APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

April 5, 2012
Convened 1:00pm
Adjourned 5:00pm

Projects Reviewed
Alaskan Way Viaduct – North End and Portals
Alaskan Way Viaduct – South End and Portals
Amazon at Lenora and Westlake

Commissioners Present
Julie Bassuk, Chair
Tom Nelson
Julie Parrett
Osama Quotah
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige
Debbie Wick-Harris

Commissioners Excused
Laurel Kunkler
Norie Sato

Staff Present
Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
April 5, 2012  

**Project:**  
Alaskan Way Viaduct – North End and Portals  

**Phase:**  
Design Update  

**Last Reviewed:**  
Feb 16; 2011; Nov 3, 2011; May 20, 2010; May 6, 2010  

**Presenters:**  
Susan Everett, WSDOT  
Lesley Bain, Weinstein AU  
Terry Bulfin, Seattle Tunnel Partners  
Fernando Vasquez, HNTB  
Gregory Baker, HNTB  
Brian Elrod, Seattle Tunnel Partners  

**Attendees:**  
Amy Turner, Alaskan Way Viaduct Communications  
Clyde Joseph, Seattle Tunnel Partners  
Dan Dixon, HNTB  
Diane Hilmo, WSDOT  
John Coney, Uptown Alliance  
John Hoffman, John Hoffman Planning and Design  
Katey Bean, WSDOT  
Laura Smith, Seattle Tunnel Partners  
Lorcan French, WSDOT  
Marc Bloom, community member  
Rick Browning, PB World  
Shane DeWald, SDOT  
Ting Chen, UW student  
Mike Johnson, SDOT  

**Time:** 2:30pm-3:45pm  

**Summary of Project Presentation**  
The design team presented its revised design of the North Portal building and associated landscaping. Since the last review, the design team refined the design, details and materials, and landscaping. The team highlighted the most significant changes: the refinement of the building’s materials and how they came together to reinforce and simplify the building composition as a whole; the selection of yellow as the color of the stacks and of the building entry roof; the lighting of the stacks, glass box and the perimeter of the base of the building; the design of the plaza garden, with in-ground lighting in a spiral pattern and a part of three overlapping circles; the narrowed planter on the overlook; and the details of the portal face, featuring a vertical random reveal in the concrete.

**ACTION (by Parrett)**  
The Design Commission thanked the team for its presentation of the design for the Alaskan Way Viaduct North End portal building and its associated landscaping. The commission appreciated the thorough presentation, the refinement of the building’s details and materials, the color of the stacks, the consultation with a lighting designer, the plaza’s grading to eliminate the need for steps, and the attention paid to the pedestrian scale. By a vote of 8-0, the commission approved the design, with the following recommendations:

- Consider editing the plaza and simplifying the materials; for example, rather than a mix of materials (aggregate, recycled wood, pavers, and scored concrete) for the three circles and the
pathways, consider using fewer, perhaps just concrete, but with different finishes, slight color variation or jointing.

- Simplify the plant palette throughout the project; at the plaza, the strength of the three overlapping circles is lost amidst the many plants of the landscape.
- Reduce and refine the number of exterior lighting fixtures to clarify the lighting design; perhaps the idea of the “floating” plaza is more critical than the pinwheel.
- Apply the same rigor and theory as in the South building regarding the use of yellow as an accent color, where it was used to denote mechanical and industrial equipment. Consider incorporating yellow in the atrium slice if there is any exposed mechanical equipment that can be painted. Consider changing the yellow over the building entry; explore how much is yellow, perhaps restrict it to just the ceiling.
- Study the proportions of the building entry in the south facade. Consider raising the height of the ceiling to afford more space for the display of the interpretive panel.
- Ensure the design and planting of the overlook permits pedestrians to view the roadway.
Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented its revised design of the South Portal building and associated landscaping. Since the last review, the design team simplified the design, details and materials, and landscaping. The team highlighted the most significant changes: the refinement of the building’s materials and how they came together to reinforce and simplify the building composition as a whole; the selection of yellow as the color of the stacks, the garage mechanical equipment, and the trucks to create a coordinated, graphical identity; the lighting of the stacks, glass box and the perimeter of the base of the building; the design of the head house as an associated structure, with a glass box and yellow roof; and the use of a concrete wall and urban edge plantings bordering the lawn to indicate the decision point at Railroad Way and the beginning of the cityside trail.

ACTION (by Nelson)

The Design Commission thanked the team for its presentation of the design for the Alaskan Way Viaduct South End portal building and its associated landscaping. The commission appreciated the thorough presentation, the refinement of the building’s details and materials, the color of the stacks, the consultation with a lighting
designer, and the attention paid to the pedestrian scale. By a vote of 8-0, the commission approved the design, with the following recommendations:

- Refine the landscape and site design with the same rigor used to refine the building’s details and materials. Consider simplifying the design and reducing the number of materials; for example, consider hardscape or gravel instead of planting along the sidewalk edges.

- Study the strategy for the use of yellow as an accent color and its use on the head house; the head house roof is not mechanical or industrial equipment, and thus does not fit the rule which governed the use of yellow in the portal building.