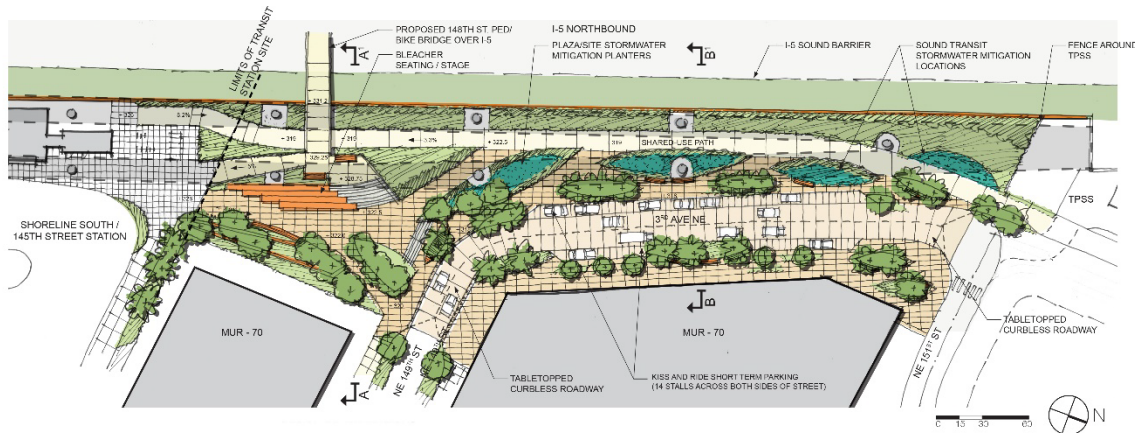


Your Friendly Neighborhood Woonerf

APWA JR Viewpoint Blog, 6/15/2021

Nora Daley-Peng, ASLA, AICP, LEED AP BD+C



With a flexible street design, the proposed woonerf can support ever-changing community needs and events.

We can learn so much from our international peers by looking at how they build streets that put people first.

Taking a page from the Dutch, the City of Shoreline, WA is planning a woonerf just north of one of its future light rail stations. A woonerf is sometimes referred to as a “shared” or “living” street. Although there are many variations, a woonerf can generally be described as a slow-paced, curb-less street where pedestrian and bicycle movements are prioritized. Vehicles are invited guests that move slowly through the woonerf and expect to yield to people frequently.

The proposed woonerf will weave together a pedestrian/bike bridge, a trail, and a new transit-oriented community growing up around the light rail station. Its flexible street design will support ever-changing community needs and events. During a normal weekday, it can provide a commuter drop off/pick up area and access for deliveries and short-term parking. During an evening or weekend, it can be temporarily closed and utilized for special events like a farmer’s market or festival. This dynamic, multi-functional space will become a vibrant mobility hub with easy connections to local destinations by foot or bicycle and access to regional destinations just a train ride away.