

Move: Meeting the Challenge



Building the Streetcar

The South Lake Union and Denny Triangle neighborhoods are supporting the 2.6 mile streetcar line by contributing \$25 million toward construction.

1870s Seattle's first narrow gauge railway links Lake Union to the central waterfront

1890 Westlake Streetcar route laid in five days

1900s Westlake Avenue paved for a mix of autos and streetcars.

1910s First Boeing plane flies over Lake Union • Opening of the Montlake Cut

1930s SR 99 completed

1950s Battery Street Tunnel completed

1960s I-5 built

1970s Bay Freeway approved by City Council and voted down in a special election

1980s-2000s Over 40 plans developed to untangle Mercer Street

2000s New Streetcar begins construction • City Council approves making Mercer a two-way street



Investor David T. Denny riding the #1 car near the south end of Lake Union, circa 1891



Sea and Sky Sea planes fly to and from South Lake Union daily and a wide range of boats can be rented for trips around Lake Union.

South Lake Union is shaped by transportation. The combination of freeways and Denny Way cut the neighborhood off from Queen Anne, Capitol Hill and Downtown. Reconnecting the neighborhood has been one of the biggest challenges the City has dealt with over the last 50 years.

Thanks to the voter-approved Bridging the Gap initiative, work on Mercer Street continues. In the near future, Mercer will be a direct east-west route with lanes in both directions from I-5 to Dexter Avenue. In late 2007, the new Seattle Streetcar will connect South Lake Union to Denny Triangle and Downtown, providing service to tens of thousands of riders.

Untangling Mercer Street

The design for a two-way Mercer Street. The project will also connect bicycle lanes, add sidewalks and narrow Valley Street to a quiet, pedestrian-friendly street.



Historic Steamship Virginia V



Incorporating Artwork

The streetcar art plan recommends an eclectic array of artwork including signage, lighting and guardrail designs to complement existing street elements, such as the artwork on the trolley lines (pictured above) by artist Carolyn Law.



Sidewalk Art Artist Elizabeth Conner's "Small Monuments" includes tile printed with images from the past set into concrete "patches" throughout South Lake Union.