus	8210 35th Ave NE	
Cafe Javasti	8617 35th Ave. NE	

Name of Business – Print!	Street Address	Signature of Representative
Galanda Broadman PLLC	8606 35th Ave NE #L1	
Deborah Dahms, DO	8606 35th NE L2	
All THAT DANCE	8507 35th Ave	
Wedgwood Broiler	8230 35th Ave NE	
Adams Insurance	8613 35th Ave NE	
Creative Images	8619 35 Ave NE	
Morning Ride Grocery	9118 35th AVE	
Satsuma Kids Shop	8511 35th AVE NE	
SNSHL VASHON VA DC	9425 35th AVE NE	
HEALTH EXCELLENCE CHINA	9425 35th AVE NE	
Rainier Overseas Movers, Inc	9425 35th Ave NE	
Fiddler's Inn	9219 35th Ave NE	

Name of Business – Print!	Street Address	Signature of Representative
Trebron Company	5506 35th Ave NE	
A Northeast Cleaners	7000 35th Ave NE	
State Farm - Wedgewood	7006 35th Ave NE	
Flaccus Law	7010 35th Ave NE	
Kevin R. Cole, Atty	7010 35th Ave NE	
LENA HAIR BUSINESS	7347 35th AVE NE #D	
Holman Cahill Garrett	5507-35th Ave NE	
WEDGWOOD HAIR STUDIO	8206-35th AVENUE	
Sunshine Cleaners	7329 35th Ave NE	

Name of Business – Print!	Street Address	Signature of Representative
Wedgwood Smiles	8014 35th Ave NE	Cesar Cruz
Jia Rong Hu	7347 35th ave NE	
Wedgwood Dental Center	7337 35th Ave NE	
Seattle Coin Shop	7509 35th NE	
Rainglow Airbrush Tanning	7500 35th Ave NE Seattle, WA	
Tom L. Simard, CPA	8611-35th NE	

Name of Business – Print!	Street Address	Signature of Representative
Blossoming Buds Preschool	4706-35th Ave NE	

Name of Business – Print!	Street Address	Signature of Representative
LARRY ADAMS DDS	7347-35B AVE NE	