

South Recycling and Disposal Station (SRDS) Redevelopment Project

Meeting Summary Stakeholder Group Meeting #4 October 17, 2016

Introduction

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is redeveloping the old South Recycling and Disposal Station site, located near the intersection of 5th Avenue South and South Kenyon Street at 8100 2nd Avenue South. This 10-acre site is owned by SPU and offers a unique opportunity to develop a permanent facility that will house various SPU services and operational facilities.

Based on community feedback, SPU convened a Stakeholder Group to provide input on various elements of the project. In conjunction with local non-profit, Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS), the South Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA), and the Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) recruited volunteers to serve on the stakeholder group. Stakeholder Group members are: Bill Pease (Environmental Coalition of South Seattle), Jessica Miller (Resident), Irene Stupka (SPNA), Marty Oppenheimer (Business Owner), Lora Suggs (SPNA), Nate Moxley (Marra Farms), Paulina Lopez (Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition) and Carmen Martinez (Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition).

Stakeholder Group Meeting #1 was held on February 1, 2016 where stakeholders were introduced to the project and asked to prioritize the project elements on which they would like to provide input. Stakeholder Group Meeting #2 was held on March 28, 2016. Stakeholder Group Meeting #3 was held on June 6, 2016. Stakeholder Group Meeting #4 was held on October 17, 2016. A summary of Meeting #4 is presented below.

Stakeholder Group Meeting #4 Details and Agenda

Meeting Time and Location

October 17, 2016 - 6:30-8:30pm

South Transfer Station, 3rd Floor Large Conference Room, 130 S Kenyon St

Meeting Purpose

- Provide project updates
- Presentation and discussion of decant facility
- Presentation and discussion of tree mitigation
- Presentation and discussion of minimizing operational impacts

Meeting Agenda

1. 6:30 p.m. - Welcome and Introductions - (Kristin Anderson)

- Review meeting agenda and purpose
 - Reconfirm ground rules
2. **6:35 p.m. – Recap of Stakeholder Group Meeting #3** - (Kristin Anderson)
 3. **6:40 p.m. - Project Updates** - (Kay Yesuwan)
 - Community Outreach
 - Schedule
 - SEPA
 - Public Art
 4. **7:00 p.m. – Decant Facility** – (Julie Crittenden and Olivia Williams)
 5. **7:20pm – Tree Mitigation** - (Kay Yesuwan and Jana Dilley)
 - Presentation of tree mitigation plan
 - Discussion
 6. **8:00 p.m. – Minimizing Operational Impacts** – (Kristin Anderson)
 7. **8:20 p.m. - Next Steps and schedule upcoming meeting** - (Kristin Anderson)
 8. **8:30 p.m. - Adjourn**

Meeting #4 Invitees and Attendance

Stakeholders

- Jessica Miller
- Bill Pease
- Nate Moxley
- Lora Suggs
- Irene Stupka
- Marty Oppenheimer
- Paulina Lopez
- Carmen Martinez

City

- Kay Yesuwan, SPU Project Manager
- Ken Snipes, SPU
- Jeff Neuner, SPU

- Rachel Ramey, SPU
- Julie Crittenden, SPU
- Vicky Raya, SPU
- Suzanne Hildreth, SPU
- Jana Dilley, Seattle reLeaf

Outreach Consultant

- Kristin Anderson (Stepherson & Assoc.)

Design Consultant

- Olivia Williams (HDR)

Stakeholder Input Summary

The notes from the meeting are included in this document in Appendix A. The following is a summary of what was presented and discussed, including any responses or follow up items that were identified.

Welcome and Recap of Stakeholder Group Meeting #3

Kristin Anderson welcomed the group, introduced the meeting agenda and briefly recapped the topics discussed and input received at Stakeholder Group Meeting #3.

Project Updates

Kristin informed the group about the broader community outreach that has occurred since June. Kay Yesuwan provided information on the updated site plan, the project schedule and the SEPA public comment period. She told the group that the project schedule has been pushed out due to a change in the project scope. This change also means the schedule for the SEPA public comment period will occur later than expected. Kay reminded the group that all the stakeholder group members are on the SEPA notification list and will receive information about the public comment period. As part of the project updates, Kay also shared the current public art concepts and recommended that people get in touch with Ruri Yampolsky (206-684-7309) at the Office of Arts & Culture, with any questions or comments.

Decant Facility

Julie Crittenden gave a brief introduction to the decant facility, reminding the group what it is, why it's needed and what it might look like. A more detailed presentation on the decant facility was presented at Stakeholder Group Meeting #3. At that meeting, stakeholders expressed interest in learning more about what would be done to control odor associated with this facility. In response to that input, at Stakeholder Group Meeting #4, SPU presented information on odor control mitigation options. The group had many questions about how odor is measured and how the facility functions. Additionally, the group wanted to know what SPU will do if the implemented odor control measures do not work, and how odor can be reported once the facility is operational.

Tree Mitigation

Kay presented information on tree mitigation progress since Stakeholder Group Meeting #3, including the investigation of various South Park locations and SPU's tree mitigation approach for the project. Kay explained that although the current site design approach is to avoid tree removal where possible, the project will assume removal of all 72 trees for tree mitigation planning purposes. Since early 2016, the project team has investigated tree planting locations easily accessible for maintenance, where development is not scheduled to occur, and where there is the least potential for tree damage. Additional investigation by the team since June includes reviewing the feasibility of planting trees along Happy/Scary Trail, constructing green screens at the project site, and conducting soil rehabilitation for existing trees. Kay shared with the group that planting trees along the Happy/Scary Trail and installing green screens on the project site are not feasible options for the project. Details on the feasibility review are in the Appendix. Jana Dillely shared with the group that soil rehabilitation for existing trees will help those trees thrive.

The proposed tree mitigation approach will use mitigation funds to plant 32 new trees and to rehabilitate 89 existing trees along the Duwamish Trail on Highland Park Way Southwest and West Marginal Way South in the South Park neighborhood. This location meets the criteria discussed at Stakeholder Group Meeting #3. This approach allows the funding for mitigation to stay within South Park, and because the trees are located in a single corridor, this plan would allow for efficient establishment and maintenance. The trees will become property of and be maintained by the Seattle Department of Transportation.

The group would like SPU to investigate the possibility of planting trees at Duwamish Waterway Park and the street end on 2nd Avenue South. The group also discussed how the restoration of existing trees will meet mitigation requirements for the removed trees. The group acknowledged that the proposed mitigation approach will improve an ugly street edge along a highly trafficked area in the neighborhood, but they do not think that this location will directly benefit the people in the residential neighborhood of South Park.

Operational Impacts

At meeting #1, stakeholders identified “minimize operational impacts” as a topic of priority. At meeting #3, the group reconfirmed the following list of operational impacts to be addressed by the project team:

- Associated air pollution/maintain air quality
- Odor
- Noise
- Truck traffic
- Truck routes
- Illegal dumping
- Scrap metal vendors

At Stakeholder Group Meeting #4, the project team provided information on how each of the operational impacts will be addressed. Olivia Williams presented information on potential air quality and noise impacts during construction and operations, and how those impacts would be mitigated. Olivia also described the amount of expected truck/vehicle traffic and how much of the current truck traffic (from existing uses) will remain.

Jeff Neuner addressed the issues of illegal dumping and scrap metal vendors. Improvements along the right-of-way and illegal dumping patrols have reduced some illegal dumping in the area. However, illegal dumping continues and is a citywide problem. SPU will continue regular patrols in the area and will respond to reports of illegal dumping. Jeff informed the group that scrap metal vendors are allowed to do business if they have a license. SPU will continue to monitor the area, but if someone suspects that a vendor is operating without a license, they can file an official complaint at www.dol.wa.gov/business/scrapmetal.

Additional suggestions

The group supported the option of creating a facility-specific phone hotline and email address where people can report any noise or odor impacts. They recommended having this displayed prominently on the website once the facility is open. The group also recommended the project team continue broader community outreach (similar to attendance at the Concord Carnival) in addition to open drop-in sessions onsite.

Seattle Public Utilities
South Recycling and Disposal Station Redevelopment Project
Stakeholder Group Meeting #4 – October 17, 2016

Next Steps/Follow Up

- The project team will investigate two possible locations (Duwamish Waterway Park and street end park on 2nd Avenue South) for tree planting and report back to the group.
 - After Stakeholder Group Meeting #4, the project team checked with the Shoreline Street End program manager and Seattle Parks on the possibility of planting trees, including locations at the South Riverside Drive and 1st Avenue Bridge South street ends. At this time, there is no opportunity for this project to plant trees there.
- The stakeholder group will be notified of the SEPA public comment period.
- The group would like to meet again when the site design is finalized and SPU has made decisions on outstanding issues. This meeting could be a stakeholder group meeting (#5) or a broader community drop-in session to present the final design as a whole, prior to construction. SPU will contact the stakeholder group in 2017 when there is more definitive schedule information.

Appendix A: Group Discussion Notes

The bullets below, transcribed from notes taken at the meeting, paraphrase comments made during group discussions.

Decant facility and odor control mitigation options

Questions and Answers:

- In Proposed Odor Control Option B – Why is the effectiveness improved over Option A on the west end of the Recycling Building?
 - *Answer: Option B would enclose approximately 40% of the west end of the decant building (the sewer grit end).*
- What would trucks unload on the east end of the building?
 - *Answer: Stormwater decant material per the current plan.*
- How do you determine what odor thresholds will be measured against?
 - *Answer: SPU will develop an odor monitoring approach and threshold values that take into account potential impacts to both onsite staff/customers and those outside the property boundary.*
- What happens if the study and odor control options are wrong/don't work? What is the backup option?
 - *Answer: SPU plans to monitor the odor over time. SPU will determine a procedure for receiving and assessing potential complaints. If the situation changes and the odor control system is not working, SPU will adjust the system and could even retrofit that building if needed.*
- In Proposed Odor Control Option C, is the air treated only before it's released? Will the people onsite still experience the odor?
 - *Answer: Yes, the air is treated as it's leaving the building. People in the building and onsite will experience the odor.*
- Would there ever be a scenario in which all the bays in the decant facility would receive/store wastewater?
 - *Answer: No. SPU expects there to be 3-4 times more drainage loads than wastewater loads. SPU also plans to keep material streams separate (wastewater and drainage solids) so the bays will have a specified use (drying area for wastewater or drainage material– not both). However, the facility is envisioned to be flexible to accommodate changes or fluctuation in material volumes.*

Landscaping and Trees

- Have you considered the two wetland areas on either side of Highway 509?
 - *Answer: Yes, nearby public property has been considered for new tree plantings, however if SPU plants trees on Washington State Department of Transportation*

Seattle Public Utilities
South Recycling and Disposal Station Redevelopment Project
Stakeholder Group Meeting #4 – October 17, 2016

(WSDOT) property, then SPU will lose the ability to manage and maintain those trees. Planting on City of Seattle land allows the City to monitor and be accountable for the establishment and maintenance of those trees.

- Does the proposed mitigation approach fulfill the project's 2:1 tree replacement requirement?
 - *Answer: While this proposed approach does not replant 2 trees for every tree removed, it does allocate the same amount of funding that would be used under this model. The trees that are being restored will likely die without soil rehabilitation. Additionally, the new trees being planted by SPU and those being restored under the proposed mitigation approach will provide the same amount of canopy cover as the exceptional trees being removed for this project, an important aspect of fulfilling the tree replacement requirement.*

- Why aren't you planting on Parks property?
 - *Answer: The project team did consult with Seattle Parks about tree planting locations in the South Park neighborhood. In some cases, the park project already included funding for the planting of trees. In other cases, there was not enough room on the site to plant additional trees.*

- What do you do to amend the soil when rehabilitating trees?
 - *Answer: The soil at these existing locations is mostly gravel with few nutrients. This was likely due to the standards of tree planting at the time these trees were installed. In the areas where there are existing trees, a soil amendment will be added, similar to compost, to the top layer, raking the soil to mix it. The raking (versus digging) is done to prevent tree roots from being damaged. In areas where new trees are being planted, crews can dig down deeper to add the new soil prior to planting.*

- Will there also be landscaping added along this corridor?
 - *Answer: The proposed landscaping along the corridor will be new trees mixed with existing trees where its soil has been rehabilitated. No shrubs or bushes are proposed to be along this corridor.*

- Have you decided what type(s) of trees will be planted?
 - *Answer: A final decision on what type(s) of trees to plant has not been decided. The current street trees along the subject corridor are maples, and there is a good chance additional maples or oaks will be planted. The triangle areas will include a mix of shrubs as well as some conifers.*

Operational Impacts

- Will the standby generator use natural gas?
 - *Answer: No, the generator is currently planned to be operated using diesel fuel. The site does not have easy/efficient access to a natural gas source.*

- Will SPU limit idling for SPU operations and customers?

- *Answer: Yes. For example, the recycling and reuse facility will include signage reminding people not to leave their engines running while they dispose of their recyclables.*

- If someone has a noise or odor complaint, how can those concerns be reported?
 - *Answer: Once the facility is operating, there could be a direct email and/or hotline for people to report noise and odor issues.*

- What is SPU doing about illegal dumping in other areas of South Park?
 - *Answer: One of the community commitments from the South Transfer Station was to increase illegal dumping patrols near the station. People can also fill out an illegal dumping report online or by calling the Illegal Dumping Report Line at (206) 684-7587. The [Report illegal dumping](#) link can be found on SPU's main webpage.*

- Are illegal dumping patrols conducted on a regular basis or when requested/reported?
 - *Answer: Illegal dumping patrols are conducted on a regular schedule. As public benefits for the street vacation associated with the previous transfer stations project, the South Transfer Station operations provide additional illegal dumping patrol. Those commitments are outlined below:*
 - *Perform weekly litter pickup/illegal dumping patrols on perimeter of station properties and on 5th Avenue South, down to South Cloverdale Street.*
 - *Extend litter/illegal dumping patrols to include South Cloverdale Street down to 14th Avenue South and down 14th Avenue South to South 96th Street.*
 - *Conduct weekly foot litter patrols on perimeter of station properties, 5th Avenue South to South Cloverdale Street and South Cloverdale Street between 12th Avenue South and Highway 509 East entrance and exit ramps. Litter patrols will not use blowers.*
 - *Every month, sweep segments of 5th Avenue South, South Kenyon Street, and South Cloverdale Street (between 14th Avenue South and Highway 509) which have curbs.*
 - *Crews are also sent out when illegal dumping reports are submitted (see question above).*