

FIRST HILL

Who did we hear from?

There was a far greater diversity of comment in the online responses, as 21 people participated online versus one at the neighborhood discussion. However one common issue arose, and that was related to public transportation, and the difficulty people on First Hill experience in getting elsewhere in the city using transit. The online respondents repeatedly cited poor lighting and narrow sidewalks that contribute to a sense that First Hill is all about catering to the institutions and to the 9-to-5 workers at the hospitals, and not enough about the residents.



What did we hear?

- Better public transit needed to serve the neighborhood.
- Pedestrian amenities (wider Madison sidewalks) and lighting are needed to make the neighborhood safe to walk in especially after dark.
- More affordable housing – and protect the affordable housing already in the neighborhood.
- Freeway Park is nice again.
- New development along Boren Avenue , and elsewhere doesn't have the character of the old development that was demolished.
- Residents had hoped for a light rail station, but are optimistic that a streetcar will improve their transit service and access to the rest of the city.
- The hospitals dominate and they're not the best of neighbors sometimes.
- Traffic problems related to too much development (and not enough transit).
- More local businesses serving residents.

For more information about the Neighborhood Status Check, including the complete summary of the neighborhood discussion and the transcript of the online responses, please see the Planning Commission's [report](#).



What are the similarities between the in-person and online responses?

Aside from the issue about the current lack of adequate transit service for the neighborhood, there was little in common between the online and the in-person responses.

What are the differences between the responses?

Public safety was mentioned frequently online, in a range of different concerns such as transportation-related (narrow sidewalks on Madison, poor lighting, and heavy traffic), to panhandling, to crime. Affordable housing was a key concern of the person at the neighborhood discussion. Online respondents desired for First Hill to have more of a neighborhood feel, with small businesses that cater to needs of the residents, not just the hospital employees and visitors.

In their own words...

How has your neighborhood changed?

It seems like there has been somewhat sporadic development (e.g. M Street market was a hole in the ground for years after the Red Apple was torn down). New hospitals have been constructed that don't really contribute to a lively business district. Freeway park seems to be slightly more well cared for and less sketchy. The east edge of the n'hood/12th Ave n'hood has seen a lot of new multi-family construction, but not too much new business (except on 12th Ave, but that's actually part of the Central Area plan).

Poor Public Transit Service, lack of Pedestrian Oriented Lighting on our streets and within the boundaries of the Hospitals, lack of park space, too many Special Needs Facilities (Methadone Treatment Center) located in the middle of a residential neighborhood.