

Edward B. Murray
Mayor

Samuel Assefa
Director, OPCD

Ross Tilghman, Chair

John Savo, Vice Chair

Lee Copeland

Ben de Rubertis

Thaddeus Egging

Rachel Gleeson

Laura Haddad

Brianna Holan

Rick Krochalis

Jescelle Major

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Director

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Commissioners Present

Shannon Loew, Chair*
Ross Tilghman, Vice Chair
Brodie Bain*
Lee Copeland
Ben de Rubertis
Thaddeus Egging
Laura Haddad
Jescelle Major
John Savo

**Term ended March 1, 2017*

Commissioners Excused

Rachel Gleeson

Project Description

One Center City is a plan that will support short-term solutions as well as a 20-year (long-term) vision for improving mobility and public life within the downtown area. The plan includes the development of multi-modal strategies, increased accessibility to public space and parks, and addressing urban design within the public realm throughout ten centrally located neighborhoods.

Near term strategies will focus on mobility, public transit services, and street reallocation, largely in response to buses being taken out of the Downtown Transit Tunnel. The long-term vision will address access and urban design within the public realm.

Meeting Summary

The Seattle Design Commission (SDC) was briefed on the One Center City plan. The SDC did not take an action during today's meeting. Instead, the Commission provided input for the project team to consider as the plan continues to develop.

Recusals and Disclosures

There were no recusals or disclosures.

February 02, 2017

10:00 - 11:00 am

Type

Major plan

Phase

Briefing

Previous Reviews

None

Presenters

Diane Wiatr

SDOT

Susan McLaughlin

SDOT

Attendees

Beverly Barnett

SDOT

Holly Golden

HCMP

Jane Lewis

Pine Street Group

Emily Miner

McCullough Hill Leary, PS

Summary of Presentation

Diane Wiatr and Susan McLaughlin, of SDOT, and Lyle Bicknell, of OPCD, presented the briefing for the One Center City Plan. Diane Wiatr provided a background report and overview of the project. The One Center City plan includes 10 neighborhoods, all of which include transit corridors, open space, and green space that serve as important connections within downtown Seattle. The long-term vision will address transportation issues, accessibility to open space, and urban design within the public realm. The plan will evaluate park and open space needs as well as looking at increasing access to transit options through first/last mile planning strategies. The project team will address how transportation strategies and urban design will increase the value of the public realm within downtown Seattle.

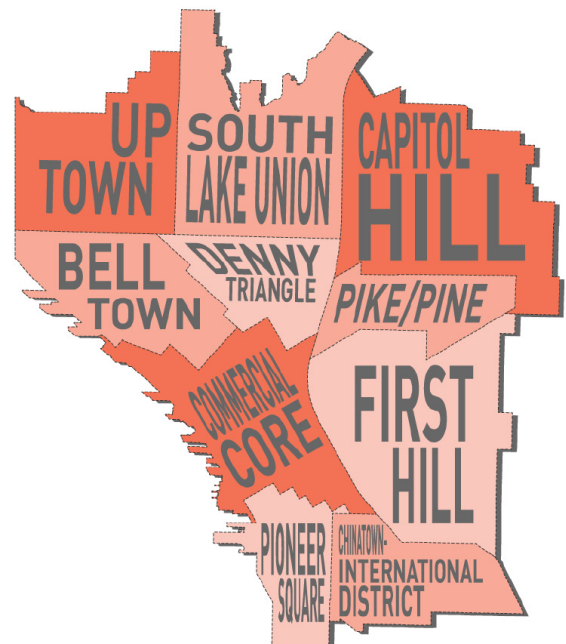


Figure 1: Neighborhood context

The project team also presented near term strategies, all of which focused on transportation issues in and around the city center. Near term strategies include surface street options, increasing the bicycle network, redirection of bus lines, and pedestrian mobility. See figure 2 for more detail.

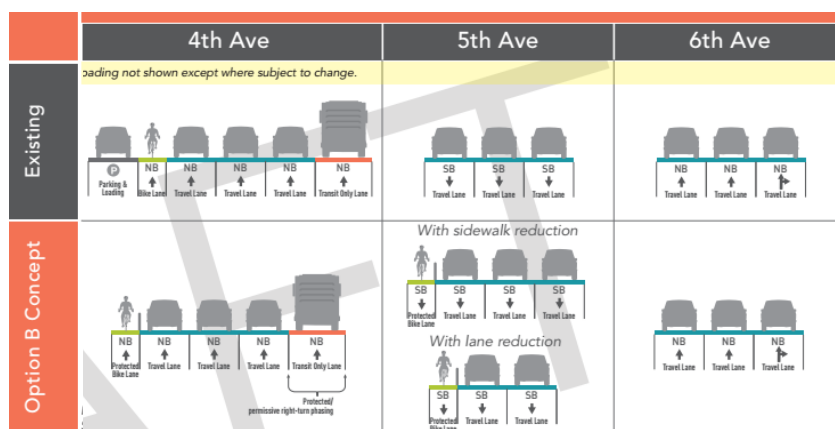
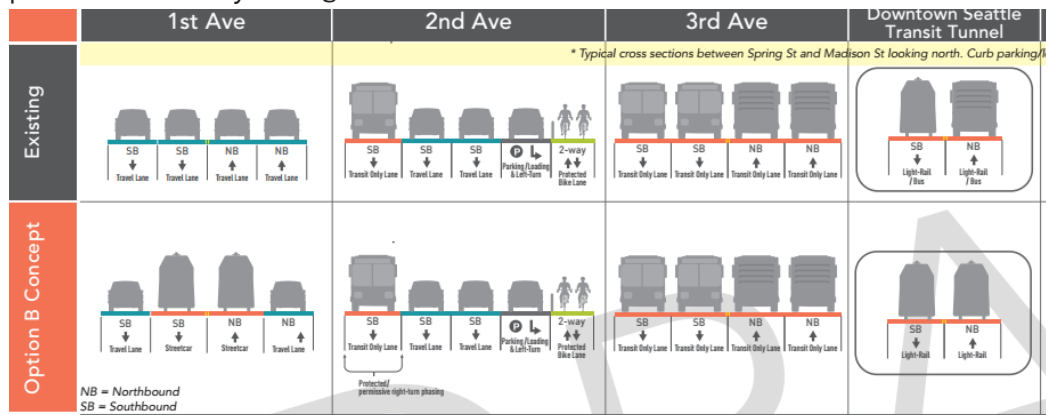


Figure 2: Example of short-term solutions

Agency Comments

Gary Johnson, OPCD, Thanked the commission for providing constructive feedback. Mr. Johnson mentioned that the planning process includes several parts including creative solutions to address the tunnel closure as well as the expansion of the light rail service throughout the region. Mr. Johnson appreciated commissioner comments addressing the need to continue to think about the long-term vision. Mr. Johnson then welcomed suggestions for short-term solutions.

Public Comments

None

Summary of Discussion

The SDC used this time to ask questions and provide feedback to the project team. The Commission recognized the growth occurring within the downtown area and commended the project team for thinking about how to increase mobility through downtown, access to public space, and pedestrian experience through urban design.

While the SDC understood the proposed vision and long term goals, The commission is concerned about the apparent lack of a clear vision about what the plan is trying to achieve. The Commission recommended the team also include strategies for elevating the pedestrian experience. Commissioners also recommended the project team approach the long-term vision as a way to create a network of public spaces that will be supported by an increase in mobility and connectivity.

The SDC encouraged the project team to consider the experience of the public realm – both open space and streets – and how it can be used to encourage greater use. The Commission recommended the project team think about how to utilize identified walkable streets as a way to increase pedestrian mobility from downtown into the surrounding neighborhoods.

The SDC also recommended the project team incorporate design elements that are representative of Seattle and the surrounding environment. Specifically, Commissioners recommended the team address stormwater management through the use of green stormwater management (GSI) along identified streets.

Action

The SDC did not take an action. The SDC greatly appreciated the briefing provided by the One Center City project team and looks forward to continuing collaboration with the project team.