

Why are trees being removed along the West Corridor?

Short Range (Construction Limitations)

- Construction of the West Corridor involves underground activities and trees are an unavoidable obstacle as crews dig, trench and raise the grade along the corridor.
- A Notice to Proceed with full construction is expected this spring
- Leveling off the ground for placement of the track will require smooth, clean surfaces for grading
- Trees are in the direct path of current construction plans
- Removing the trees before the migratory bird nesting season (May – September) lessens the impact to these creatures
- Increased foliage and water retention during the summer months makes tree removal a much heavier and costly task in the fall.
- Construction activities will require truck and heavy equipment access throughout the right-of-way

Long Range (When the trains are operating)

- Right-of-way constraints and the future improvements of 13th Avenue, at times to two, two-lane streets, two sets of train tracks and a bike/pedestrian path, require removal of all vegetation in the public right-of-way
- Leaves or branches falling on the tracks are a safety hazard for the operation of the train
- Overhanging limbs and branches could cause operational interference and safety hazards to the Overhead Catenary System that provides power to the light rail trains
- Construction activities will result in the removal or enclosure of water sources for many trees, significantly shortening their life span and making their imminent death a safety hazard for future trains