Race and Social Justice Toolkit for Neighborhood Planning

DRAFT

Department of Planning and Development
City of Seattle

July 2011
Introduction

The overarching goal of Neighborhood Planning is to achieve livability for all. In a collaborative process, the City will create neighborhood plans for accommodating the City’s growth. The toolkit seeks to uncover unintended impacts of planned changes to neighborhoods and to understand who benefits and who bears the burden of the proposed changes. Planned changes will bring new amenities and services to communities and neighborhoods. However, there may also be associated changes, particularly impacts to equity, that negatively affect communities and neighborhoods. These unintended impacts might also thwart progress towards the City’s Race and Social Justice goals. Thus, in the course of planning neighborhood improvements, the City also wishes to uncover any unintended impacts. Then the City can determine how these impacts might be avoided or mitigated.

As one example, real estate development, such as transit-oriented development around light rail stations or other transit centers, may push up housing costs in nearby areas. Higher housing costs may displace people with lower incomes. This displacement may lead to lower diversity and greater homogeneity of services and businesses and clientele for businesses.

As another example, the introduction of light rail service could result in reduced bus service. If the reduction in service included local routes with closely spaced stops, then there may be less access to transit for some people. Also, if light fares are higher than bus fares, then this differential could contribute to transit inequity.

The neighborhood plans will:

- reflect the input of the variety of neighborhood interests of those living and working within a neighborhood (residents, workforce, business/property owners, etc.); and
- comply with the City's Comprehensive Plan

The plans will create neighborhoods that:

- meet our social, economic, environmental and cultural needs;
- are places where all people can feel comfortable – a mix of ages, incomes, interests, and lifestyles;
- are convenient places to live, work, shop and recreate, building on the value of a transit-oriented environment with a range of active spaces and recreational facilities, entertainment and cultural venues, community services, and businesses that celebrate the neighborhoods’ rich cultural heritage;
- are green, clean, safe, affordable, and healthy, where daily needs can be met without a car;
- are vibrant, creative and active places that reflect the diversity of the community;
- are communities in which local investment and character are supported, protected and enhanced.

The City's Goals of the Neighborhood Planning Engagement Process are to:

- Reach out to all groups including under-represented and unrepresented groups in neighborhoods and build positive working relationships with community groups,
- Reinforce the long-term benefits of neighborhood and station area plans; and the urban village strategy, including transit-oriented communities.

This toolkit incorporates Race and Social Justice best practices:

- Assess community conditions and the desired community impact
- Expand opportunity and access for all individuals
- Effect systemic change
- Promote racially inclusive collaboration and civic engagement; and
- Educate on racial issues and raises racial consciousness.

The purpose of this Race and Social Justice Toolkit for Neighborhood Planning is to provide guidance and information for the planning process so that neighborhood plans Citywide accomplish the goals of greater investment in neighborhoods and infrastructure in accordance with the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative, i.e., the greatest investment in people to result in a more environmentally sustainable and socially and economically just city.
3. Economic Vitality

2. Housing

1. Community Fabric

0. Community Outreach and Engagement

To develop strategies and tools please see the Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide. It can be found at: http://inweb1.neighborhoods/outreachguide/howtouse.aspx

0a. Promote racial / cultural / economic equity, by achieving meaningful plan input from racial, cultural, economic and other historically under-represented communities

0b. Achieve meaningful involvement that is reflective of the community

0c. Achieve equitable community development. Ensure that the benefits and burdens of change are equitably shared

0d. Achieve broad and inclusive community understanding of the plan

0e. Achieve long-term engagement of historically under-represented populations in civic processes

What are the racial / cultural / economic / age / disadvantaged characteristics of those affected by changes taking place in the neighborhood now or changes that are contemplated in the neighborhood plan? (e.g., youth, seniors, disabled, immigrants and refugees, people of color, homeowners/renters, low/high-income, etc)

3a. Minimize displacement and maximize inclusion

3b. Promote a mix of goods and services that serve the diverse needs of the neighborhood

3c. Promote living wage jobs available to local residents and support training for residents to access higher wage jobs

3d. Promote a strong, local business organization that serves the diversity of the businesses.

2a. Maintain or increase economic and cultural diversity and support cross-cultural integration of community

2b. Promote housing affordable over the long term for a range of affording abilities and for the range of household types, especially in locations central to transit and other services

2c. Maintain or increase economic and cultural diversity; minimize displacement, maximize inclusion

2d. Encourage a built environment that serves the diverse needs of the neighborhood

1a. Identify sensitive and historically underrepresented population groups, including: youth, seniors, non-English speaking, immigrants and refugees who may not have regular government engagement (e.g., home-based activities, home visits), and people with disabilities, among others

1b. Identify potential partners among the community, funders, and other resources

1c. Identify strategies to ensure that the range of voices providing input is reflective of the community

1d. Identify strategies to meaningfully reach sensitive and underrepresented populations, including appropriate interpretation and translation services

1e. Identify resources to assist with inclusive outreach, plan development and plan review

Community Impacts

Inclusive Outreach [outreach = make contact, begin relationship development]

0.1. Identify sensitive and historically underrepresented population groups, including: youth, seniors, non-English speaking, immigrants and refugees who may not have regular government engagement (e.g., home-based activities, home visits), and people with disabilities, among others

0.2. Identify potential partners among the community, funders, and other resources

0.3. Identify strategies to ensure that the range of voices providing input is reflective of the community

0.4. Identify strategies to meaningfully reach sensitive and underrepresented populations, including appropriate interpretation and translation services

0.5. Identify resources to assist with inclusive outreach, plan development and plan review

Increased Capacity and Opportunity [engagement = an exchange; deliberation, dialogue and action]

1.1. Identify opportunities for broad and inclusive, long-term civic participation

1.2. Identify barriers to broad and inclusive, long-term civic participation

1.3. Identify strategies to increase the capacity of historically under-represented groups so that they can sustain long-term civic engagement

1.4. How does the built environment address the needs and cultures of the people residing in the neighborhood?

1.5. How do land use and zoning decisions promote the RSJ Goals?

1.6. What are the unintended consequences of proposed urban plan on housing affordability?

1.7. What are the unintended consequences of proposed urban plan on commercial affordability?

1.8. What are the unintended consequences of proposed urban plan on transit costs and travel time for the low-income communities dependent on transit?

1.9. Do the planning strategies address the fact that transportation costs are particularly burdensome to low-income households, which devote greater proportions of their income to transportation-related expenses than do higher-income households?

1.10. Do the planning strategies respond to the greater reliance on transit by people of color and people from low-income households?

Social Fabric

1.11. What factors might contribute to communities of color, low-income people, youth and elderly residents at risk of being displaced from the neighborhood?

1.12. What supports do community members have to remain integrated cross-culturally?

1.13. What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of the neighborhood and are to be preserved and strengthened?

The Built Environment (i.e. zoning/land use, streetscape amenities such as street furniture, lighting, public art; place for formal and informal gatherings, etc)

2.1. What will support a strong neighborhood commercial district building on its unique character? Is there a strong and inclusive business association representing the needs of the business community?

2.2. What will strengthen existing neighborhood businesses including those owned/operated by immigrants or communities of color?

2.3. What may help insulate locally-owned and immigrant/refugee-owned businesses from being displaced with the rising price of commercial space?

2.4. What are the gaps between household incomes and housing (rental and ownership) for appropriately sized units?

2.5. What are the unintended consequences of proposed urban plan on housing affordability?

Economic Vitality

3.1. What will support a strong neighborhood commercial district building on its unique character? Is there a strong and inclusive business association representing the needs of the business community?

3.2. What will strengthen existing neighborhood businesses including those owned/operated by immigrants or communities of color?

3.3. How do the range of home sale prices in the neighborhood (safe, decent units) compare to the range of incomes in the neighborhood? Are there mortgages appropriate for the diverse needs of the community?

3.4. What are the unintended consequences of proposed urban plan on housing affordability?

3.5. What are the unintended consequences of proposed urban plan on transit costs and travel time for the low-income communities dependent on transit?

3.6. Are culturally appropriate goods and services available in the community?

3.7. Is affordable, fresh and nutritious food available in the neighborhood?

3.8. What are the impacts of having (or not having) a new large retail store in the neighborhood?

3.9. How do local employment opportunities compare with the educational and vocational skills of neighborhood residents?

3.10. What types of jobs training programs exist? How do they meet the needs of residents?

3.11. How does the plan increase the availability of a range jobs in the neighborhood?

3.12. In what ways do the new jobs increase opportunities for local residents?

3.13. What are the likely wage rates of the new jobs created and/or lost as a result of the plan recommendations?

3.14. What job types are at risk?

3.15. What are the convenient, affordable and accessible transportation options to livable wage jobs outside the neighborhood?
4. Foster a productive relationship between community and public safety officials
5. Foster a safe environment for the diverse community

**RSJ Goals**

4a. Foster a productive relationship between community and public safety officials
4b. Foster a safe environment for the diverse community

**RSJ Prompts**

4.1. What is the perception of crime/safety in the neighborhood?
4.2. What are the ways to strengthen the working relationship between community and public safety officials (Police and Fire)
4.3. What are the ways to strengthen the working relationship between community and public safety officials (Police and Fire)
4.4. What are the ways to strengthen the working relationship between community and public safety officials (Police and Fire)
4.5. What are the ways to strengthen the working relationship between community and public safety officials (Police and Fire)
4.6. What are the ways to strengthen the working relationship between community and public safety officials (Police and Fire)

**RSJ Prompts**

5. What is the availability of local food/community gardens?
5a. Promote community gardens (public and private), parks/open spaces and recreation/arts/cultural programs that serve the diverse needs of the community
5b. Promote parks/open space and recreational programs to address the needs of the neighborhood

**RSJ Prompts**

6. What is the open space available/potentially available in the neighborhood?
6a. Support multi-cultural communities and their cultural programs
6b. Support a range of social services that serve the diverse economic and cultural communities

**RSJ Prompts**

7. What is the perception of crime/safety in the neighborhood?
7a. Ensure that the planning strategies respond to the greater reliance on transit by people of color and people from low-income households
7b. Encourage benefits of sustainable practices to accrue to communities equitably

**RSJ Prompts**

8. What is the perception of crime/safety in the neighborhood?
8a. Encourage benefits of sustainable practices to accrue to communities equitably
8b. Encourage benefits of sustainable practices to accrue to communities equitably

**RSJ Prompts**

9. What are the key community organizations that support the diverse communities?
9a. Number of students on free and reduced lunch
9b. School success data (How mobile is the neighborhood population (What percent of the neighborhood population has lived there less than five years?)

**RSJ Prompts**

10. What is the perception of crime/safety in the neighborhood?
10a. Foster a productive relationship between community and public safety officials
10b. Foster a safe environment for the diverse community

**RSJ Prompts**

11. How are community and cultural facilities serving and meeting the cultural needs of the people who live in the neighborhood?
11a. How are parks and open space serving the needs of the young children, youth, adults and elders of the diverse community?
11b. How are the recreational programs serving the needs of the young children, youth, adults and elders of the diverse community?
11c. How are the recreational programs serving the needs of the young children, youth, adults and elders of the diverse community?
11d. How are the recreational programs serving the needs of the young children, youth, adults and elders of the diverse community?
11e. How are the recreational programs serving the needs of the young children, youth, adults and elders of the diverse community?