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From eight employees to 123: SCJ reaches milestone

Lacey-based SCJ Alliance is celebrating 15 years in business.

The employee-owned firm specializes in civil engineering, transportation planning and design, environmental and urban planning, landscape architecture and public outreach. Since its founding in May 2006, it has worked on about 3,300 projects for public, private and tribal clients, SCJ said in press materials.

The firm is providing roadway and traffic signal design for the design-build project that is reconstructing the Montlake Boulevard interchange with state Route 520 and building a lid over SR 520 to improve the neighborhood connectivity and create public open space. SCJ said the project provides improved multimodal access through the interchange, including dedicated pedestrian and bicycle paths and an overcrossing structure.



Image provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation [\[enlarge\]](#)

Conceptual illustration of a new Montlake lid over SR 520, looking west, with 24th Avenue East in the foreground and Montlake Boulevard in the distance.

For the city of Seattle, it also recently led the design of upgrades for the four-mile Delridge Way Southwest multimodal corridor to improve pedestrian, bicycle and transit access, as well as transit speed and reliability, for King County Metro's new RapidRide H Line. SCJ is providing construction management and inspection services for the project.

SCJ also led an update for the city of University Place's parks, recreation, open spaces and trails system. The plan provides the city with tools to strategically renovate existing parks while planning for new park spaces and aligning them with potential funding sources.

Jean Carr, SCJ president and CEO, said the firm has “gone from eight people working on Costco folding tables as desks, to 123 folks in 10 offices in Washington, Montana and Colorado.”

Besides Lacey, those offices are in downtown Seattle and in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood, as well as in Centralia, Gig Harbor, Spokane and Wenatchee and in Butte, Montana and Boulder and Crested Butte, Colorado.

Compared to the early days, projects are much more varied, the firm said. Planning includes more stakeholders and considerations. Transportation design goes far beyond roadways and intersections, to include cable-propelled transit and a variety of multi-modal options.

“We have watched new terms develop – such as transit-oriented design, and now trail-oriented design,” said Eric Johnston, SCJ's executive vice president. “These trends match our expertise and experience, as well as our team's passions.”



Carr



Johnston

The first year at SCJ there were three engineers, while today there are 38 engineers and another 32 people with professional designations from landscape architect to planner to soil scientist. The firm said that over the years it has earned 22 community and business awards for rapid growth, community involvement and being a great place to work, and another three dozen awards for project work.

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