

PRESS RELEASE FROM CITY OF SEATTLE

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City has awarded a construction contract for pedestrian improvements in Pioneer Square

Seattle (June 22, 2023) – The City’s Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects has awarded a contract to Gary Merlino Construction for \$12.6M to construct pedestrian improvements to portions of S King, S Main and S Washington streets, and Yesler Way in Pioneer Square. Construction is planned to begin in fall 2023 with an estimated completion in late 2024.

“We are truly excited to create pedestrian improvements that will connect Seattle’s historic Pioneer Square neighborhood to our new Waterfront, which we expect will contribute towards the ongoing revitalization of the City’s downtown area. We extend a sincere thanks to all of the engaged residents, business owners and neighborhood partners who have participated in the outreach process to help get us to this important milestone,” said Angela Brady, Director of the Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects.

The project will connect the core of Pioneer Square to the new waterfront by making it easier to walk, roll, and cycle between these areas. The design improvements in Pioneer Square include curbsless street designs to help calm traffic, wider sidewalks that accommodate cafes and other activations, and added greenery and native plants to improve the pedestrian experience. The design will implement safer and shorter street crossings. S Washington and S Main streets will become one-way streets to reduce vehicle traffic while still allowing for emergency vehicle access. Parking and loading zones for neighborhood businesses will be maintained.

The project team worked with design consultants and members of local indigenous tribes to develop interpretive panels to recognize the Indigenous history of the area. These include illustrations and storytelling, as well as explanations of the native plant history and its usage.

As the project moves into construction, we are committed to minimizing disruptions and will work closely with our project partners to ensure access remains open and accessible for businesses, residents and those using all modes of travel.

Learn more about the Pioneer Square East-West Pedestrian Improvements and its neighbor projects [here](#).