

# The Roosie

Roosevelt Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Sagar Ramachandra—Editor

March 2018

<http://rooseveltseattle.org>

## NE 65th Street Vision Zero Update

By Scott Cooper, RNA President

As the Roosevelt neighborhood continues to grow and evolve, perhaps the biggest change slated for 2018 is the NE 65th St Vision Zero Project. This project makes 65th a safer corridor for all modes of travel by introducing center turn lanes, creating protected bike lanes, improving street crossings, and eliminating some parking. The details of the new street design have received mixed reviews from neighbors, RHS students, and street safety advocacy groups, but the design is complete and construction will be beginning this spring/summer. The project will be complete by the end of 2018.

Feedback from emails and the December design drop-in sessions led to some minor changes to the initial design:

**Bus stops:** In order to preserve sidewalk width in some areas the new design will have buses stop in-lane with traffic and passengers will cross the new protected bike lane to leave/board the bus. This concept has not yet been used in Seattle, though SDOT cites successful implementation of this design in LA and Toronto despite concerns about conflicts between transit users and people biking.

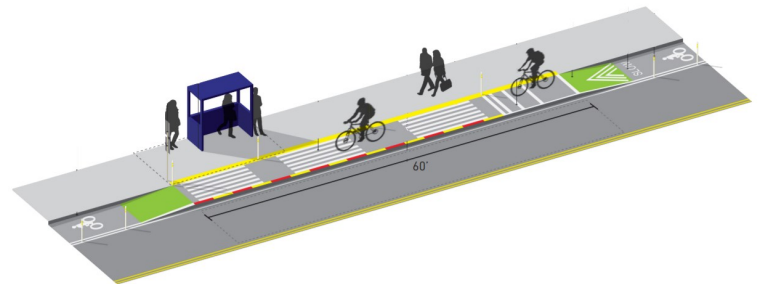
**Crosswalks:** The new design will improve existing crosswalks at 15th Ave NE and 20th Ave NE with better signals, striping, curb bulbs and curb ramps. However, no new marked crosswalks will be added anywhere along NE 65th St. SDOT cites a lack of pedestrian volumes found in their traffic studies as below the threshold warranting additional marked crosswalks.

**Bike lanes:** Protected bike lanes will be installed on 65th between NE Ravenna Blvd and 20th, though no new bike lanes will be included east of 20th. However, a parallel neighborhood greenway will be established along NE 68th St.

**Speed limit:** The speed limit along 65th was reduced from 30 to 25 mph between 8th and 12th back in early 2017, as a precursor to the 2018 changes. SDOT anticipates that measures included this project will further limit speeding along the corridor.

**Left turn signals:** Citing a lack of funding, new left turn signals will not be included at major intersections. Other improvements to improve left turns include center turn lanes, changing to one lane of travel in each direction, and adjusting signal timing.

A complete overview of the upcoming project can be found on the SDOT website: <http://bit.do/NE65th>



Proposed bus stop and bike lane configuration (SDOT)

## RNA General Meeting

Tuesday, May 15th, 2018

6:30 PM Social, 7:00-8:00 PM Presentation

CCA, 68th and Roosevelt, Upper Level

# Aging in Place

By Christina Clem, AARP Washington

In July 2016, the City of Seattle furthered their commitment to being a city for all ages by joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. A brainchild of the World Health Organization, the AARP initiative currently has a membership of 189 communities throughout the country and represents 66.5 million people nationwide. This unique program provides a framework for jurisdictions to assess the current age-friendliness of a community through direct feedback from older residents and a thorough internal review of city plans and policies that impact older adults.

Led by a community-based Age Friendly Task Force and with strong support from the Mayor and City Council, Seattle has made significant progress towards developing a three-year action plan, which includes short- and long-term solutions to make Seattle a more livable community.

An AARP-fielded livability survey of more than 500 Seattle residents over age 45 provides valuable insight as the task force develops their action plan. Not surprisingly, housing and cost of living are top concerns, among others.

- More than half (63 percent) of residents say remaining in their current home for as long as possible is extremely or very important. We know housing is a central component of livability. Long-time residents want to stay in their community, where they know the barista at the coffee place down the street, the mail carrier, and have a network of support that enhances their quality of life.
- Respondents cited three top reasons why they may need to move from their current residence. These include the cost of maintaining their current home (38 percent), needing to live somewhere with a lower cost of living (45 percent), and wanting a home that will help them live independently as they age (46 percent) like a step-free entry or widened doorways.
- Beyond moving to a new residence, some respondents say they may need or want to move out of their current community, citing personal safety or security (46 percent) as a top factor.
- Seattle's 45+ residents are also concerned about adequate affordable housing in the city. About half (51 percent) rank the city as fair or poor when it comes to having housing options for adults of varying income levels, while 44 percent give the same fair/poor ranking for well-maintained, safe, low-income housing.
- On a positive note, 76 percent say they walk or bike within their community, which leads to a healthier lifestyle and better air quality.
- More than half (52 percent) of respondents also give a nod to the city's well-maintained parks and outdoor spaces.
- Finally, 83 percent still rate Seattle as excellent, very good, or good for people to live as they age.

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Subscribe today to "4 TO EXPLORE," a free neighborhood newsletter from your neighbor, Alex Pedersen, Former Seattle City Council Legislative Analyst.  
[www.4toExplore.org](http://www.4toExplore.org)



### 4 TO EXPLORE: YOUR NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

Seattle is truly a city of neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods in northeast Seattle - from Wallingford to Roosevelt to Windermere - are like treasures to discover each season when we just explore outside our front door.

This is "4 to Explore," a treasure map to 4 of the best things each season:

- 1 shop or restaurant to visit,
- 1 meeting to connect with neighbors,
- 1 fun activity to enjoy, and
- 1 neighborhood issue to engage.

Visit our new website  
[www.4toExplore.org](http://www.4toExplore.org)  
and enjoy exploring!



Alex Pedersen, Former City Council Legislative Analyst, and his family in Ravenna Park

[www.4toExplore.org](http://www.4toExplore.org)



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# Sunlight Café: Adapting to a Changing Seattle

By Matt M. McKnight, Crosscut

Sunlight Cafe is Seattle's longest running vegetarian restaurant. A group of five women opened the place in 1976, wanting to serve simple, healthy dishes at reasonable prices. One of its longest employees is Cindy Lee, the cafe's resident baker. She started working here in 1981 as a barista when the cafe began serving espresso. In 1990, she launched a career in baking. "There's no sugar in any of our baked goods, just honey or molasses," says Lee one recent afternoon as she prepped cookies, cinnamon rolls and buns for the restaurant's signature nutburger. "At first it was a challenge," she explained about baking this way. "But now it's all just second nature."

Generations of customers visit the Sunlight, sharing meals with their children and telling stories of how their parents used to bring them here. Some even started working for the free-spirited cafe at different points in their lives. Those employees also have a special connection. Their children first came to the restaurant because their parents worked here. Then years later, all grown, they're now serving those same sesame crunch waffles and steaming postum lattes themselves.

Lee has connected a whole host of family and friends to the Sunlight. "Over the years I've managed to get four of my kids, one grandchild, two sisters and three friends a job here," she says. "I'm responsible for lots of great

employees." Son Xavier Lee, 27, currently works alongside her. "When he was 19 and living at home with me I urged him to come in and start working," she says. "Now that I live in Tacoma, it's really nice to still see him a few times per week. I wouldn't otherwise get to see him that much."

But Lee's Sunlight routine is soon about to change. Seattle's hot real estate market has prompted the cafe's landlord to sell the building. The Sunlight will soon be moving out of its offbeat space with vintage wood paneling and well-worn booths and barstools. But there's a twist to this departure story of a longtime Seattle eatery. Sunlight owners Cheryl Richards and Adrian Noone recently completed a fundraising campaign to move the cafe to new digs in a mid-rise just across the alley. A total of \$45,000 has been raised to build out the new space — with a mezzanine level, outdoor seating and capacity for a full bar — that is scheduled to open later this spring.

The move will preserve the Sunlight but a new space will mean some of that old charm of the current Sunlight won't be the same. Richards plans to bring the years of pictures of staff and friends gathered on the walls to the new space, but the overall look will be fresh, changing just like the neighborhood.

The full article can be found at: <https://goo.gl/ECNSmq>



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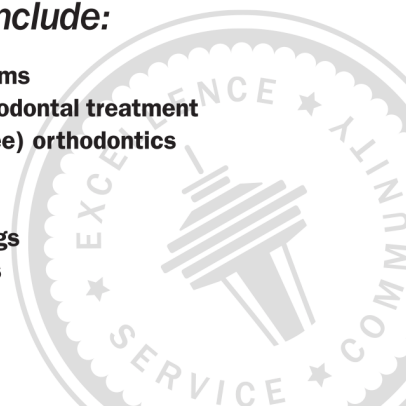
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# Get Involved!

Please contact the RNA to share your skills and learn more about your neighborhood.

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Consider joining the RNA! Contact [rna@rooseveltseattle.org](mailto:rna@rooseveltseattle.org)

Amanda Winters represents the RNA on the UW City/University Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC).

Please follow the RNA on Twitter: [@roosieseattle](https://twitter.com/roosieseattle)

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**We need your help today. Please volunteer to deliver or contribute articles to *The Roosie*.**

**If interested, please contact: [RoosieEditor@RooseveltSeattle.Org](mailto:RoosieEditor@RooseveltSeattle.Org)**

## ANNUAL RNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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(pay what you can)    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other Tax Deductible Donation

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Volunteer Skill(s) / Area(s) of Community Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would love to pay annual membership dues to support increasing RNA's outreach and community events.
- ☐ I enjoy receiving *The Roosie* at my door and will donate my time to deliver to others by being a "Blockhead".
- ☐ Please enter my email address to the <http://www.RooseveltSeattle.org> blog email list.
- ☐ Yes! I would love to place an ad to support *The Roosie* (Discounts for members!).
- ☐ Please welcome me, by name, as a new or renewing member on the website/twitter/facebook/next issue of *The Roosie*.

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OR \*New\* Pay your membership dues online at [RooseveltSeattle.org/Membership/](http://RooseveltSeattle.org/Membership/)