

Othello Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop, March 14 2009

Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting. City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

Table 1

Session 1 9:30 - 10:30

Participants: 4 Residents, 3 people who work here, plus others.

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Affordable housing, diversity
- Supportive community
- 15-year resident
- People from different parts of world
- Clean, affordable, good access to transportation
- Diverse cultural background
- Maintain cultural community cohesiveness & have cultural diversity
- Close to Community Center
- Mix of housing types: single-family and multi-family, rental and ownership
- Mix of long-term & new residents
- Problem: City views as blighted neighborhood – this has impacts
 - Show more respect
 - Appreciate & value assets ·build on strengths vs tear down and build new
- Better, safer buildings
- Affordable utilities – increase energy eff.
- Cultural diversity in building ownership
- Safer playgrounds and community centers
- Centers where cultures can mix AND practice their own cultures
- Good: Currently have a mix of housing
- At least keep amt of affordable rentals and ownership
- Keep SF as part of mix
- Latino community misses the African American Community – where have you gone?
- Too Dense
- Auto Speed on arterials
- Would like diverse Housing types & ownership & affordable

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Locally owned businesses

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- *****Cultural Diversity of businesses**
- Business that serve diverse cultures & Americans
- Would like to be able to utilize skills from their homes countries for employment here (ie training to translate those skills to this work environment)
- Would like a wider range of goods (clothing, shoes, movies – ie where to buy kids shoes)
- Would like an affordable, safe, clean, supermarket
- Increase public safety
 - increase youth training
 - crime prevention training
- More youth activities
- Increase public transportation as population grows
- Can't have everything at each Light Rail Station, so let's coordinate different things offered at each Light Rail station
- Maintain affordable commercial space
- Want to feel safe to be out at night – make safe for kids (traffic & trains - especially at Franklin High School)
- Crime prevention
- Create new jobs, including City jobs, to employ local residents
- Affordable Community Center Rentals
- Stronger Schools – more High Schools so Kids can stay in community
- Culturally appropriate safety signage for Light Rail

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Othello Park
 - City has removed benches & trash cans – would like them replaced
 - Restrooms need to be cleaner & safer (gender separation needs improved)
 - Recreational programs need to be improved
- Goes to Rainier Beach Library, but not New Holly CC.
- Would like staff at Community Centers that speak other languages/ make others feel more welcome
- Would like bigger gym/workout room – Longer hours

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Participants: 1 Residents, 4 people who work here, plus others.

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Affordable. diversity
- Good public transit access
- Working to support youth and build community

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Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Less youth violence
- *****Good clean Grocery Store**
- More employment opportunities for youth and young adults
- Daycare
- More pedestrian friendly commercial centers
- Less vacant lots
- More informal gathering places – need to be safe
- Better pedestrian environment on MLK (sidewalks, pedestrian crossings)
- Community Identity
 - Diversity of community and businesses
 - Locally-owned businesses
 - Need programs to support these characteristics so not displaced
- Need affordable commercial spaces
- Technical assistance for existing & new businesses to succeed.
 - Business training for immigrants to understand cultural differences of businesses here
 - Hire members of these communities to provide training
 - trusted advocate model to reach communities
- R.V. to be center for Green movement: Jobs, business, technology for local people
 - Community College/training in Rainier Valley to include “Green Job” focus
 - Bring in green business/hire local
 - make sure policies support this
 - Support grass root programs trying to make this happen

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Maintain range of housing: in affordability; type; tenure
- Maintain Affordable housing
- Maintain /support exist SF
- Develop underdeveloped sites w/high density
- Possible housing programs: transitional housing; lease to own
- Provide a way to move from rent to own
- Socio-econometric Sustainability
- Challenge: rising housing costs.
 - Immigrant populations
 - Low income, min wage worker

What would you like to see?

- Increase service sector business or make more visible (accts, attorney)
- Pharmacy

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- Grocery Store
- Make existing businesses more visible. Build community around them, concentrating them pedestrian friendly
- Businesses accessibility/visible to multi cultures
- More youth programs that keep youth together
- Places for youth to hang out
- Get community involved with youth activities & Alt Schools
- Programs for high risk youth
- Informal gathering places where they can interact with their culture as well as others
- Improve Public Safety
- More Programs/jobs for youth including city jobs
- Improve East/West connection
- More parks programming for range of age groups & cultures other than B ball and tennis
- More density to support more housing options & retail
- Super market /Pharmacy/Fred Meyers
- Business/ job training for immigrants as they enter our economy
- "Green jobs", technology, business
- Places for youth to "hang out"
- Greater involvement w/youth
- Programs for high risk youth
- Make commercial ventures accessible to all groups
- Improve public transit
- Less vacant land

Table 1 Emerging issues "Like / need"

- Affordable housing
- Diversity of Housing
 1. Density
 2. Ownership
 3. Cost
- Cultural Diversity
- Cultural diversity of commercial district
 1. Small independent
- Chief Sealth Trail & community gardens

Table 2

Session 1 9:30 - 10:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Unique shops, independent small businesses.
- Ability to walk to station from home this year.

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- Farmers Market May-October
- Community Garden – vegetables that you can't get at market or stores
- P-Patch under Power line – Chief Sealth Corridor
- Housing still affordable – like diversity of neighborhood
- Public safety – has improved/could still be better. Need strong outreach to new residents of SE Seattle.

Question: What other Housing Choices would you like to see in the future?

- More opportunities for smaller scales housing 900sf vs 2400sf
 - Cottages
- Find a way to create density that's affordable but livable/desirable
- Worried about undesirable massing
- Provide choices in sizes for businesses
- Also need residential development for larger families
 - 2-3 bedrooms (many larger families in SE Seattle.)
- Need a complete range of housing types/sizes for choice
- Good Choices for Rent/Buy
- Encourage Live/Work Units
 - Adjust regulations to allow live/work units
- Find opportunities for Artist Housing
- Wider variety of Quality/Aesthetics in Housing Design to avoid cookie cutter look.
- Design Guidelines
 - Need an education process for community
 - Meetings so people understand Design Guidelines purpose and function
- Detached Accessory Dwelling Units
- Preserve Existing Housing Stock

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- W. On Myrtle Street
 - Chief Sealth Trail
 - Gravel Paths should be paved to provide better connections to Othello Station Area
- Parks Safety
 - Better Facilities for kids of all ages
 - Improve Park design for safety and appropriate to age groups
- Neighborhood Identity through Green Space/Pocket Parks, rather than or in addition to Architectural Character.
 - This neighborhood might be defined more by green spaces rather than buildings
- Complete portion of Chief Sealth Trail between Myrtle & Webster.
 - Great Route to retail/grocery by bike
- Parks should also serve as Town Square Community meeting space
 - Town Square space would be desirable

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- A wider range of City Departments should work together to development parks and open space (not just the parks department).
- Triangle Parks
- Make sure we develop strong East/West Connections beyond neighborhood boundary.
 - Better connections to Lake Washington
- Activate existing Parks
 - Especially for kids
 - Programming on weekends for example
 - Also add more options for sports activities in Park. Not just Basketball, also tennis, soccer and others.
- Signalize intersection of Chief Sealth at Myrtle.
- More Tree Canopy

Table2, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Unique Neighborhood with many small independent businesses. Not much chains
- Shopping area not concentrated, long-sprawling. Would like it to be more concentrated.
- Big Shopping Mall Here! Add some bigger Stores.
- Security/Safe around Light Rail Stations
- School – English as a second language school desired in this neighborhood. To serve many different immigrant groups.
- Bought home here because it is close to so many things
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Ethnic stores
 - Airport
 - Downtown, etc.

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- New Buildings/Development should not push out existing houses.
- Can't imagine high-rises here
- Maybe larger buildings like townhouses and some flats but not towers
- Keep/Expand opportunities for people to rent out part of their home or ADU
- Mother-In-Law Apartments Good!
- Make codes easier to develop Live/Work Units

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Want more destination shopping. So you don't have to go to South Center

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- Improve look/aesthetic/storage areas in shopping areas
- Maintenance Program/Work with Business owners
- Unique/Ethnic/Cultural Businesses are important to our identity.
- Unique stores/Culture can draw people from other parts of the city to this neighborhood
- Best part of neighborhood is the diverse mix of people you see and meet
- Need more East African Restaurants/Stores

Question: How do you use the parks and community centers in your neighborhood or nearby today (exercise, take children to play, relax, informal gathering)? If you don't go to city parks, now, what change would make you want to use the parks more?

- Improve Van Asselt Soccer Field
- Improve existing Park (Othello Park?) East of MLK
- Improve Basketball Courts/Soccer Fields
- Lighting of Basketball courts
- Need Badmitten Courts – Popular among different cultures/age groups
- We need places that are not necessarily big. Smaller areas/town squares /close to homes. Places for people to gather
- Plazas
- Cultural
- More places for children's activities, elderly Activities, Tai Chi especially in Summer (All in this Neighborhood)
- Security is a big issue. We need more people in our open spaces. Make existing spaces work better (Not necessarily more parks/o.s)
- Play areas tot-lots for 0-8 years
- A new skate park desired
- Make better East-West Connections
- Make better connections to Seward Park
- Beacon Avenue Median Trial
- Can we do something similar along MLK?
- Wider sidewalks

Table2, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

Question: What makes your neighborhood the place you've chosen to work, live, or shop? *Follow up:* What would make it better? What types of housing opportunities does your neighborhood have now?

- Low density. People should live close to ground
- Value diversity
- Not enough housing diversity of building and ownership/rental option
- Need more housing choices, especially close to station
- Need condo options closer to station
- More density to support services especially retail in neighborhood
- Need real full-service grocery store in neighborhood
- Choose to live here because it is an affordable place to live. Need a variety of incomes
- Need transitional zoning. From density to single family neighborhoods

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Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- Yards/Private Gardens are very important for quality of life and good neighbor relationships.
- Small community parks and open spaces help connect people to each other socially

Question: What type of housing opportunities would you like to see it have in the future? *Follow up:* As the community grows, changing housing costs could potentially affect some residents—where and for whom do you see the greatest potential challenge?

- Need more housing options/types/ownership structures
- Design is very important in influencing how people can or cannot meet each other
- Need design that fosters community

Question: What unique character of your commercial district gives it its identity and what would you like to see preserved? *Follow up:* What types of goods, services and employment would you like to see near the transit stations, in your local business districts and accessible to the community?

- Need people, lot of people within walking distance to make businesses successful
- We need to create a “new” unique identity for this community/commercial district. Something different from International District. An identity so that we can market ourselves as a place that draws people in from other parts of the city/region.
- What sets this Commercial District Neighborhood apart? Should it be a regional draw?
- We may need additional parking. But concentrated it in one location
 - Parking for small businesses in neighborhood
- Curious what SE Retail Study will reveal
- Preserve existing customer base as best we can
- Festivals/Food Fes/Events that celebrate commercial district at time the Rail Stations open.
- Can it be a tourist destination?
- Targeted parking garages or other facilities to electric vehicles and alternative transportation types
 - Carbon Neutral
- Places/Facilities for micro/industrial small (very small) manufacturing shops
- Repair a useful part of commercial district
- Include/encourage green industry in this neighborhood area and Beacon Hill
- Norfolk Business Park
- A potential place to employ people from this neighborhood (take train there) also an opportunity to implement green industry.
- Have picnic spaces on top of grass covered hills along Chief Sealth and other similar places.
- Youth employment/training programs to work maintain parks
- Need better connection between parks, also improve East-West connections to Georgetown and to Seward Park
- Othello Park at center of it all
- Improve safety of Chief Sealth Trail
- Create small breakout spaces for cheap/unique retail/food (taco truck, coffee) in parks and plazas.
- Create a place for Othello Farmers Market
- Public Safety!!! In all public spaces. Need to reduce crime in SE Seattle

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Notes from Group 1, Creating Choices for Living, Working and Recreating

- Bicycle Police Patrol
- Kids involved in various efforts to maintain parks and improve safety throughout neighborhood.

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Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

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Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Question: What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Low Density Housing
- A Neighborhood center = a business center
 - Close to residents so people don't have to drive to shop, meet friends, etc.
 - More residents will be living in business center
- A common gathering place
- Important to preserve single family housing, diversity and low income housing
- Incremental change is ok, wholesale is not
 - Safeway – we need to keep the grocery store – increased residential density will help support a grocery store
 - Keep Holly Park Clinic

Question: How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this. What do you want to keep in your neighborhood center, what would you like to bring into your neighborhood center?

- Small business assistance
- Parking for residents and shoppers
- Park & ride (hide) is an issue– people driving into neighborhood to park and ride transit using spot all day. Bad for local businesses and residents
- Revisit City Parking strategy
- Connect various pieces of neighborhood core for a little downtown
- Education facilities, especially ESL and technology
- Industrial Land at S Henderson/Norfolk represents an opportunity for green job creation – no air pollution
- Community meeting spaces, facility for youth and arts
- Shuttle to New Holly Library and walking paths connecting to neighborhood
- Bi-lingual school or programs in existing schools
- multi-lingual services
- Connection to Chief Sealth trail
- Move bi-lingual school from Queen Anne to Rainier
- Need towing company and parking enforcement

Question: In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

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Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Customers for businesses
- Services that are tailored to kids at all ages – as they grow up
- Sports, arts and environment activities for youth
- Get high school students input in neighborhood plan
- Multi family housing needs to be well built for acoustic isolation
cheaply built multi-family housing developments are “volcanoes of crime”
- Need City to demand well-managed multi family housing to prevent abuse and crime
- Constructive activities for youth
 - YMCA or similar resource center
- Coordinate buses with link Light Rail, synchronize lights
- Need sufficient infrastructure to accommodate height densities proposed around rail stations
- Soccer fields, community center for youth and outdoor chess boards
- SE corner of neighborhood lacking curbs and sidewalks.

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Question: What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center?
As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Resource of opportunity at Othello Town Center
 1. Diversity
 2. Convenient location
 3. Businesses/residents/parks
 4. Walkable to essential services
- Great framework exists – diverse businesses and cultures – retain this
- Preserve affordability of business and living spaces for rent and ownership
- New development needs to serve people in wider area- regulate parking to create visible and livable town center
- Need programmed activities for families – gathering place to accommodate great variety – green space equals town center
- Attract cornerstone businesses
- Neighborhood center is not at Station, but at Othello Park
- This is a residential urban village

Question: How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this. What do you want to keep in your neighborhood center, what would you like to bring into your neighborhood center?

- Cannot lose grocery store (Safeway)
- Five Essential Businesses/uses:
 1. Indoor/Out door Gathering
 - Main Street Feel
 1. Grocery

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Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

2. Pharmacy
 3. Bank
 4. Hardware store
- Must attract shoppers from beyond the neighborhood
 - Need multi-story buildings-not strip malls to get enough residents to support local businesses
 - Connect businesses with surrounding community with services and jobs
 - Businesses that appeal to greater diversity
 - Help businesses attract new residents who are unfamiliar with local goods and services
 - Affordable incubator Live/work buildings. Flexible "workspace" that support uniqueness of neighborhood.
 - Crime affects many business
 1. Must address to create safe walkable neighborhood.
 2. Contributors to crime:
 - Speed of traffic
 - Lack of education
 - Lack of jobs and opportunity
 - Hire locally-employ people from neighborhood
 - Light Rail to airport and downtown will increase opportunity for people to commute to well paying jobs.
 1. Need employment education office to connect residents to jobs.
 2. Redevelopment equals some job loss
 - Light Rail has caused net job loss
 - Programming – Unique cultural mix – make community through range of activities, not just shopping – expand school diversity/cultural programming to larger community.
 - SCC and businesses that employ youth to create structure, sense of civic responsibility.
 1. Apprenticeship programs.
 - Jobs as crime prevention teaching – invest in beautification – upfront investment in the community

Question: What's the theme, why do people want to come here?

- Economy will affect evolution of businesses and uses
- Entrepreneurship – Promote it!
 - Help people start micro – business – self employ
 - Youth not just interested in jobs - they also want to start businesses
- Community – based economic development assistance
- Self funded micro-lending organization
- Plug people into ongoing preventative heal care: medical/dental services in urban villages
- Need money for schools – classes greater than twenty.
 - Teacher and teacher's aide
 - Build community through schools

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Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

Table 1, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

Question: What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- 3% of population are Native Americans – they do not feel welcome. They need some visible mark, place, gathering place.
- Light Rail is causing loss of low income housing
- Neighborhood Center – Van Asselt Playground
- Near Neighborhood housing, Library, SCC facilities at Holly Park
- Neighborhood Center at Othello
- Businesses – Needs better Lighting, cleaning and security
- Neighborhood Center at Filipino Center
- Lots of space for activities and resources
- No transportation East to West from Beacon Hill to Holly Park Clinic
- Edmonds Street Station is closest to Col. City Clinic where Native Americans go for services.
- Need for a Native American Community Center

Question: In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

- New residents bring diversity, sharing of culture and traditions
- New residents will help keep schools open – it would be great to have international magnet school
- New residents will bring more businesses, jobs, schools, services,
- Need to promote a local shopping and gathering place like Crossroads Mall which would have:
 - Activities like outdoor chess
 - A place to hang out
 - Small post office
 - Other small services, development under single ownership
- Indoor place to hang out around vicinity of existing Safeway – with services and small businesses
- Need a post office nearest Alaska and Rainer (walkable distance)
- Seniors tend to drive, use Access senior transportation (though limiting)
- Not as many stops on Link as there are Metro bus stops – will light rail actually decrease mobility in and around the neighborhood?
- Elderly cannot walk so far – buses stops needed more frequently
- Transfer from Light Rail Link to Bus – how will that work?
- More goods and services in neighborhood center would draw Holly Park residents down, instead of up to buses on Beacon (#7 & #42)
- Need movie house, post office, spa
- Need new bus route connecting neighborhoods with urban village
- Need ice cream shop, fitness club swimming pool, more public daycare and after school programs for older kids and especially pre – school tutoring

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Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Community center meeting space (affordable) Disneyland (!)
- Security and public safety
 - Lighting, cleaning, eyes on street
 - More police patrols
 - Seniors feel vulnerable
- Small businesses need affordable rents
- What are plans for vacant lots? How can existing residents influence future uses of vacant lots?
- Narrow roads in Holly Park, with parking on both sides with two way traffic slows traffic down but makes circulation difficult
- Senior Center

Table 2

Questions: What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this?

What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? *Follow up:* What opportunity does this growth provide?

- Keep express busses on Rainier
- Local street patterns sometimes cut off by routes to cross MLK ("right turn only very limiting" – 44th Ave S and S Holly St)
- Transit good for going downtown (parking expensive)
- Light Rail Transit?? Cost? Frequency?
- RPZ planned – Sound Transit to pay?
- Easy drop-off at stations is necessary
- Poor parking at King Plaza – many people parking in garage now – did not happen before, more people driving?
- Include local and low income people in development of area jobs, planning
- Fear of accelerating gentrification
- Gang violence a concern
- Diversity is an asset
- Want a good school in every area
- Need affordable housing to keep people in neighborhood
- Many small businesses - people live near work (need to maintain and preserve)

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Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Communication from City is Poor
- Notification about this meeting poor – need to advertise in local newspapers
- Cap rents for small businesses? To allow them to stay in business
- Harder for pedestrians to cross MLK with rail tracks – need signal timing to be looked at
- Create awareness of businesses
- Driving on MLK now better than Rainier but left turns are slow
- New people displace current residents - African/American community now gone from neighborhood
- More people/more businesses good for walking and community – more eyes on the street
- With new business, where does existing business go?
- Need moving assistance for businesses that have to move
- Getting around – transit ok - fare structure for short rides?
- Mix of methods used by residents to get around their neighborhood: walk, bike, drive, bus
- Need wider sidewalks
- Better crosswalk safety
- More neighborhood buses
- Multiple language announcements

Services:

- Large grocery store
- Need more services on South Beacon Ave
- Mini malls near each station
- More clothing stores, drug store
- Green industries, bicycle shop
- Maintain, improve parks/used a lot, add more (soccer, track, bocce, not just basketball) – need better park programming
- Green up spaces near Light Rail Transit
- Senior citizen spaces
- Less expensive markets
- Develop empty spaces
- Current planned projects good (mix apartments, retail and working)
- Walk/Bike more
- Flatten hills, no parking on sidewalks
- Need more small parks for kids
- Parking for home services lacking
- More culturally appropriate activities at parks
- Ped bridges over MLK near community activities
- Looking forward to Light Rail Transit – Concerned about parking
- Alternate ideas to be presented in May
- Local communities of people have professional skills – not being used
- Will plan create jobs? More jobs equal more buying equals better business

Re-Name Neighborhood: OTHELLO

- Center: MLK/Othello
 - Need grocery store (poor Safeway)
 - Improve Park
 - Safety, Welcoming, lighting signage, pedestrian routes
- Hard to cross MLK on foot – light too short
- Low Income Housing needed – public/private financing?
- Become “neighbor friendly” as people immigrate into neighborhood
- Immigrant concern about places to worship not always respected – need a mosque for Muslims
- Need more places for youth to gather
- Youth need a safer environment – Adults need to make it happen
 - Parks: develop what we have. Action, not more planning
 - Sports areas run down. Need maintenance, lights and grandstands.
 - Seattle Public Schools not part of this process. Lack of programming at school fields need to encourage people to join in
 - Better access to open spaces
 - Neighborhood proposals being evaluated
 - East Africans need/want a bi-lingual school

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Table 1

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Access to Filipino community and community center (on MLK and Juneau)
 - Bus access to light rail
- Dream of "Philippine Village"
 - Zoning change for building expansion
- visibility of businesses along MLK
- Traffic access to businesses
- Open spaces//parks
 - Safety within gathering places
- Community gathering space
 - Encourage cultural diversity and interaction
- Walkability/access

Traffic

- Graham and 39th Ave (school)
 - Signal (safety)
 - Drivers use 37th as alternative; road too narrow
- Are sidewalks to stations sufficiently wide?
- Othello
- Parking permit zones
- ADA/wheelchair access
 - Within ¼ mile
 - Recommend ADA parking sticker within parking permit zone

Transportation modes to schools and businesses

- Busses
- Walking
- Sufficient striping and signage
 - Visibility and maintenance

Street Lighting

- Trees covering light fixtures

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- OK by light rail stations

Pedestrian bridge at MLK/Rainier

- Underused
- People generally jaywalk which slows traffic
- City to renovate/improve
- Poor connection to rail station (and incorporate a latte shop – promote more people to use it)

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Curious
- Uncertainty
- Excitement
- Access to airport
- Behind in mass transit in comparison to other US cities
- Maintenance of neighborhoods around stations and stations
- Construction of stations and rail has already improved neighborhood image
- Train maintenance
 - Cleanliness
 - No vandalism
- Fares reasonable?
- Surface train vs. tunnel
- Positive reaction and effects
- Security concerns

Question: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Recycling bins
- Solar panels
- Rain barrel (collection)
- Livability closer to rail stations
 - Increase and density?
 - Encourage ridership and non-motorized access to stations
- “Nimby” vs. “rimby”
 - Increased density
 - More neighbors = better or more services
 - “Rimby” ok re: density if home ownership is encouraged
 - People maintain homes if they own their property

Table 1, Session 2 10:30 – 11:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Density around transit stations
- Concern about infrastructure and utility capacity's ability to accommodate increased density
- Look at existing conditions
- Ensure that new development enhances rather than destroys neighborhood environment
- Possibility/concern about gentrification and displacement
- Continue welcoming neighborhood
- Economic diversity
 - Income
 - Business
- Grow at a measured pace
- Businesses
 - Fossil fuel dependency
 - Alternative energy sources
 - Reuse/recycling of energy
 - What can we do locally?
 - Update electrical/utility systems within homes in area of light rail?
 - What are the economic effects to individual residents
- Environment – Economy and Equity
- Equity tends to be overlooked
- Preservation of exiting economic mix
- Benefits back to residents, not in developers' pockets
- Market rate housing
- Community is being forced to take growth/density
- Tax of financial burden should be shared w/city (larger jurisdiction not only local community)
- Is density a burden or a benefit?
- Government subsidies to encourage growth

Global sustainability

- Egalitarian community
- Reduce economic extremes
- What direction is Seattle headed?
 - Encourage increase of middle class
 - Society as a whole is moving away from egalitarianism and Seattle may reflect that

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Cars parked on sidewalk

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- Fences on sidewalks
- Too many obstacles for pedestrian access
- Monies/funds that were previously dedicated to sidewalk improvements now going to projects outside of SE Seattle
- Sidewalk maintenance and building sidewalks if missing
- Safe pedestrian access needs to be more of a priority
- Traffic conditions?
 - Some speed bumps/circles
 - Othello street parking on sidewalks
- Need long-term funding strategy

Link between busses and light rail stations

- Time schedule of busses
 - 15 minute service all directions all day
- Will there be closing of bus stops?
- Metro and Sound Transit are working together
- Lack of intermode access transfer between Metro and Sound Transit
- Integrated fare structure not currently existing
- Light rail hours of operation
 - Will be closed 1:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- N-S bus service to LRT stations need better E-West bus service
- Fare structure of transfers?
 - ORCA?
 - Vending machine for tickets?

Pedestrian/sidewalk/street structure on the west side of MLK in planning area

- Large blocks

Question from community: Is location of LRT stations the driving factor in neighborhood planning updates?

- How does ¼ mile or ½ mile radius affect update?
- Linear vs. Infill development
- MLK should be the focus of TOD development

Table 1, Session 3 11:30 – 12:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Something that is loved and will last for a long time
- Too much paving exists today
- Stormwater management

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- Run-off from vehicles into Puget Sound and Lake Washington
- Remove paving and replace with green space/material
- Chicago program/plan of "green" alleys
- Drain and culvert system
- Affordable and usable business and residential spaces
- Functional spaces in relation to demographics of household size
- Provide jobs in proximity to residences
- Choices in housing types
- Fewer cars – reduce use
- Community gardens
- Not currently pedestrian friendly
 - Building scale
 - Asphalt
 - Sidewalk buffer
 - Encourage "good" design
 - Aesthetics – Art, trees, green
- Reduce concrete usage in building materials

Zoning

- Dictation of building types and lot use
- Concrete removal vs. cost and replacement
- Sustain/create a unique feel to neighborhood
- Takes time to make changes around rail station
- Infrastructure and discourages car uses and increases green space
- How does ¼ mile or ½ mile radius affect your idea of growth?
- Radius measures where determined by ideal "walkable" distance
- Relevant for parking zone, not relevant as it dictates growth
- Infrastructure and development areas not relevant as it affects zoning

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Link light rail and connect to service
- Better bus connections
- Metro process (sounding board)
- North-south connections sufficient
- East-west connections needed
- Bicycle

Funding for Metro

- 20% cut in service despite 20% increase in ridership
- Comparison of LRT to other cities

Othello Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop, March 14 2009

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

- Multi-modal connections to light rail
- Speed of traffic along corridors (main roads) despite encouragement of a pedestrian-friendly environment
 - SPD speeds
 - Use of sirens
- Crime rates/volume
- How to encourage ridership if emergency response time is high
- Is having an increased police presence sufficient?
 - Officers on foot
 - Officers on bicycle
- Idea of "Build it and they will come." Is it true?
- parking requirement for businesses that sell goods
- additional parking is not needed

Table 2

Session 1 9:30 – 10:30

Question: Parks, open spaces, the urban forest and other natural areas provide breathing room, shade and opportunities for rest and relaxation, contribute to environmental quality and provide wildlife habitat. How would you expand and enhance these opportunities in your community?

- Open space desirable
- Parks used by community
- Safe and secure
 - Eyes on the park
 - City programming – Othello Park Alliance
- Good building frontage
- Pea patches
- SE Seattle no branch of community college = S Seattle Community College (green technology)
- Carry "Main Street Quality" near Othello station
- New development welcomed
- "OPUS" development
- Open lots need to be developed
- "Fear" of intensive development
- Trails have poor landscaping. Chief Sealth
- More "community gardens" and pea patches
- Activities (programs) at
- Othello Park and Chief Sealth trail
- August festival – music?
- Brighton playfield
- Identify "grants" for urban improvements
- City/neighborhood partnerships
- Grant writing training and technical assistance

Othello Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop, March 14 2009

Notes from Group 3, Achieving Urban Sustainability

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Coordinate Train and bus
- East-west circulation difficult
- Circulator bus
- Rail stations too far apart
- MLK walking – more infill of vacant lots

Question: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Concentrated uses that meet daily uses of residents
- Frequent transit service
- Support small business development and retention
- Farmer's market potential
- Food security
- Safeway is "for sale"
- What will help retain services?
- Green education to diverse groups = "cost savings"
- Transit use = sustainability
- Greater frequency of #48 bus
 - Taken for school
 - Full at pulse times
 - Need bus service to schools
- Need direct access to Holly clinic and services and other important community destinations
- Need "Metro" representative and planning meetings
- Better link between Beacon Hill and Othello
- Could use circulator bus service more E/W access
- Walkable E/W is difficult
- Senior Centers
 - Rainier and Holly
 - Holly Clinic
 - ACRS Juneau
 - Filipino CC @ Juneau and MLK

Economic sustainability

- Tax vacations for seniors
 - Reduced property taxes
- Economic security
- Character stability
 - Economics
 - Affordability for residents and small businesses
 - Diversity
- List diverse uses for neighborhood

Table 2, Session 2 10:30 11:30

Question: Sustainable Development" has been defined as: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." When applying this idea to your life and your community, what does "sustainability" mean to you? What would "sustainable development" look like in your community?

- Trees
- Tree preservation
- Loss of mature trees
- Safety of business
- Safe access for shoppers
- More employment keeps youth busy. Helps safety
- Better educational access in community
- Need training to use existing skills (PR – nursing assistant)
- Sound Transit "construction ESL"
- Cultural education exchange
- Preserving cultural identity within schools
- "African languages" not taught
- Concern - Need to bridge gap of cultures for children coming to USA

Question: The new light rail and reliable bus service provide alternatives to driving and are better for the environment. Will you be using the light rail? If yes, how will you get to the station nearest to where you live?

- Moving around a community
- Will use light rail
- How do businesses and schools relate. Business owners also go to school
- Public transportation is used by groups
- Bus could be more affordable. "Transit pass" with development

Question: Global climate change is a serious concern. What steps should our community take to address this problem?

- Increase recycle facilities
- Smaller cars
- Shared plug-in cars
- Follow recommendation of scientists, and then follow them
- Plant native grasses
- Draught tolerant plants
 - Saves water
 - Sustainable landscape design
- Rehab buildings to be more energy efficient
- City not prepared for climate changes - snow