February 16, 2012
Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 4:00pm

Projects Reviewed
Swedish Medical Center Cherry Hill Skybridge
Alaskan Way Viaduct – North End and Portal Trail to Treasure
FS 20 West Queen Anne Interbay
SR 520 I5 to Medina

Commissioners Present
Julie Bassuk, Chair
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige
Debbie Wick-Harris
Valerie Kinast
Coordinator
Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

Commissioners Excused
Laurel Kunkler
Mary Fialko
Don Vehige

Staff Present
Tom Iurino
February 16, 2012

Project: Swedish Medical Center Cherry Hill Skybridge
Phase: Skybridge
Last Reviewed: N/A
Presenters: Tom Walsh, Foster Pepper PLLC
Lee Brei, Swedish Medical Center
Liesl Zappler, Swedish Medical Center
Mike Hansen, Sabey Corporation

Attendees: Angela Steel, SDOT

Time: 9:00am-10:15am

Summary of Project Presentation
The Swedish Medical Center team presented its request for the renewal of a skybridge permit over 16th Ave. The skybridge was built in 1978 and connects a parking garage with the main corridor of the center’s primary medical building. It does not block views. The team explored alternatives to the skybridge, such as a tunnel and a midblock crossing, but both were infeasible. The city’s Skybridge Review Committee recommended approval of the skybridge.

As public benefit, Swedish offered recent improvements including, a crosswalk at 16th and E. Cherry St., 16th Avenue landscaping, a main entrance plaza on E. Jefferson St., a relocation of bus stop and new landscaping on E. Jefferson S., and two Starbucks coffee shops open to the public. Swedish also offered a new benefit, new landscaping on 16th Ave. in two locations adjacent to garage. None of the already completed improvements were required by code or as mitigation for another project.

ACTION (by Loew)
The Commission thanked the design team for its presentation of the Swedish Medical Center Cherry Hill Skybridge. By a vote of 6-0, the commission approved the renewal of the skybridge permit and the associated public benefit package for the existing skybridge, which included: the bus stop; the internal connection across campus; wayfinding to identify public areas like the plaza and the connections across campus; new landscaping near the garage on 16th Ave.; and the landscaping in the right-of-way along 16th Ave..

The commission made the following recommendations:

- Make the campus’ public spaces feel more welcoming to the public. Improve the connections across the campus and install wayfinding signs to encourage use of these public spaces and connections.
- Improve the partnership with the neighborhood when developing the medical center’s new masterplan. Make the campus more public and porous, and make it more accessible and welcoming to the community. Encourage a more dense development, with parking underground. Update the medical center’s transportation management plan to further encourage trips by other than single occupant vehicles.

The commission requested an administrative review of the design changes to the public benefit package requested above.