Maintaining pedestrian access in construction zones

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Overview

- When construction happens along a busy road it is a challenge to balance vehicle throughput with pedestrian safety
- All too often, pedestrians get the short end of the stick, being forced to take long detours or walk in roads to get through the construction zone
- Can we strengthen LFP's code to do a better job of protecting pedestrians?

Example of nearby pedestrian detours – Kenmore Park and Ride

- Will pedestrians follow the green detour all the way around?
- Will they walk in the work zone to bypass a 100 foot blockage?
- Will some people wind up crossing SR522 mid-block?



Example of pedestrian blockage – Construction signs in LFP

- Are pedestrians supposed to walk in the bus lane?
- How about people in wheelchairs or with strollers?



What does our code currently say?

- 16.06.070 B(6) Pedestrian Circulation. Mitigating measures to address adverse impacts relating to pedestrian circulation during construction may include, but are not limited to:
  - A construction phase transportation plan which addresses ingress and egress of construction equipment and construction worker vehicles at the project site;
  - Traffic control and street maintenance in the vicinity of the construction site;
  - Rerouting of public vehicular and pedestrian circulation in the vicinity of the construction site.

- 18.52.080 A (2-3) Signs in the public right of way
  - Signs shall not be placed on a sidewalk or obstruct pedestrian or wheelchair access to the sidewalk;
  - For rights-of-way that only have a shoulder and do not have a sidewalk, signs must be placed so that they do not interfere with pedestrian, wheelchair, and bicycle access, or in any other manner that is unsafe for all users;

Potential strengthening of our code

- 16.06.070 (B) (6) (d) **Sidewalks should only be closed during construction projects as a last resort. If a sidewalk is closed as part of a construction project, then pedestrian access should be maintained on the same side of the street without requiring pedestrians to cross additional streets.**
- 18.52.080 (A) – the language seems pretty strong, maybe amending it to "Signs, **including temporary signs notifying the public about construction**, shall not be placed on a sidewalk or obstruct pedestrian or wheelchair access to the sidewalk;

- This is analogous to what SDOT has implemented
- https://sdotblog.seattle.gov/2015/10/15/sidewalk-closures-last-resort-in-new-construction-zone-rule/

Questions and Discussion