

Attachment 3 - Emailed Comments from Sound Transit

From: Leotta, Kathy <kathy.leotta@soundtransit.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:30 PM

To: Jeffrey Perrigo <jperrigo@cityofflp.gov>; Stephen Bennett <SBennett@cityofflp.gov>

Cc: Jeffrey Perrigo <jperrigo@cityofflp.gov>; Capka, Rick <rick.capka@soundtransit.org>; Avadutha, Padmaja <padmaja.avadutha@jacobs.com>; LiamOlsen <liam.olsen@jacobs.com>

Subject: Initial comments on draft ordinance 23-1263 on Retaining Walls and Design Guidelines

Jeff and Steve, we have a few initial comments on the City's proposed Retaining Wall Design Guidelines being considered as part of the Retaining Wall Code Update:

- There is no PNW native vine species that we are aware of that can survive in this type of urban application. The only species that we are aware of that would climb up vertical surfaces without the help of trellis and is drought-tolerant in this region is Boston Ivy or Carolina Creeper.
- There may be nuances between guidelines and requirements, but we note that there are no vine performance code requirements in other jurisdictions in Western WA that we are aware of. WSDOT often incorporates vine in their design, but there isn't a performance standard or requirement. The City of Seattle has a Green Factor landscape guidance that would include vine as a greening credit, but it only requires plant survival for 12 months.
- We are curious if the vine performance guidelines have been peer reviewed by other landscape or horticultural professionals? Does the City have a similar case study to prove the validity?
- We recommend the 30% in 36 months as a project target but not a requirement.

Project specific considerations:

- Unlike two of the wall greening examples shown in the draft Retaining Wall Design Guidelines, there is no open growing space between the transition of the retaining wall currently in design, traffic barrier, and edge of the roadway.
- Our current design relies on a 14"x 6.5" block out opening from the retaining wall to provide the growing space. Within this opening, there will be (2) 6" diameter PCV pipes filled with topsoil contains moisture for the plant roots. As we have learned from a similar application at SR-520, the success of vine establishment and coverage varies across the corridor, depending on the rain and solar exposure of each vine pocket.
- This vegetation will require routine maintenance to survive and achieve coverage.

Our team would be happy to further discuss this at one of our regular meetings, or we can schedule a separate meeting just on this topic.

Regards,

Kathy Leotta

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Design, Engineering, and Construction Management

Sound Transit

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