

RAINIER BEACH



Who did we hear from?

All in all there are no glaring substantive differences between the online and in-person responses. The biggest difference is simply the scale of response. At the neighborhood discussion there were only a handful of people, six to eight, and there were 240 responses online. Within the online responses there is a fascinating dichotomy of opinion with one group thinking the neighborhood is really bad and the other group seeing a lot of positive change. The take away is that Rainier Beach is a neighborhood in transition.

What did we hear?

- Although many people have said there hasn't been much change, many respondents say there has been change and good change, except for the near universal opinion that crime is very high.
- Crime is either worse or at a minimum not improving.
- The business district needs to be fixed.
- The light rail is great but too far to walk to.
- Parks are greatly improved.
- New schools are great.
- There is a greater sense of community and more families with children.

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?

People thought there was positive change. There was a mix of long-time residents and new (even though the group at the open house was very small). There is shared disappointment in the state of the business districts.

What are the differences between the responses?

Safety seems like people's biggest concern from the online questionnaire but was hardly discussed among the in-person participants. Online respondents seem less hopeful.

In their own words...

How has your neighborhood changed?

Yes, limited. Hope light rail will accelerate change. Not much new business/retail, need some. Lot of building at community center/ new school. New Safeway. No QFC. Where's my coffee store?

It hasn't.

Yes, and we would like to encourage that the changes continue along their present course. Most important: public safety (too much theft and gang violence in our neighborhood), continue to improve and expand Kubota Garden (what drew us to buy a house in this neighborhood - it is a SUPERB garden and asset), and continue to work on traffic calming (especially a rotary on Renton and 51st). The neighborhood is clearly changing for the better and we are very loyal to it.

the good: people buying homes and taking care of them. Strong community activism and leaders. Good neighbors looking out for each other. Development along the light rail corridor is great. the bad: crime. It seems that "property crimes" have not declined and we still are advised to "harden" our homes. This makes for a fearful and distrustful community and not a strong one.