

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/O 4534 UNIVERSITY WAY NE
SEATTLE, WA 98105
community.udistrict.org

September 15th, 2021

Mayor Durkan & Seattle City Councilmembers
City of Seattle
600 4th Ave, Floor 5
Seattle WA 98124-7088

Re: Safe Crossing Over I-5 at NE 45th Street

Dear Mayor Durkan & City Councilmembers,

After over a decade of construction, our U District Light Rail Station opens in a few weeks. It will be a catalyst for change as it brings 24,000 daily commuters (boarding and alighting) to match the increased density of our high-rise neighborhood, recently upzoned in 2017.

As the nearest connection to Link Light Rail for a wide strip of North Seattle, getting to and from the station safely for all modes of traffic is critical. Unfortunately, the crossing on NE 45th Street over I-5 is not currently safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, and this must be improved.

Two of the ten most dangerous intersections in the entire city are on NE 45th according to the [Seattle Times](#). There have been 25 injury collisions involving pedestrians or cyclists on NE 45th between Thackeray and 8th Ave NE in the last decade.

Years of coordination between the neighborhoods of Wallingford and the U District have resulted in key strategies for improving the safety of this crossing for our residents, as presented in the following slideshow: [Connecting Wallingford and the U-District on 45th over I-5](#)

We ask the City to immediately take these two steps to make this crossing safer:

- 1. SDOT route 44 plans for NE 45th and 8th Ave NE must be immediately stopped before going out for contract as the plans are incompatible with safe pedestrian and cyclist usage of the bridge.**
- 2. Funding for this work must be sustained into 2022 as there is no alternative for pedestrians and cyclists that want to travel between Wallingford and the U District.**

The station opening is imminent, but we are ill-prepared for the anticipated influx of pedestrians and bicyclists and we must do better to avoid further collisions. Only together, can we build a safe, livable future U District for everyone.

Respectfully,



Cory Crocker, President

cc:
Don Blakeney, Executive Director, U District Partnership
Michelle Baruchman, Seattle Times
Charles Mudede, The Stranger