



## CASE STUDY: *City of Seattle, Washington*

The City of Seattle prides itself as one of the most pedestrian friendly cities in the nation. It has a well-developed and mature urban forest with more than 130,000 trees. Liz Ellis (Sidewalk Safety Repair Coordinator) is responsible for managing the sidewalk repairs adjacent to some of Seattle's various tree populations including maple, cherry, magnolia, tulip, and gum trees – all of which uplift sidewalks.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has installed Rubbersidewalks™ at three different locations. These locations were selected because they provided distinct conditions for evaluating the Rubbersidewalks™.



### **Problem:**

For Seattle it's important to repair as many priority locations as possible. Yet, sidewalk repair needs exceed available budget funds. In addition, paving costs per square foot are typically higher than the national average. Ideally, sidewalks repairs represent a lasting investment in maintaining safe sidewalks. **The Sidewalk Repair budget for 2011 is \$1.7 million.**



### **Solution:**

Costs of tree root pruning and removal are one of the primary contributors to Seattle's high sidewalk repair costs. Seattle considered Rubbersidewalks™ because of a key feature about the pavers: they can be **removed and replaced**. In addition, Rubbersidewalks™ contribute to Seattle's reputation as a pedestrian-friendly city because the pavers' flexibility means they are softer and easier to walk on.

**“It's important to create sustainable projects that support healthy, long term tree growth without compromising expensive investments. Rubbersidewalks™ is to be commended for creating products that may provide a good alternative to traditional concrete sidewalks.”**

*Liz Ellis, Sidewalk Safety Repair Coordinator/Certified Arborist*

### **For more information, please contact:**

Liz Ellis DOT Street Maintenance Sidewalk Repair Program

Email: [Liz.Ellis@seattle.gov](mailto:Liz.Ellis@seattle.gov) phone: 206-233-2768

10061 Talbert Ave. 2nd Floor Fountain Valley, CA 92708

PH 714-964-1400 FAX 714-964-8600 [info@terrecon.com](mailto:info@terrecon.com) [www.terrecon.com](http://www.terrecon.com)