



## SNG's Guide to How to Solve a Street Problem

1. **Connect with others.** This could include reaching out to neighbors, local organizations, schools, community spaces, and businesses in the immediate vicinity. Is the problem you're experiencing something other folks experience too? How and where? You may find that the problem is bigger, more widespread, or slightly different than you originally perceived it from your own experiences. **Collectively name and describe the problem.**
2. **Check out your neighborhood and [city plans](#).** Are there projects the Seattle Dept. of Transportation (SDOT) is already planning that might impact your idea? Does the street you're looking at have any particular designations already? Do your goals align with established city or neighborhood goals? Is this something people have worked to address in the past, and you could pick up some of those efforts? Are there other examples from other neighborhoods of people solving this problem that could be applicable here?
3. **Zoom out to the bigger picture.** Who else uses this street/neighborhood, and for what purpose? Would this project help those people as well? Would it be problematic? Intentionally reach out to folks to see if you can broaden your campaign to include these perspectives and mitigate potential negatives. As you're brainstorming possible solutions, spend some time considering both bigger-picture citywide benefits and unintended consequences. Is this project furthering equity and climate goals?
4. **As a community, name your goals and possible solutions.** It may help to have conversations with city staff to see what's possible.
5. **Rally support** from the community using flyers, petitions, events, or more, and from people with decision-making power by contacting city staff and elected officials. Focus your narrative on people and tell a story about why this is important, and to who.
6. **Continue pressure and build momentum.** You may need to [apply for](#), advocate for, or raise funding. If things are moving slowly, consider a temporary or pilot implementation that you can do as a community (see: [Tactical Urbanism](#)).
7. **Celebrate your success!** Take the time to thank the city employees, elected officials, and community members, even for minor victories. Share photos and tell a story about the effort this took and how you succeeded to instruct and inspire others.

Don't be intimidated! Change begins with people like you. Connect with your local Seattle Neighborhood Greenways volunteer group as a first step and resource, or reach out to [info@seattlegreenways.org](mailto:info@seattlegreenways.org).