Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan

Seattle Design Commission

Briefing – July 3, 2008

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SDOT Policy & Planning
Make Seattle the Most Walkable City in the Nation

Identify actions, projects, and programs to achieve the following goals:

- **Safety**: Reduce number and severity of crashes
- **Equity**: Engage all people and ensure equal investment
- **Vibrancy**: Create a lively pedestrian environment
- **Health**: Promote walking
### Scope & Schedule Highlights

#### Key Tasks

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#### Part 2: Existing Conditions and Toolbox Development

- Data Review and Analysis
  - Space Syntax
  - Data Summary
- State of the Pedestrian Environment Report
  - Draft Report
- Toolbox of Strategies and Solutions
  - Draft Toolbox

#### Part 3: Pedestrian System: Evaluate Solutions

- Definitions and Elements of a Walkable Pedestrian System
- Long Range System Improvement List (2050)
- 2020 Citywide Pedestrian System Plan

#### Part 4: Develop Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan

- Prioritization of Improvements and Actions
- Funding Assessment
- Performance Monitoring & Stewardship
- Implementation Strategy
- Draft Pedestrian Master Plan
- Pedestrian Plan Approval Process
Part 1: Setting the Foundation

- Public engagement
- Walking preferences survey
- Roundtable discussions
- Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group
Seattle Walks Day – May 10, 2008

• Hundreds of participants

• Groups of friends and neighbors walked favorite routes

• Surveys completed while walking
Walking Preferences Survey

• Collect broad public input about Seattlites’ walking preferences

• To understand:
  – Why do you walk?
  – Where do you walk?
  – What would help you walk more?

• Available in 9 languages, including English online

• Due to SDOT on September 15
Survey Responses

- More than 500 responses received
- Tracking responses to tailor further outreach
Roundtable Discussions

- Opportunity for groups of stakeholders to discuss pedestrian issues

- Completed four (4) discussions
  - Youth
  - Immigrants/Refugees
  - Accessibility
  - Business

- Four (4) planned for July
  - Encouragement
  - Builders/Developers
  - Community Development
  - Environment/Open Space
Part 2: Existing Conditions & Tools

- State of the Pedestrian Environment Report
- Pedestrian Toolbox
State of the Pedestrian Environment Report

- Snapshot of existing conditions
- Focuses on physical infrastructure
- Identifies benefits of all types of walking as well as existing challenges and constraints
Snapshot of Existing Conditions

• Seattle is considered a national leader regarding pedestrian policies and facilities

• There are still challenges to address in order to make Seattle the most walkable city

Arterial Traffic Calming in West Seattle

Streets without sidewalks can be a challenge for pedestrians
Snapshot of Existing Conditions
Highlights: Health & Community

• Health benefits of regular physical activity are far reaching

• Convenient walking facilities encourage people to walk more and connect to their community

• More than 12% of Seattle residents over the age of five have a disability

• Seattle consistently ranks among the safest cities of its size for pedestrian travel
Highlights: Land Use & Economics

- Land use and urban design impact the walking environment
- Active, well-lit streets promote commercial exchange and encourage pedestrian activity
- The average family works more than six weeks to pay for one year of car expenses
Highlights: Infrastructure

- Sidewalks, stairways, and signals are important parts of our walking network.
- Wide, high quality buffers between the sidewalk and moving traffic make walking more comfortable.
- Bridges and highway interchanges can make it difficult to walk between neighborhoods.
- Construction zones that close sidewalks are challenges for pedestrians.
- Walkways, trees, and landscaping should be well maintained to support a comfortable walking environment.
Toolbox of Strategies & Solutions

• Inform future policy, funding, and operational practices

• Subjects covered include: enforcement, design, land use, funding, environment

• Explore programs, tools, techniques, best practices

• Developing with input from inter-agency team and PMPAG
Coming Up Next in Summer & Fall 2008

• Continue to distribute and collect surveys

• Complete data review, updates, and analysis

• Finalize toolbox of strategies and solutions, including best practices information

• Complete roundtable discussions with key stakeholder groups

• Host Pro-Walk/Pro-Bike Conference in September

• Evaluate solutions and develop plan
What’s next?

Questions & Discussion

Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan