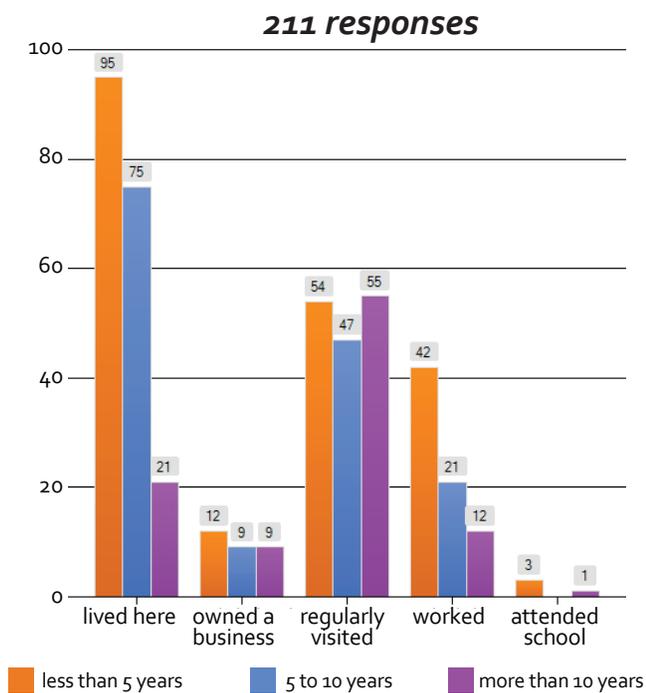


Status Check

Transcript of Belltown Questionnaire Responses

The Belltown Neighborhood Plan was adopted in 1998 and includes the Belltown Urban Center. The map shows the urban village boundary.

In 2009, the City began preparing Status Reports for 24 neighborhood plans. This document contains the responses to an on-line questionnaire that asked the questions listed below. The chart shows the number of people who responded.



Question 1: How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted (or since you've been there)?

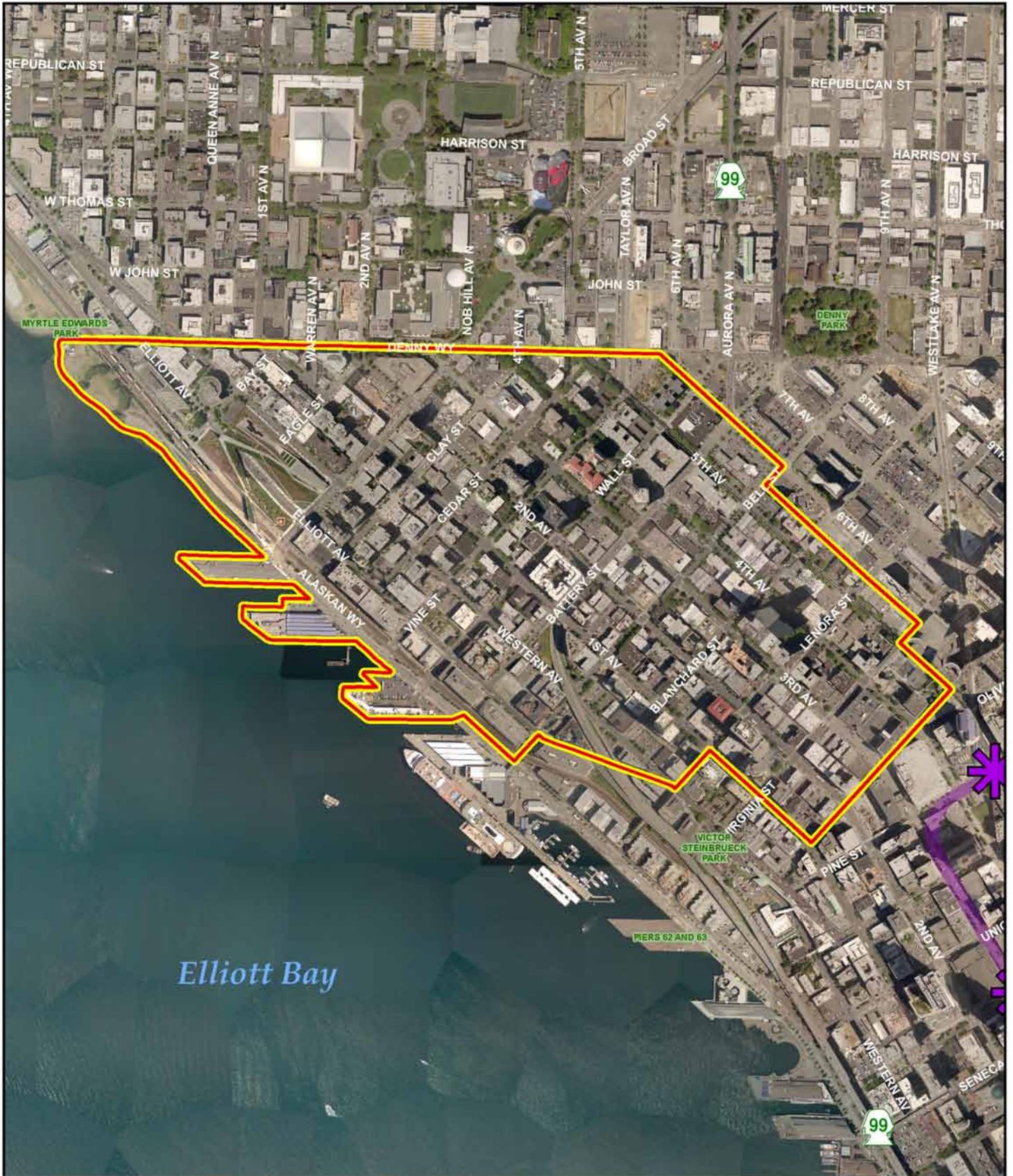
*Question 2: What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you...
most pleased about?
most dissatisfied about?*

*Question 3: Please describe how well your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies are being achieved.
Are they still the priorities?*

*Question 4: The Status Reports should focus more on...
they should focus less on...
Are there important gaps in the Status Reports?*

PLEASE NOTE: statistical sampling was not used for the on-line questionnaire; responses do not necessarily represent the community as a whole.

BELLTOWN AERIAL MAP



Urban Village



Neighborhood Plan Area



Aerial Photo: 2007

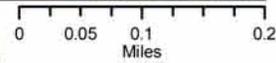
LINK Light Rail



At-Grade / Aerial



Tunnel



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 Printed on: 5/6/2009

Question 1: How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted (or since you've been there)?

the p-patch, the dog park, new sidewalks on 3rd and the repaving of 3rd and 4th aves.

Seen heavy increase in drug activity as well as day workers loitering the streets. The amount of homeless has increased in the are as well.

Much higher density of affordable housing and senior housing, along with service-based agencies in the neighborhood. More high-rise condos in the past 5 - 10 years. Once the city emphasized cleaning up the retail core (around Westlake Center) the drug and prostitution traffic moved north into the Belltown area.

more crime and trash

There is more evidence of policing, mostly private contractors tho drug deals are still obvious Second Avenue, where we live, is much more attractive: new sidewalks, trees, plantings. Other streets nearby have been enhanced or are in the process of being enhanced in similar manner Churches have come in, with more on the way. A park has been converted from a playground where drugs and hanging out were a problem to a dog play yard which gets lots of use Shelters continue to be integral to the community though the number may have declined A great number of housing units have been added tho sales are slower than hoped Retail has grown substantially tho there are vacancies. Many are restaurants or coffee houses and many more people come to Belltown for recreation and shopping The Sculpture Garden has proved to be a major enhancement Myrtle Edwards has been greatly improved for walking and picnicking Seattle Center is in constant upgrade and is heavily frequented by Seattle citizens and tourists I see more evidence of tourists on Belltown streets

Much more housing but very bad packets of crime

I've only been here 2.5 years but I've noticed significant increasing in housing being built (or the start of it being built), the opening of some amazing restaurants (Branzino, Kushi Bar, Umi), and of course the Sculpture Park which has significantly increased my enjoyment of the neighborhood. I moved into Belltown just liking it OK, and I stay because some of these changes made me fall in love with it.

There are more, new, mid and high rise residential buildings (expensive condos or low income housing).

Hasn't changed much, haven't been here long enough to see the changes that have been made.

Yes. Gentrification has outpaced diversification. Olympic Sculpture Park was completed, which is the only significant preservation of open space. Question: given the number of condominiums in Belltown, why are they excluded from "specified owner-occupied units"? Isn't that what I live in?

Greater density of buildings and people. More noise. More traffic. Tagging. After-hours security problems and noise. More street refuse and litter. Tree canopies In some sreetes are adding comfort and beauty. Some new buildings are adding a positive appearance and "dressing up" the neighborhjood. More police presence would help public behavior.

Too great an emphasis has been placed on the accommodation of social services outlets.....at the expense of other viable development, particularly in the Belltown core zoning.

Well- for better and worse. the growth of apartment buildings, retail, etc. has been positive. the street drugs, homeless, crime, dirt - much worse.

Belltown has been transformed from a scattered collection of low-rise commercial buildings and parking lots with a smattering of residential buildings to a vibrant, higher density neighborhood that looks to improve its urban landscape, individualism and safety.

More buildings have been built, some with public art and interesting sidewalks like vine street. Belltown park became a dog park, that's a big improvement. Speakeasy burned into a shell and finally got torn down. Many businesses have come and gone, a few sustain all the time. There seems to be a net increase in neighborhoody businesses. Sculpture park got built, it's a slight improvement but mostly I like the running path. I like the new cruise ship terminals out at the end. I will be happy when all the repaving is done. I chipped into the Tillicum Park lighting but I don't often get down there so haven't noticed the difference.

It's hard for me to tell. I think there's a little more activity (people walking around) but I may just be more aware of what's here.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The drug activity, homelessness, and crime seem to have increased -- Bell Street seems worse than before to me. There are quite a few new residents, businesses. Street life is better, and there seems to be more density.

I have been here only for 3 years. Adding the Sculpture park was a huge improvement. I wish there were more parks.

The dog park has been an improvement, but there still is too much drug dealing going on.

For better or worse I haven't noticed a huge change other than addition/remodel of apartments/condos.

I see the improvements that are being made and for the most part, it should be nice once they are finished. However, and you've heard it before, this city is absolutely absent when it comes to policing the homeless and the beggars and the drug dealers. It's pathetic really. I've been everywhere in this country and for some reason, Seattle does NOT get it when it comes to understanding that keeping the streets clean and free from homeless and beggars INCREASES revenues for local businesses and improves the overall quality of any neighborhood. Oh, but that would be hurting someone's feelings, huh? Seattle will never get it.

Fewer affordable rentals. More high rise condos. 1st Ave nightspot activity has increased. More traffic. Less parking. Most local businesses are service oriented; high cost of living means most residents work elsewhere, and vice versa. Socioeconomic character is mostly middle to middle upperclass white middle age as might be expected from the residential cost. Parking situation has deteriorated with the completion of SAM Sculpture park, installation of electronic parking meter units.

Residential building growth, reduction of free parking spaces.

Too many high rise building over 100 ft

Unfortunately, a lot of new (very) high rise. We feel like the neighborhood is sacrificed to build as many new condos as possible

Yes, I feel like the neighborhood has been cleaned up due to extra police presence.

Yes, there has been a lot of condo construction.

The number of transits have increased, drug dealing has increased, dirty streets increased. Clubs/restaurants/bars seem to decrease - that's sad to me as it's vital to keep a healthy entertainment component to Seattle and Belltown should be that neighborhood. LOTS more condos too many lower income apartments. Not enough open space. WE NEED ZONED PARKING! Other neighborhoods have it, we should not have to pay \$2.50 every 2 hours to live in our homes!

In the year + that I have lived in Belltown the recovery cafe has moved, the crocodile lounge has reopened and there appears to be increased construction.

There has been much new construction creating more residential and commercial space. Many business new business continue to open. The sculpture park was completed. The street crime/drug dealing/prostitution/hustling has increased. Street parking has become more of an issue.

Belltown changed quite a lot! There are a lot more restaurants, shops, night-clubs, high-risers and a few skyscrapers. The Sculpture park was a great addition to the neighborhood. Overall the neighborhood looks cleaner but there are still some areas where people still buy/sell drugs.

Improved. Could use some more trees / greenspace. Impressed by the quality of new residential buildings.

More condominiums; revitalization of some dilapidated properties; more traffic; less parking.

Completion of the Olympic Sculpture Park provided an exquisite amenity and "backyard" for the neighborhood, also giving much better access to Myrtle Edwards Park. The addition of new condos has added many more residents which in turn has improved the sense of safety in the neighborhood. Good restaurants and services - both those that have been in the neighborhood for awhile plus some notable newcomers add to creation of an interesting, walkable neighborhood that has some patina - not overly chic (a good thing). Druggers and sale of drugs on the streets seemed to escalate when police cracked down on problems in the downtown core. Moving the day labor location has created some changes on Western Avenue. Though the laborers were not an issue, there were many druggers who infiltrated the area too.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

More large condo buildings have been built. There is more "mobility," perhaps less involvement with the neighborhood.

noticed several new businesses, drug activity/chaos seems to have held steady if not declined on a somewhat noticeable/experiential level

Density has increased enormously, along with increased street vitality, nightlife, noise, drug dealing, and violence. We have gained nonprofit provided homeless/low-income and higher market-rate housing, but have lost affordable workforce housing. We have gained restaurants, mini-marts, and fashion designers, but lost basic service providers for hardware, gardening, drugs/sundries, lumberyard, books/records, and medical clinic. Regrade Park is now a dog park. The Belltown Community Center project is dead. Western and Elliott avenues remain freight corridors through the densest residential population in the city and lack pedestrian amenities and safety provisions. The Viaduct and Battery Street Tunnel continue to negatively impact Belltown. Hopefully, the Viaduct will be coming down in my lifetime.

It hasn't changed. Maybe there are nicer restaurants and bars.

Yes, there have been changes, however, all there were more plans in place that have not been accomplished.

Their is a visible increase in transients & homeless. Drug Activity has increased as well. Several businesses in the community have become a magnet for the low/no income population. Friends, family and visitors are intimidated by the people that visit and rest in the neighborhood. Improvements to sidewalks and the Clean Alleys program have been a step in the right direction.

Many improvements, most especially Regrade Park. However, criminal activity has not been seriously addressed by the city, nor has anti-social behavior, and both contribute to most negatives attached to our neighborhood. This is shameful.

My neighborhood has become more dense. I have observed more retired people in the neighborhood. We have more condominiums. We have an increased amount of transients, homeless, mentally ill, and drug dealers.

The noise, homeless, and drug dealers don't seem to have lessened any. I can't say I've noticed any significant changes except the PeaPatch cottages were renovated.

Prior to late 2008, the most notable changes related to real estate. Large numbers of developments in residential condos and a few public space projects (like SAM) stand out in my mind. Maybe there is a bit more polarization economically because of these developments: very high end or very low end and a smaller percentage of people in the middle. I always felt it was evolving in a very random, unplanned way -- so I was very encouraged to see that there is, indeed, a plan AND a process to receive input for that plan. One thing that has not changed in the last 8 yrs (my time in the neighborhood) -- we have no meaningful progress or vision for the viaduct. (Saying we can build a tunnel but without a reasonable expectation of proper budgeting or funding is not a vision) The stops/starts with regard to light rail have also been discouraging. Now that some runs are coming online, it feels like a disappointment to wait this long, spend this much money and...this is is?

I have only lived here for 6 months. I rented an apartment at first at the Olympus across the street from the Spaghetti Factory. After 3 months I decided I loved it so much I bought my second home here. My main home is on Vashon Island. I have worked in Belltown for 4 years located at Elliott and Wall. I love Belltown. I am a native of Seattle being born and raised. I have seen tremendous change in the last 30 years. The Olympic Sculpture Park is beautiful. What a awesome job. I hope that the proposed "park boulevard" turns out just as well.

Lots of construction

In the two years I have lived in Belltown, improvements include cleaner alleys. I see, however, more and more drug deals taking place openly during daytime hours.

Lots of road construction projects, development that has started and frozen, reduction of affordable and available parking, more social, violence and drug issues in areas that used to not have them

There is so many more crazy people on the street now and there are never any police patrolling the area

More crime. More gunshots.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Major increase in residents. More retail and other services available to those who live in the neighborhood. Olympic Sculpture Park is a major new amenity.

Yes, the amount of homeless in the area is very concerning. The loitering on 3rd ave and Lenora is very scary and I walk down to 2nd or 4th because I don't feel safe. It should not feel this way.

More homeless people in the street, more aggressive homeless people and mentally challenged people being ruder, louder and hanging out anywhere they like as they wait for the shelters. More street construction that doesn't seem to have an impact other than congest traffic and make noise. The growth of more local businesses, dining must move into 3rd, 4th and 5th avenues. I'm very glad I don't live on first avenue and I won't go there at night because of drugs, drunks and crowds. The sidewalk refurbishment is a positive. I like when the police park their truck on 3rd - I think it's a great deterrent and I would like to see more police presence. I feel the number of officers on bikes has gone down dramatically. I would like to see the growth at northgate such as Thornton Place - be rethought for Belltown. They have a mix of own/rent/retail for all. The only development I see if mega million dollar condos for the super rich - now many are for rent.

NEW SIDEWALKS

The focus on small sustainable businesses in the neighborhood has improved. The number of nightclub-related violence seems to also be going up, mostly with places like Venom, Tabella/Copper Cart, and Belltown Billiards. But places like the Crocodile, Bedlam Coffee, Shorty's, and other locally owned businesses seem to be doing a good job of keeping the neighborhood alive.

It went downhill. Increase in drug activities. Lots of drugged up street people loitering around. It used to feel much safer and cleaner. If its not safe; making it pretty or fixing its streets will not make much of a difference. I believe having various social services concentrated within few blocks of each other, have contributed to decline in neighborhood.

Belltown is quite different today than it was in 1999. There's more housing, but it's very expensive.

Gone downhill. Much more litter, overflowing trash cans, littered streets, graffiti on parking kiosks and buildings. Terribly out of alignment sidewalks. Who's responsible for these? Our own building just spent \$40,00 to replace our own sidewalk on 2nd Avenue. If we had to do this why don't other property owners if the city's not going to do it?

Crime has increased near 2nd and Bell and overall in the neighborhood.

Yes. With the advent of the police department structure on 9th, Lenora has become an arterial for police vehicles. In addition, the YWCA shelter and the food bank, on opposite sides of the street in the 2000 block of 3rd Avenue have proven troublesome. They intimidate my guests, although personally, I am accustomed to them. One Sunday morning, I counted 12 ambulances dispatched to the medical facility next to the YWCA. We were promised there would be NO drugs or their negative effects on our neighborhood. Don't you think 12 ambulances imply some bad drugs on the street?

The neighborhood has experienced a period of rapid growth as new condo buildings have been built, the Olympic Sculpture Park was constructed and several new businesses have opened.

Lots has changed...some for the better and some for the worse. Some of the better includes the okay for the Belltown Park Boulevard along Bell and Sculpture Park, the recent popping up of new outdoor sidewalk seating for cafes and restaurants, and the cleaner alleyways with the dumpster removals. The bad includes the prevalence of the open air drug market that no one seems to care to do anything about, seemingly endless construction that brings noise, dust, and shut down sidewalks that seem to happen all at the same time (I think there was construction on 3 out of 4 sides of my block all at once this summer) and the lack of lobbies or waiting rooms for the social service resources that are all along 3rd Avenue (Ex: the block on 3rd between Virginia and Lenora that contains YWCA, Worksource, Angelinas, and another shelter across the street leads to people blocking the sidewalks with bags of belongings, loitering on neighboring properties all day while waiting to get in, the perfect area for drug dealers/pimps to target, excess noise, congestion for the bus stops sharing the same block, etc).

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

back and forth. seems to ebb and flow with increased police presence and attention. let's put it this way - when there are bike cops and a couple cars parked by the 3rd & bell bus stop everything seems fine. 10 minutes after they leave all hell breaks loose and continues until 4am. other than that the clubs seem more responsible and new restaurants are great. new park planning seems a like a good plan as well so long as attention doesn't die off quickly and they turn into magnets for crime.

More buildings and night life which is good. There has also been an increase in drug dealing and itinerants which is not good. Some progress was made when the park at 3rd and Bell was converted to a dog park, but most of 3rd is still pretty hostile to walking and even parts of 2nd by Bell and Blanchard have gone downhill.

The safety level I have felt on the street has fluctuated quite a bit. Retail shops seem to be going away and are being replaced by bars.

Very few substantial changes.

In the last decade there has been a building boom in Belltown. Neighborhood has expanded south and west, population has increased. With the completion of the Olympic Sculpture Park, Belltown has become an attractive place for people to visit.

In the 3 years I've lived here, the neighborhood outside my door has gotten less seemingly-dangerous.

Yes, the overall appearance of the neighborhood has become more gentrified. Tillicum Park, the Cistern Steps, and various new condo and apartment buildings have improved the image. The P-Patch continues to attract visitors from around the world. I feel more connected not only to my condo neighbors, but also to many others in shops and restaurants throughout the neighborhood.

There are more people, more expensive condos, more homeless and down and out folks on the streets.

+ Olympic sculpture Park; more condos; repairing streets and sidewalks - more crime

I notice more open drug dealing and panhandling .

Yes. Belltown has become a burgeoning, dense and diverse neighborhood. Capitalizing on its diverse history, I believe most Belltown residents wish to keep some of the same eclectic diversity that formed this neighborhood. However, in doing so, we MUST take care of the homeless population, the drug population and -- most important to me -- the litter and filth on the streets of our neighborhood. As a downtown resident, I walk alot and keep my car in the garage. And as I walk to downtown, the waterfront, through my Belltown neighborhood, I am literally sickened by the garbage, litter and filth on the streets. I generally pick up litter on my walks -- but I must sometimes walk several blocks before there is a trash can in which to deposit the waste. Also -- I'm appalled that merchants in Belltown don't take responsibility for picking up and disposing of trash on their blocks! It seems to me that Belltown merchants, restranteurs and others would do better business if the sidewalks in front of their establishments were regularly cleared of litter and debris. This goes for cigarette butts. Shorty's on 1st Avenue for instance -- the pile of cigarette butts at the curb, which I assume they're thinking the City is going to take care of, is sickening. Same goes for clubs whose litter from the night before is evident the day after. Same goes for parking lot owners whose lots are refuse-bins for beer cans, food wrappers and every other other thing imaginable. Leasors who make money off of their properties should be responsible for the clean-up that comes with their properties. I propose that block-by-block merchants gather and find solutions to dealing with the litter and filth on their block. If everyone did that, it would go a long way in alleviating the problem.

The neighborhood improvements (Sulpture Park, P-patch, dog park) have personalized Belltown and improved safety. The neighborhood is much more inviting to those of us who live here as well as to outside visitors.

Overall, the neighborhood has improved, but there is still much room for further improvement.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Belltown P-Patch has improved in quality and appearance significantly. The Cistern steps was constructed, but due to problems in construction or communication or planning has never been operable. Greening Vine was begun, but never completed. Crime has increased, decreased and is on the increase again. Several new condos have been constructed. Several new restaurants have opened. Few have closed. Sculpture Park is open and serves as an amazing asset to the community. There have been improvements in Myrtle Edwards Park Traffic has increased significantly. Dog Park on 3rd has opened. Reports indicate drug trafficking is on the increase. Small corner groceries have opened. Handicap access is being added to the curbs at corners of sidewalks.

There are more condos now than when I first moved here. There are several new building that have gone up in the past three years. The crack addicts have not spent time under my window this summer. That's a plus! Rents have gone up considerably, although my apartment has not increased in size, and there have been no improvements to the building, inside or out. Funny. . . Many businesses have come and gone. 4th avenue is finally improving between Bell & Battery. There is a lovely new gallery there, and 2nd Friday artwalks are beginning to catch on.

Yes

The Olympic Sculpture park was built and many of the streets are friendlier for walking.

It has become dirtier and noisier. There is definitely more graffiti. I feel that there is not enough of a police presence. What police there are do not attempt to interact with the residents. Several times I have attempted to smile and say "Hello" to the cops on bikes. Not once have I received a response or a nod of recognition. I feel that the police are almost afraid to interact with the people and are more comfortable to sit on their bikes and talk to each other. Studies have shown that there is less crime when the police act as part of the community instead of sitting around as outsiders. Seattle has an incredible tolerance for aberrant behavior and this will be our downfall. People will not commit crimes if they feel that they are being included or recognized. And people will feel better about their neighborhood if they feel there is some kind of partnership with the police. People who they know and recognize.

More nightlife, although the quality of nightlife has dropped. Feel more secure.

I moved here from First Hill a year ago, so I cannot tell significant "changes" made in Belltown in details, but I can tell improvement in some area since I moved to Seattle 19 years ago. However, this is what I found that need to be improve in Belltown. 1. Still have streets drug dealing. 2. Trash, (beer cans, bottles, discarded food, etc) cigarette butts (especially on the streets by bars and night clubs where business owners let clients smoke outside of their premises.)

1) Within these 2 years, the feeling of Belltown, with new condo buildings popping up every year, is one of OVER-CROWDING. And as more condo buildings are built right smack against each other, we have the sad realization that a lot of the SKYLINE IS GONE. 2) NOT IN KEEPING WITH ESTABLISHED BELLTOWN DESIGN STANDARD is the Elliott/Cedar proposed project in regards to a) the courtyards and garden areas adjacent to the Bellora complex and b) the distance between South Bellora and the North 2600 building.

Lots of construction, including condos, businesses and the Olympic Sculpture Park.

NA

Belltown seems to have "declined" somewhat in the last 3 years. Previous to that it was quite thriving and active. The dog park at 3rd and Bell was a major improvement. There are still more junkies and do-nothings than necessary walking around. I am not sure if the move by Casa Latina was a catalyst or not but it seems that the useless drug dealers on Western at Bell who used to be there in the morning are more sparse. Since the latest recession started many restaurants do not serve lunch anymore. I was pleasantly surprised to see places full on a recent Thursday night (I think it was July 30).

Grown substantially over the last ten years. When we moved in we had police coverage often. Now we don't see much in our area that needs policing. Drugs, dirty street, and poor lighting.

Yes, there have been more residential housing units built, the sculpture part was developed, and with it improvements to Myrtle Edwards park. Have not experienced any additional development to Vine or Bell streets. The only pedestrian friendly improvements that I've noticed have been aligned with new housing developments.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Denser residential population. Sculpture Park added.
More burglaries.

More residents. More visitors. Cleaner streets. More visible drug sales. Lots more children out on the streets. Lots of dogs, runners, tourists... Overall, a larger variety of people out (not just empty-nest residents, office workers, and twenty-somethings clubbing on weekends), and people are out at a greater variety of times. Lots of construction (and therefore fewer vacant lots and parking lots). More traffic on Elliott, Western & First. More restaurants, and a greater variety of them. The Sculpture Park has been a wonderful addition, and has contributed to the positive change (as well as the increased number of cruise boats). But there still doesn't seem to be any central anchoring core. Sometimes it's First & Battery, sometimes 3rd & Virginia, sometimes nowhere in particular -- it seems to really depend on the season and the restaurants/stores that are in business.

More drug sales out in the open. More people urinating openly. More drunkenness and drinking openly. More begging, shouting, more trash, more urine soaked smelly streets.

more condos, fewer places to rent - especially affordable ones. Less parking and the enforcement is of payment violations not of safety violations. Crime is distinctly a problem. It's moved around rather than dealt with and is at such a level that even the area cops when called to certain types of crime or certain locations just give responses like "heh, it's just the local crackheads, ain't much we can do". Plus there's way too many places serving alcohol with too many of them overserving for this neighborhood to have any sort of long term residential feel. It's like watching a housewife chase mice with a broom. A problem is solved in one tiny area to just pop up again in 2 or 3 others a mere few blocks away. Doesn't matter if we're discussing crime, alcohol, homelessness or anything else plaguing Belltown.

Crime is up - more homeless on streets

significant increase in housing units. Increase in restaurants and nightlife. Olympic Sculpture park provides a great neighborhood amenity.

lots of apts bldgs. Consequently lots of people and dogs.

The residential population has increased with the addition of high-rise apartments/condo's. New restaurants and clubs have followed. Unfortunately, the clubs have introduced noisy and unruly behavior after they empty out late at night. Drug activity has increased, particularly in the alleys. In general, the perpetrators are not Belltown residents. Overall, the appearance of Belltown has improved over the twenty years we have lived here(Sculpture Park, Vine St., etc.).

A lot more development has taken place, causing me to become very aware of the mix between mid-rise buildings up to 5 stories and the high rise buildings. Inevitably, this concerns me that without a strong voice from residents in urban planning, the streets of Belltown could end up looking like the financial district - inhospitable and empty, except for people who are on their way to somewhere else. On a positive note, the majority of the bars & nightlife are concentrated in a single location, so residents can choose whether they live near that area or away from that area. A common complaint that I hear and share is that much of the district suffers from littering and frequently smells like urine. Expansion of MID into Belltown was proposed a few years ago but doesn't appear to have moved forward. I always notice how clean the Westlake area is, despite its high volume of foot traffic and homeless people and attribute this largely to the MID workers I see cleaning the streets.

The buildings have gotten larger and denser. I used to be able to see the Sound in many places while walking on 1st Ave. - now there are mostly only glimpses of it. The P-Patch is better now, however, with the renovated cottages and the "missing piece" of property added to it. The 3rd and Bell park as a dog park is a vast improvement. The SAM Sculpture Park is an amazing addition to the neighborhood.

Sculpture Park/Mrytle Edwards Park are great.

The Olympic Sculpture Park has been the biggest single improvement, although businesses on 2nd Ave. seems to be finally taking advantage of long-ago street and sidewalk improvements. 1st Ave. seems to be losing some of its luster. That may be due to the down economy. The drug dealing and vagrancy seems to be up as well. Again, that may be the economy but also my perception of having lived here several years and grown tired of the wreckage Friday and Saturday nights leave behind on street cleanliness. Would love to go out on a Sunday morning and not find a garbage-strewn street.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

In the last 2.5 years, I've seen a slight decrease in crime, panhandling, graffiti and open drug trade, but it still remains a visible problem. More police presence is still needed. Belltown Citizen's on Patrol (BCOP) has made a difference.

There's been modest improvement, largely in sidewalks, tree plantings, and in street paving (normal maintenance). A new "street park" is planned for Bell St., but a true and 'usable' City Park for Belltown has been discussed for a long time, and is still needed. Drug dealing is temporarily down since the "Honduran" bust, but seems to be on the upswing. My biggest concern however is Noise! Sirens, motorcycles, loud cars and late night bar closings all contribute, but the problem is greater in Downtown/Belltown than in most other urban areas due to the increase in sound levels in the "canyons" formed by the concentration of high rise buildings that naturally amplify them. I suggest that (as in other cities, like Beijing, for example), except in "life-threatening" situations or true emergencies, that sirens be banned . . . and efforts made to attack other sources of 'illegal' noise (over-loud motorcycles and cars).

More condos, the olympic sculpture park

11 large (more than 75 units each) condo developments built; more drug activity along Bell Street and farther away from Western where it used to be concentrated; feel more unsafe in early evenings from clusters of youths just hanging out on corners; 5 local businesses went out of business and only 3 replaced with another business

I has improved with more services restaurants retail etc. Still too much vagrancy drug dealing crime

There has been an increase in residential housing. The restaurant scene has developed quite well. The sculpture park is amazing! I don't see much crime or homeless in my area but I hear that it has increased on 1st ave.

1) CRIME: crime has become much more "visible," in that i see it for myself and read about it in the media. Concurrently, i've seen a major decrease in police presence. I used to see police patrols regularly in the early morning (5-7a) and now it's rarely to never -- unless they're responding to a call. 2) BUSINESS: the economy definitely has left its mark in Belltown. Seeing WAY too many empty storefronts and am concerned this could be a blocker in creating a healthy and vibrant neighborhood. 3) HOUSING: definitely have seen more and more residential buildings pop up since i moved in. I like seeing that, but one thing that has failed in this regard is clear planning on traffic control and mixing in more green spaces and/or places to get people to get out into the neighborhood.

POSITIVE CHANGES: Belltown's density has increased, older vacated buildings have been rehabilitated and occupied making it a lively neighborhood. NEGATIVE CHANGES: In the last 2 years, Belltown has experienced increased Illicit drug traffic, prostitution, shootings, graffiti, gang violence and an over active late night bar scene, all of which are causing residents and businesses to relocate to other neighborhoods for safety and security. Many businesses, retail and restaurants, are having difficulty continuing to attract their prior regular customers because of the increased violence and illegal activity on the streets, both day and night, and are planning to relocate. Being a landlord, I hear a lot of that now, as opposed to 4 years ago when I had multiple applicants for vacant spaces, and the quality of tenants was greater than today. Presently the Lampreia & Flying Fish restaurants are looking to relocate to safer neighborhoods to draw back their higher end clientele. Fine dining is being replaced with more bars.

More drug activity. Attempts to curb it have been moderately successful. Better signage and media presence over the last 10 years.

just moved there

Residential construction has increased the density of the 'hood

street care has deteriorated. More homeless, drug related events.

More park space Steady level of crime

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The completion of the Olympic Sculpture Park and the bridges over Elliott and the rail tracks has had a big impact in the pedestrian access and safety to the waterfront and Myrtle Edwards Park. The idea of greening Vine Street is good, but seems to be moving slowly. The plan to make Bell street a pedestrian connection from the waterfront to Denny Park is very desirable and I am eagerly anticipating the completion. The new private construction projects and assisted in cleaning up some of the dinghy neighborhoods, but there needs to be much more efforts to clean-up our sidewalks and streets. Is there an ordinance that requires the property owners or tenants to be responsible for keeping their frontage and alleys in a clean condition?

Lots of new condo developments. The usual amount of restaurant churn due to a highly competitive scene. Less homeless seem to be about than 10 years ago. Open air drug deals still happens, though more spread out than the old spots at 3rd and Bell or 2nd and Bell. I do think the neighborhood appears cleaner (trash in street) than it did 10 years ago. Car breakins are still a huge problem. I live and work in the neighborhood and I probably see broken car window glass a few times a week as I walk to work. Police presence is almost non-existent like 10 years ago. I see far more parking enforcement than anything else. You can't park illegally, but you can get away with car break ins it seems.

I have seen the neighborhood go into general decline. More drugs, more gangs, more crime, more litter, more bad behavior, more graffiti. THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS FILTHY!!! I have never seen so much garbage and filth.!!

Tons of new high-rise residential.

Further demographic narrowing towards single adult population in the 25-40 age range. Larger percentage of homeowners. Increased number of establishments selling alcohol, leading to a large increase in petty vandalism, night-time noise pollution and unclean streets and sidewalks. Reduced number of non-food/beverage businesses. Little street improvement (sidewalks, street trees, repaving) until very recently - thank you. Increased concentration of transient and transitional housing, and other social service providers. Increased level of open drug sales. Community Infrastructure amenities (eg supermarkets, schools, green space, pedestrian-friendly areas, community center, etc.) have been ignored for the past 10 years.

more condos

went from bad to worst.

Belltown seems cleaner and safer. There appear to be less homeless people in our area. I am only here from 7:00a.m.-4:30p.m. for the most part. I have been down in the evening for dinner and it has a fun feeling.

more drug crime, darker streets completion of Olympic Sculpture Park decision to go forward with Bell St Boulevard - hooray! more social service facilities have come into the neighborhood - too many already

There has been a significant conversion of apartments into condominiums. There has also been significant business turnover. While some new businesses are more of what Belltown already has (nightlife-oriented; e.g. Copper Cart), others are sorely needed additions which help make Belltown a real neighborhood (e.g. Bedlam Coffee, Yellow Leaf Cupcakes). I feel that this continues the theme of the past 5 years where the residents have been moving for a slightly calmer "urban village" yet at the same time celebrating the high-energy nightlife that helps define the character of the place.

Neighborhood has changed dramatically since I moved in. There are a LOT more residents and a LOT more restaurants/bars. There is also a LOT more criminals and crime. The SPD try very hard, but it is kind of a "whack a mole" problem - as soon as you get rid of them in one area they sprout up in another. There is also a LOT more traffic and need for parking. The tunnel project and the Bell Street project will only make it worse. But on the whole, I like living here.

Haven't seen much change (besides construction), but I've heard about upcoming changes like the Viaduct -> tunnel and the Bell Street boulevard.

The neighborhood continues to grow and invite new businesses and people to the area. On the flip side there is still a rampant drug trade and poverty permeates the area that still brings a sense of danger to certain areas of the area (3rd and Bell for example)

More condos. Sculpture park. Better paved roads.

It's gotten pricier.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Belltown is changing right now. It's had its ups and down, but I think with a little help from the business' and residents it can really become a great part of Seattle. Belltown lacks leadership more than anything, I don't agree with the direction many projects in Belltown have gone. I'm forced to think that too many human services/ transitional housing programs have taken roots in Belltown. I'd like to see a new stronger focus now on retail, restaurants, and theater venues in Belltown would be a better focus for the next decade. I could go on and on about what Belltown can do to really stand out as it should. Want more, email me, or stop by Bedlam Coffee, PROUDLY in the Heart of Belltown at 2 and Bell

Belltown has gone through surges of both gentrification and regression in the past 10 years. There are less obviously visible drug problems now than there were during parts of the 80s and 90s, but there has been a recent increase again lately. At the very least, the plan has helped the aesthetic and overall feeling of the neighborhood in little ways.

4th Avenue was recently repaved. Repaving is currently underway for 2nd and 5th Avenues

Belltown is becoming more densely populated and much more construction has taken place. However, with more people I haven't noticed more services like trash cans being added to the area or increased (or even existing) police bicycle partols.

I have been visiting this neighborhood for 10 years and lived there for the last 3. 10 years ago Belltown was a dump. Drug dealing was rampant. The 'park' on 3rd and Bell was treacherous. When the dog park went in things calmed down a bit but soon were back to squalid. Belltown in 2009 is full of crime and not getting much better. You have elements of homelessness, drug activity and even mental illness (the large brick building on 2nd and Lenora?) all mixing together for a maelstrom of chaos. All that said, I love living there...I just wish it were a more livable place.

More street level/open-air drug dealing and homelessness, especially between Bell and Blanchard on 2nd and 3ve Ave

More residential space. The closing of Tabella and addition of Mars Hill.

I've only been here 2 months. I see a lot of construction going around, but that's about change I've been able to see in the short time I've been here.

I feel like Belltown is increasingly becoming a "real" neighborhood - more businesses are moving in that cater to day-to-day life, not just high-end shopping or corner stores that sell malt liquor to the homeless. I think the plan is part of that, it's getting people to buy all the condos that went up here.

There has been an increase in crime and open air drug dealing. I live and work in Belltown. My commute consists of 4 blocks along 1st Avenue. I see drug deals every day and people high on drugs every day. I have seen an increase in residential dwellers too as well as more restaurants and bars. The noise from some of the bars and overflow of people on to the sidewalk has become an issue.

Seems like the density and number of people living in the neighborhood have increased while the services offered by the city have remained constant.

I moved to Seattle 3 years ago, and have lived in Belltown the entire time. I cannot comment on anything before that.

Have only lived here two years so it looks good so far. :)

Overall, the neighborhood seems to have moved more upscale. The cost of condos and apartments have definitely gone up. More restaurants, coffee shops and bars. And, definitely more tourists and people visiting the neighborhood on any given night of the week.

I've only lived here two years.

Seems to be more homeless people wandering. Have heard of more violent arrests and shootings.

more crime

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The sculpture park was completed which is a big improvement. The Clean Alleys program is also a big improvement. The levels of drug activity rise and fall; it seems to be on a down cycle now with all of the street construction going on, and new businesses opening in the neighborhood. There is still too much traffic on our north-south streets at peak hours and on Fridays and Saturdays, when the neighborhood is a very popular destination. 3rd Ave has been improved, and the other sidewalks are gradually being repaired. Fourth Ave was repaved with a concrete lane for buses, but I was sad to see the old bricks go. All of the Bridging the Gap improvements underway are a plus. The Bell Street Park approval is a big plus.

Streets are constantly being torn up and fixed, and then torn up again.

More multifamily residential Drugs still being sold

When I arrived in Belltown, discussion focused on increasing access: public usage and safety for the Waterfront, increasing affordable housing and re-working services to addicted homeless populations. Reduction of litter and waste removal (compost waste/recycling) were also major discussions. The proposed building of the Sculpture Park was about to become reality. In four years, the Sculpture Park is the one completed project, and the others are awaiting work. I have been amazed at how quickly condominiums can be built, how few options are available for people with children, the cruelty to of speech around the plight of the homeless and addicted, and the lack of welcome for views that are not congruent with the few dominant voices. I am sad about that. The biggest positive changes I have seen are those that involve community members coming together outside of the traditional neighborhood structure to learn about and incorporate new ideas and form friendships with one another. I am encouraged by this proactive movement, and enjoy working with Sustainable Belltown and the folks at the P-patch and growing Vine St. Also very positive are the ideas and actions that BHLUS committee discuss: while there are a number of different views, each is well researched, and usually the members of this group find compromise with one another and the City. I am encouraged by recent discussion around the tunnel replacement for the Viaduct, and look forward to the opening up of the space near the Waterfront. I am hopeful now that young families might stay in Belltown, and that we are smart enough to continue to add to the things that work for families.

A new restaurant/nightclub seems to open every month. While this seemingly bodes well for the economic viability of the area, I think it does not fit with the plan for diversity in the neighborhood. It also creates an environment that is focused on spending large amounts of money, drinking and drug use. The Bell Street boulevard plan is a good one. I have high expectations that it will improve the street. Security in the neighborhood is mixed. As a manager of two apartment buildings, I am concerned for the safety of my residents at the building on First & Bell. The drug dealing in the neighborhood is less since the big bust about 6 months ago, however there are a couple of nightclubs that still attract negative elements. Namely "Venom" and "Belltown Billiards." I think there is a good mix of housing in the area which creates a diversity of peoples in the area and makes it more attractive as a place to live and work.

Much more hi-rise housing has been put in. The number of businesses has greatly increased providing important amenities to the residents.

Belltown has changed in that there are many more residents and businesses. Unfortunately there are no more basic services that there were 10 years ago. There isn't a grocery store (of size), a gas station, a community center, or a school to service the densest neighborhood in Seattle. :(

It has become less of a retail area and more of a nightlife area. The housing has also tilted to the higher end of the market. Crime, such as open air drug dealing, continues to be an ongoing issue.

Many underdeveloped or undeveloped parcels have added mixed use buildings, landscaping etc. Many improvements have been made to the streets and streetscapes, plus the Sculpture Garden has been added. New stores and restaurants have been added. First Ave has become a social gathering place from Denny all the way to the Pike Place Market, such that the streets are now full of people and feel quite safe.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

When I moved to Belltown in 1997 the neighborhood was on the way up. For the past six years it has been on the way down. People don't like to walk the streets on much of 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th avenues, particularly after 9PM. If it is not patently unsafe it is patently unpleasant on these blocks and is getting unsafe.

a. For this reason it is difficult to rent storefronts for good retail use.

b. There is considerable litter on sidewalks and curbsides. Merchants, property owners, & non-profits are responsible for sidewalk cleanup and laws regulating this are not enforced. Condos and newer rentals are doing a good job. City should initiate a strong voluntary and enforcement program.

c. There is rampant drug selling on the street.

d. A good steady and visible police presence is lacking to pro-actively prevent crime. It's a bit better in recent months since a citizen patrol was started but that is the city's job.

e. The low income housing that has been built is not affordable housing for working people but is largely for transient people with no jobs, or with addictions who are primarily not from Seattle or even Washington state. People being housed are immediately replaced on the street by people coming in to Seattle.

f. Low income housing providers to some degree tolerate drug use under their "harm reduction" rather than re-hab or abstinence policy; not-withstanding that drug use destroys lives, degrades the housing for others and leads to drug sales and crime in the neighborhood. The various housing and social programs have obviously not been working to move people out of dependency and improve their lives, as evidenced by the fact that it seems every time funding doubles the amount of dependents seems correspondingly to double. A policy which would tie in self responsibility requirements to every social and housing program as to going out on jobs, job training, re-hab and abstinence could improve perhaps 50% of dependent peoples future prospects to their's and the city's benefit. To some degree advocates for one reason or another have resisted any self-responsibility requirements. This approach actually exacerbates social problems. Compare the Belltown neighborhood for liveability to the Robson Street neighborhood in Vancouver B.C. which is similarly adjacent to downtown.

testing compatability

FOR THE BETTER: The Olympic Sculpture Park! More tourists who are interested in art make their way down Broad Street. Myrtle Edwards feels safer and less isolated. New independent retail and restaurants in some parts of Belltown are helping to create a progressive new urban identity through art, architecture and community, which is needed to prevent the creeping blandness that affects other blocks. Yay for the dog park. Yay for landlords who attract vibrant and interesting business tenants. Yay for a healthy Seattle Center nearby.

FOR THE WORSE: The residential culture has become more uniform (and less interesting) as more and more condos were built attracting a similar demographic. Night-time street life continues to be dominated by intoxicated young singles and pockets of drug dealers. Western Avenue has become a dark condo gulch with no real attractions for pedestrians. Traffic moves too fast on Western and Elliott. We suffer from a negative reputation of crime and violence.

While I have only lived in Belltown about 4 years now, I have noticed some changes especially lately. The crime, while still present, I feel has been hindered a bit by police presence. I am excited for the Bell Street Boulevard project and I feel it will help bring a sense of neighborhood to Belltown, something that Belltown is obviously lacking. Also, I am excited about the sidewalk repairs. I live on 2nd and the older trees have uprooted the sidewalk. There is one particular place in front of Bedlam Coffee where I see people trip on a regular basis. One thing I would like to see is more sinage, especially for the cruise ship tourists. Maybe signs saying restaurants this way, etc. I run along Alaskan Way to Myrtle Edwards and get stopped daily by cruise ship tourists asking which way they should go. I tell them take Bell to Belltown and 50% of the time I hear - oh we were told not to go to Belltown, it's full of crime, or something to that effect. I think some signs would be helpful to the local businesses and also help out tourists that may want to eat at our wonderful Belltown restaurants but might be scared because of what they heard or fear of not knowing where they are. I wish I could say more about Belltown then vs. now, but as long as the police are still patrolling the parks I think they could be a great addition to Belltown.

More residential density - along with much additional street activity generated by businesses offering food and entertainment. In addition to the upside there have also been more nighttime sirens, general noise from people, cars and motorcycles, car break-ins, burglary, assaults and tons of litter.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

We moved out of this neighborhood due to the lack of police presence. At night the bar people took over the streets and wasn't really safe to walk the streets. The zoning enforcement is in need of review.

Increased population, increased housing, increased diversity, increased number of local businesses

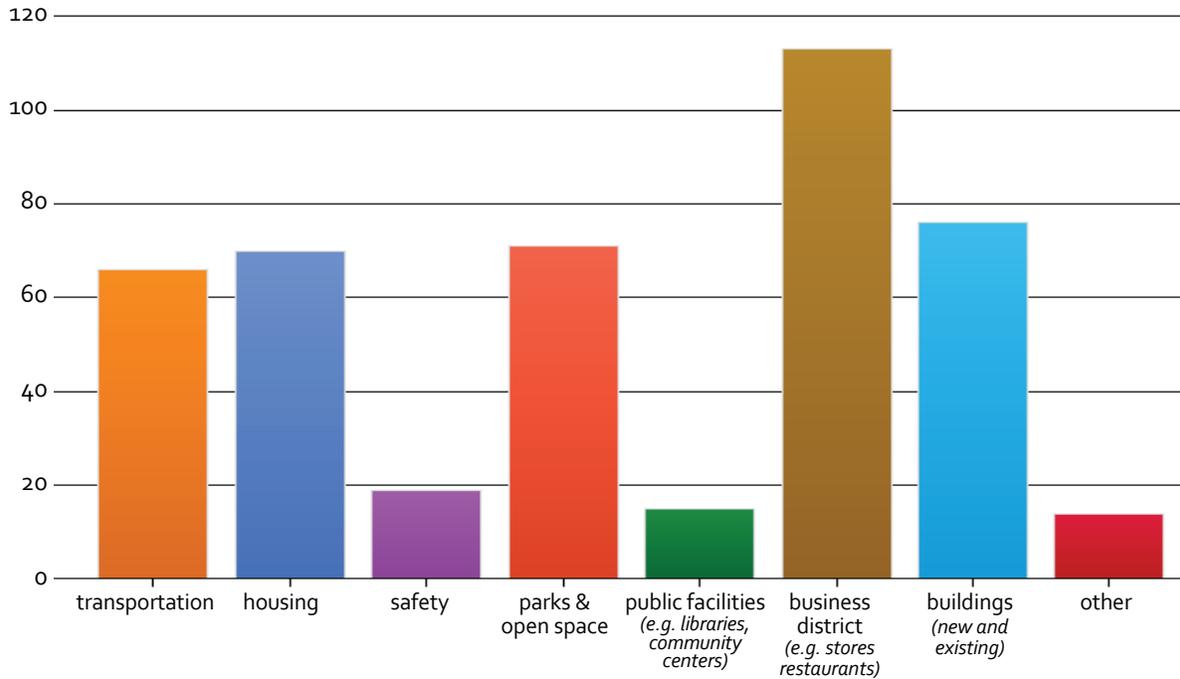
We came at the end of the .com boom. Many new high-rise apartment buildings with leasing agents who wouldn't even return a phone call. After the bust, many services went away, and rents dropped considerably (as you know, they've since rebounded only to have dropped off again with the economy). Throughout my eight years though, the area has remained popular. As a dog owner, I am out at all hours, day and night. The biggest change I have seen (in the past two years) is an increase in vandalism, graffiti, and car prowls. It is common now (and this started before the economy worsened) to see just-broken car windows at night; I've even come across them at 3:00 in the afternoon. The graffiti is everywhere, and makes me both angry and sad. Whether it's tagging, gang-related, or just the work of idle kids--business windows are scraped and the street meters are constantly covered in graffiti. This does NOT create a welcoming environment for shoppers and restaurant-goers from outside the city (who bring \$ in), nor does it make me as a resident feel safe. I am extremely saddened and frightened by this--even if it's "harmless kids", the impact they leave on my neighborhood is huge. When I travel on business to other cities, I avoid graffiti areas, believing they are indicative of other problems. The recent gun violence (or perhaps it's always been here, but I've only now become aware) with shootings at the Labor Temple, Venom, Belltown Billiards is MADNESS--it has to stop! On the positive side, I do feel as if there has been an increased police presence in the neighborhood, and I am heartened by the recent drug ring bust (50+).

Belltown nightlife continues to attract more city and regional citizens to the neighborhood to have a good time. The vibrancy of the area is most apparent on Thursday--Saturday evenings when the sidewalks are full with people out on the town -- I love the energy of the neighborhood and hope this continues. Although, with increased use comes more criminal behavior, such as drug use/dealing, public drunkenness and petty crime, which effective policing has not yet been able to keep up with. Additionally, Belltown continues to develop but not in a very coherent manner -- the neighborhood doesn't feel like it has a 'center' but a number of pockets of activity/development that work only on a micro level. I'd like to see Belltown planning focus on the macro possibilities by looking at the edges inward with some civic/gateway gesture or thread throughout the neighborhood. I'd also like to see some (one at least) north/south road put on a significant road-diet as is planned for Bell Street, with a focus on the pedestrian and neighborhood residents. First Avenue would be ideal to close to traffic with a streetcar along it serving as transportation.

In the time I've been here I've seen very little in the way of city-led improvements, but the number of people living here has increased, and now that the recession's hit we actually seem to be benefiting as more everyday, neighbourhood businesses open up instead of every new business being a beauty parlour or expensive restaurant.

On the plus side, there are more people (and more diversity), more development (residential and commercial), more historic preservation, more parks and open space (Sculpture Park), improved parks and open space (Myrtle Edwards), and better nightlife. On the down side, there is more traffic, crime, homelessness, and definitely more noise due to restaurants, bars and clubs.

Question 2: What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about?



Other things respondents are pleased about:

- concentrations of nightlife areas away from more residential areas
- the social and economic diversity of the residents
- What changes?
- None of the above--feel it is definitely going downhill.
- dog park
- the mix of residential + commercial, young + old residents
- adding of Mars Hill
- Arts Community support
- Historic preservation
- other is Sculpture Park
- The historic buildings, the old low-scale buildings
- art walks, community gardening,
- I am hopeful that Belltown's small foray into parks and gardens will continue to increase as the P-patch has shown continued staying power and the Sculpture Park has shown that open space is wildly attractive to renters, visitors and condo owners.
- waterfront, Seattle Center, Myrtle Edwards, sculpture garden

Belltown' a vibrant district with restaurants and shops. The sculpture Park is wonderful

The Metro system is well run.

The new developments are well-planned and an asset to the neighborhood

I'm always thrilled when I look across the street and see the facade of the Austin A. Bell building. It is one of my favorite old buildings in Seattle and always has been.

Some builders did an excellent job on keeping the design modern but at the same time eco and neighborhood friendly.

I love the idea of adding more parks to Belltown, especially both the "park boulevard" on Bell St. and the "street park" on Vine St. (I live on Vine). Although I am a little nervous about how they will be handled at night. Hopefully well-lit with an occasional patrol? Please keep some of the older buildings in Belltown -- they add irreplaceable character.

Belltown is a lovely neighborhood and I'm really glad to live here.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

First and Second Avenues continue to be magnets for bars/restaurants and clubs. I would like to see these 'entertainment' strips be supported more by the city through smarter planning actions — better policing (beat cops!), sidewalk widening for outdoor seating, etc.

Lovely new condominiums have been built and older ones are well maintained. Lovely new restaurants and small corner groceries have opened and are generally well patronized. Few of the older restaurants have close.

The new construction has been nice as well as the great restaurants that have been added.

I like many of the new condo buildings that have gone up in the last couple years. It means higher densities, which a key goal of growth management. It can also help spur activity in the local stores, restaurants and businesses.

Great restaurants in the neighborhood.

Pleased with the Bell Street Park Boulevard project, but it's not enough. See "dissatisfied" comments.

No.

Clean up seems to be happening.

Great shops, fine parks, public transportation, and interesting buildings make Belltown a fun and interesting place to live and work.

I love living in a transportation nexus, and I love all the sharrows and bike lane work that has happened. And the increased number of parks, and small day-to-day businesses and affordable restaurants (not just nightclubs).

LOVE the sculpture park and waterfront

There is a good mix of restaurants and bars. I also suggest to have a Belltown street festival some time during the summer. It will bring more people in and add a party atmosphere.

Belltown is the BEST!! Except for one major thing. See next answer.

1. Easy access to the public transportation. 2. I do not own a dog but enjoy watching all these happy dogs and owners in our dog park.

I love the cafe-business ambience and the diversity of people.

Continued development, and building of high rise condo buildings as well as affordable housing projects contribute to building the Belltown community as population increases the public services, private business opportunities increase. We need to take care and preserve the unique character of Belltown with the parks, our Old Spaghetti Factory Warehouse, our affordable housing projects alongside high rise condo projects.

This sounds more negative than it's meant to, but my favourite thing about Belltown is how well connected we are to the rest of the city. It's the only neighbourhood from which everywhere else in Seattle feels close by.

It's now possible for me to get to work on Mercer Island by bus. That's excellent. My husband and I are now able to share one vehicle rather than own two cars. I'm also pleased about the planned improvements to Bell Street.

I am not pleased about anything in the past several years. I feel that the city is pushing all the drug and social service problems from Pioneer Square to Belltown without any concern for our safety and property values.

I enjoy my apartment very much, especially the management's letting me garden on the patio

Art galleries, wine bars, sushi restaurants, what more could you ask for.

Lots of interesting businesses, public transportation, and interesting buildings make Belltown a fun and exciting place to live and work

I love that there are so many restaurants and stores, but im afraid to walk home from them at night

I love Belltown's commitment to small, local owned businesses.

I like how new parks are being built or have been built.

The above references daytime.

I like the waterfront area. 2nd and 4th avenue streets move cars well. I like that I am close to many movie theaters (Cinerama, Big Picture and IMAX).

Love light rail.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

I like the new variety of high rises but they are only condos for the rich.

It is a convenient neighborhood to get to and from. It has a lot of good restaurants. It also has some interesting--sometimes attractive--older buildings.

Restaurant scene is terrific and has added greatly to our neighborhood.

The added housing is good if it is kept low scale - not in towers. New restaurants and locally owned businesses are nice but it is sad to see some of the non-service industry businesses driven out.

I like that the neighborhood is walkable. We have many businesses and lots of nightlife. Many of our old buildings have been preserved.

I like the independent shops and restaurants. But we could use more help for small businesses.

The SAM (and the downtown library) should be tremendous sources of pride for many many years.

Love Myrtle Edwards & Sculpture Park

Belltown has great condominiums and apartment products. We also obviously have a vibrant retail and nightlife core.

some of the newest condo buildings are very well done and that is pleasing

I'm happy about seeing the large number of condo units in the area, which can only help make belltown more of a neighborhood and not just a nighttime destination. and it's good to see that new restaurants keep coming into the area even as others close down.

Nice to see "crack park" turned in to a dog park. But I'm afraid it still hasn't stopped the drug dealing from taking place. I appreciate the fact that some of the best restaurants in the city are located in Belltown. But encourage more of that, we need to improve parking availability and patron safety while walking through the neighborhood. Some of the new buildings that have gone up compliment the area nicely.

I want more zoning allowed for bars/restaurants - it builds a great atmosphere and makes Seattle a real city. Rooftop classy bars would be great, that appeal to an older more affluent crowd.

Mostly, just the Olympic Sculpture Park and how it has changed my part of Belltown.

I like the diversity and eclectic nature of Belltown. I prefer better streetscapes over big park space, especially as we have the open expanse of Elliott Bay so close, and access to the water and waterfront parks. I hope the small old buildings will survive. The block on Second between Bell and Blanchard has a very special character, north to Battery too.

Any opportunity to interact with the other people who live here, and include a diverse cross section of the community is a plus.

We have the Olympic Sculpture Park, an extraordinary addition to the neighborhood. With more parks we need more security services and more housing for the indigent and homeless especially the mentally ill and hard core druggies and alcoholics.

Again, lots of new types of businesses while sustaining the existing ones.

I am excited to see more green space and parks.

Sculpture park and it's access to the waterfront and Myrtle Edwards

Seattle Center, Myrtle Edwards, Dog Park are all better now than before. New buildings have replaced many declining ones. Bus service is great, Flex-car is available. As an older woman who walks a lot, I feel perfectly safe in the daytime and relatively safe when people are out and about at night (as coming from Seattle Center)

I strongly support the deep-bore tunnel for SR99

Lots of vibrant shops, restaurants, bars-- I love that the neighborhood is so lively!

Oly Sculpture park (while not quite in Belltown) has been a big positive for the area, bringing in visitors and creating a beautiful space for residents to admire. Changing the crack park to a dog park was also a plus, but help is still needed there.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

a good blend of old and new. no need for all buildings to be high rises though. need to get some of the landlords of the older buildings, where the low income live, to clean up there buildings and the streets in front. a little pride in ownership, or something.

Recently, Richard and Christa organized a 'lights out' walk in which we methodically counted each street light that was not working properly. The City fixed many of the lights, and the difference is very clear and very positive. Also recently, a small pilot project brought some much needed roof top gardening to the Centennial in a public/private partnership. Continued positive work around that project as well as the positive result of organic food production for the food bank will hopefully ensure the continuation of such great work from the City, non-profits and private companies. Parks and green space remain woefully behind that of densely populated neighborhoods in other Cities, however, I am very encouraged by a new interest in these facilities.

The neighborhood has great potential as to the fine waterfront, and adjacent parks - theatres, restaurants, views adjacency to work and downtown and good transport.

While I feel safety has been increased, I still feel there is so much more to do.

I love that living over in West Seattle and working in Belltown it is a quick commute to downtown...no trolley down 1st! Please!

The neighbors have gone out to help in the safety as well as more police. We still need more patrols for gang and drugs.

I love the diversity and imagination of new restauranteurs. I'd like to see some of the cafes that are only open at night to open earlier in day.

City plans for parks and open space are promising, but thank goodness Trust for Public Land/SAM and private money (largely) made the OSP a reality.

I love the free bus zone and use it regularly. I like the idea of the promenade on Bell. I hope it works. Is there an easier link to the waterfront now? I use the elevator on Lenora...

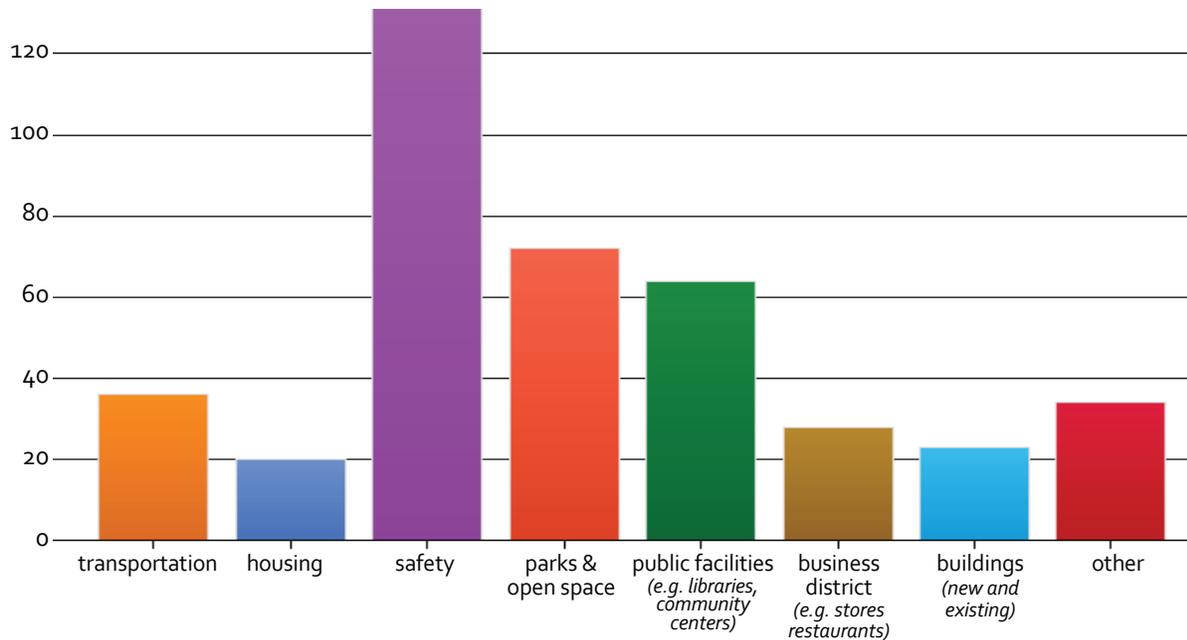
While I like the restaurants and bars in Belltown, I think it would add to our community if more businesses were allowed/decided to use the sidewalks as part of their businesses (outdoor seating)

1. Buildings: Am pleased that "historic" buildings are being upgraded for new uses, such as...New Buckley's restaurant from card store, the new youth hostel next to Buckleys from apartment building, make over of Crocodile Cafe. New apartment and condo buildings are pleasing and have improved the appearance of several neighborhoods. 2. Public transportation to other Seattle neighborhoods is very, very important to me so with Belltown having so many buses run through it it is an ideal neighborhood. 3. Parks/Open Space: I am thrilled about the Bell Street Boulevard Plan and will make myself available to the City, if this kind of effort is needed, to get this accomplished...I believe it will truly be a major improvement for the Belltown community!

I checked three, but that doesn't mean I super pleased about them.

I live in Belltown without a vehicle. I walk to work everyday and to get groceries. Occasionally, I get my groceries delivered and take the public transportation. I am very happy that I am able to live with a low carbon foot print. However, there are not enough safe crosswalks and the sidewalks themselves are not always safe to traverse (especially at night when they are more difficult to see). There also must be more garbage and recycling bins along the streets. Belltown streets should be designed for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transport. I find it disturbing that one of the goals is to sustain an adequate parking supply because this goal is not forward thinking. A more sustainable goal would be to encourage less wasteful modes of transport in this very condensed neighborhood. Everyone would rather see our streets crowded with outdoor seating and human beings, like Melbourne, rather than bulky vehicles, but it is difficult for people to rearrange their lives when they live in a neighborhood that makes it difficult for them to make the right choice. The sculpture park is a great asset. There are neglected portions of the neighborhood that need to be transformed in the same way, especially considering how condensed this portion of the city is. I go to the Seattle Central Library as often as I can and love it. However, it would be great if I could pick up books that I order online at a Belltown branch, and if I could return these books to the same location. Belltown is in great need of a public space, a free space, that is intellectual in nature.

Question 2: What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most dissatisfied about?



Other things respondents are dissatisfied about:

- lack of parking required for residential buildings
- Very few trash cans on the streets
- street people
- basic services; e.g., medical, hardware, drug/sundries, gardening
- LITTER AND FILTH.
- homeless and beggars!!!!
- Kid Friendly Parks
- viaduct; acres of street-level and above-grade parking
- flagrant street dealing of drugs
- Graffiti and drug related activity.
- Extreme poverty; high number of homeless people, drug addicts, drug dealers, etc.
- Hempfest, homeless
- General street cleanliness; social disorder
- we need library/swimming pool
- parking and sidewalks
- Not enough police presence.
- drug dealers
- Drug activity
- cleanliness of the streets and alleys.
- Parking
- Zoned parking for residents
- Housing costs
- Sirens, loud motorcycles and other noise generators
- Too great a number of social services outlets have been permitted.
- Various city and county departments need to work together on the streets--fix things once, don't tear up concrete and repave for electrical needs, only to come in two weeks later and do the same for sewer, phone, etc. Advance plan and coordinate!
- Bars
- Belltown is the only neighborhood in which there is not a reasonable option for compost pick up.
- drugs, police presence, litter, vagrancy, after hours drunkenness
- Street lighting,
- Homeless and pan-handlers on every street
- Litter and cleanliness
- sidewalks and streets
- drug deals
- homeless, crime, open drug use, unclean alleys and sidewalks

drug dealing is on the rise

traffic on western needs to be SLOWED down...ppl drive down western as if they were still on HWY 99. We need a community center in a bad way. too many empty storefronts.

Proposed condo building projects don't seem to keep to established Belltown design standards. Also, we don't feel safe walking home.

The amount of drug trafficking in the open on the streets is terrifying. I gave up my gym membership because I just didn't feel safe walking there (after 5 years membership)

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Still seeing many drug deals on the streets.

Perhaps due to the economic downturn we're seeing, crime has increase significantly. Especially annoying are random car vandalisms. I wholeheartedly disagree with the thinking that there should be 1 or fewer parking spaced provided for each residential unit downtown. The reality is that people are always going to have 1+ car per unit so they will park the other on the street. Reporting & cataloging these crimes are a drain on city resources as well. This policy doesn't reduce the number of cars people own - it just creates hassles.

please see previous comments

Skyscrapers and high-risers might transform the neighborhood in a block of cement if design does not take into consideration existent buildings. I am particular concerned about the proposed Cedar/Elliot Development (Project Number 3009932) http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Design_Review_Program/Project_Reviews/Reports/default.asp

The rapid increase in development and density have been a mixed benefit. It has made it difficult, if not impossible site a community center with the levy funds due to escalation in real estate prices, but allowed for more people to turn the neighborhood into a place for living, rather than just a business district. With this comes the need for additional emphasis on police and safety.

I am very disappointed that Belltown STILL doesn't have a community center (or basis services for that matter). I had to start a citizens patrol in order to address some safety issues because it seemed as though local government and the police were ignoring the problem.

The crime rate in Belltown seems to be on the rise (again? still?). There are certain blocks I fell I have to avoid, especially at night. I understand that water views fetch more money in real estate (hence taller and taller buildings around every corner), but we should try and preserve some of the innate beauty of the city for the public to enjoy.

Ugh... unfortunately, Belltown continues to be a magnet for the drug addicted and alcoholics. Policing needs to be increased with more cops on the street, out of their cars on foot — police really need to better connect with residents in the communities they serve by getting out of their cars. I also want to see a 'no tolerance' policy with regard to drug/alcohol infractions.

There is an amazing opportunity in two places right now in Belltown. One is the greening of Bell to create an urban greenbelt. The other is purchasing the property adjacent to the Belltown P-Patch to expand the garden and create a small urban park. Both are needed and would add immensely to the quality of our neighborhood and the city in general.

Metro buses with routes from other cities should come all the way down to Belltown so that employees don't have to transfer at Westlake.

There are still too many "do nothings" walking around. I am simply sick and tired of able bodied males asking me for money who have checked out of life. There is nothing wrong with them except they are lazy and the city and the neighborhoods should not have to "tolerate" the fact that they have chosen to do nothing with their lives. Give them a bus ticket to SF or Texas.

We have no community facilities other than the Sculpture Park which is a regional facility too. There has been some better housing construction more recently but we also have a lot of unfortunate projects in terms of design and quality. I'm supportive of development - more housing brings more people and therefore greater services, retail and safe streets - just wish it was all well designed.

too much low income housing and social services concentrated in one area.

I don't feel it is safe on some streets - continued harassment by transients - I think Belltown could use a branch of the Public Library

While there are some great condo's in the neighborhood not all are architecturally appealing, also the building designs could be better, improve green space, less impact on the environment.

Would like to see Viaduct land allocated to a full-service Belltown community center below grade at 1st & Battery with recreational facilities and open space and to a pedestrian connection between the Waterfront, Pike Place Market, the Belltown P-Patch/Cottages, and the Olympic Sculpture Park.

Bulk of new construction exhibits little variety, offers little reasonable cost housing; street level retail spaces outside of restaurants/bars targeting 30-40 yr old middle to upper middle class whites do poorly, close, or remain empty.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

My benchmarks are European urban residential neighborhoods and the West End of Vancouver, BC. By these standards, planning for the community has failed miserably. Belltown is all about liquor revenues, single-occupancy vehicle flow, warehousing of the poor, and providing tiny residences for single people. This is a recipe for disaster.

Why can't the meter maids ticket litterers and property owners who aren't keeping their properties clean? Seems like a great source of revenue for the city.

As Belltown's population has increased, there has not been a matching increase in police presence and litter and tagging control - and drug dealing in some sectors.

Street, traffic, noise, tavern and labor temple creates drugs and dirty streets in Belltown.

yea living in downtown, parking and rent is the worst.

The constant drug dealing around 2nd is a little out of hand.

I'm fine with all of the social services that exist in Belltown, and their patrons. Those are essential and they have to go somewhere. It's all the jerks who come in from who-knows-where to go clubbing and bring in their drunk driving and their macho attitudes that annoy me. But they've been doing that since before I moved in, so what can I say? Still, I wish they'd at least take a cab or a bus.

vagrants and sleezy activity in alleys etc

We need to have more open spaces and less homeless people. There is also lots of drug activity in the street, I wonder why the police don't do more to fix this issue. I does not feel as safe. We also need to have more art galleries and places that bring people together. Also a full service grocery store would be great. I think we should start Belltown chamber of commerce which would identify the gaps and recruit stores to fill those gaps (such as a grocery store, a high end gym, hot yoga studio etc)

Why would there be so many halfway houses in a commercial hub of our city? The residents and associates scare away business and hassle patrons. Bad planning.

This issue is HUGE!! Although big strides have been made it is still in my mind a dangerous place and you have to be on extra guard. True, its not Rainier Beach or Hilltop in Tacoma but, I am always on guard and I am a big guy. 6'2" 212lbs. and very strong but especially at night I am always alert and looking over my shoulder. I see constant drug deals going down, homeless people all over the place, mentally ill and panhandlers bothering tourists and residents. The Mayor MUST assign more police to this district. Walking beat cops, motorcycle or even horse would be nice.

Unbelievable litter and filth are in the streets and the city seems to have no policy in cleaning it up.

I do not know if we have library or community center in Belltown.

There are a few times I don't feel safe when I'm alone but mostly, I feel safe.

I'm surprised more useful restaurants / bars / businesses aren't occupying the 1st floor commercial spaces in new buildings.

More park space (that isn't scary, like Denny Park). Streetcar to Belltown!

On-street parking should be a focus for visitors to Belltown. Not everyone wants to take public transportation to come into Belltown and parking for visitors and consumers are very hard to find.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I would love to see Belltown become a great place to raise a family, we have a great opportunity with our existing investment in parks to make the environment even more friendly to families with kids by providing play areas for children in our parks and investing in better safety and security - to make Belltown a walkable neighborhood at any time in the day. We should invest in better transportation so people have a convenient way into Belltown, we need convenient and affordable alternative transportation means to car, it would be great to have the light rail or street car extend into the neighborhood. I think we need to step up our security in Belltown, car prowls seem to continue in their usual cadence, "day worker" area in Belltown seems to have become a place where folks who don't speak English, who are looking for work seem to congregate by the dozens. We need to be able to land a stronger helping hand for folks who are homeless and in need - I still see many folks sleeping in shop entrance, as I walk by the smell of urine is a harsh reminder that we are not doing enough to help these neighbors, who are in need, live with dignity

We need more parks, and the only public facilities we have are health & human services. We would benefit very much from new buildings taking a smaller footprint (PLEASE LEARN FROM VANCOUVER!) and from a complete ban on any new development having at- or above-grade parking.

The same people converge in the same spots and cause disturbance or display illegal behavior. Street lights are not all on and this allows behavior to continue. Better use of open space and park planning would be helpful.

I would love to see more early morning patrols through my neighborhood since there's a lot of drug action at that time. It sometimes makes waiting for a bus uncomfortable.

I don't actually mind all the social service agencies that the city is putting in Belltown. What I mind is the fact that the city fails to recognize that these concerns have clients that bring related undesirable concerns to the neighborhood--drugs, prostitution, panhandling, etc. The city need to provide a greater police presence to keep these problems under control.

I very much dislike living in a neighborhood where I feel afraid to leave my house at night and can't walk down the street without being harassed by a homeless person.

its an open air drug market on every corner with mentally unstable people thrown into the mix. How about increasing the police force so they can cope with the increase in problems.

The environment is like a rock desert. Hot, dry, hard to walk on. Isolated patches of vegetation with very little bioactivity. It's very unnatural and wears on you. Too bad, turning sidewalks into boardwalks with soil underneath would at least connect all the trees

Bell Street is always sketchy, i wont walk down it even during the day. 3rd and 4th Ave get sketchy once you pass Wall Street towards downtown.

The constant drug dealing leaves lots to be desired.

I feel uncomfortable walking around the area at night. The police seem to do nothing and the availability of drugs is insane. The fact that government supported drug houses are nearby certainly doesn't help. If Guiliani was able to clean up NY, then our mayor should be able to clean up this tiny area of the city

Public facility dissatisfaction is more about social service facilities being ill-equipped, too condensed, and poorly designed. Safety will always be an issue with high-density areas, but the increasing numbers of fighting drunk people, drug addicts/dealers, and gang-bangers ranks highest in my neighborhood dissatisfaction.

why is the architecture of the new bldgs so bad?

Clean up the homeless types

We need more police to just be about to discourage car break ins and open air drug dealings. Seems like two teams of two cops just walking Belltown at all times would greatly reduce problems. Wouldn't take much.

You know what the problems are; if we tolerate and condone criminal behavior, and tolerate and condone civility aggressions (aggressive panhandling, graffiti, etc...), we get exactly what we deserve - a poor business climate, fewer good jobs, and less safety and civility. For shame.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The free zone for buses stops right in the middle of this close in neighborhood (Bell Steet) rather than Denny. Moreover, buses that go north on 3rd or 4th are clustered, so that they often come to downtown stops within a few minutes of one another, and then there is a 20 minute lag until the next "wave" arrives.

It is a shame that Belltown, one of the most densely populated parts of King County has thus far been left off the Link plans. It would be great to have Belltown and Seattle Center stations. I am also disappointed that we have lost, seemingly for good, the streetcar line. The buses are a poor replacement.

I wrestle all the time about just moving to Queen Anne or Capitol Hill because I'm staved for trees and birds. I do like seagulls and crows but it's not enough. I really think rents in Belltown must be too high because we can't seem to sustain "neighborhood" businesses.

we need a library

Safety in Belltown is a definite issue. That we have what are known to SPD as "regular" dealers is absurd. That we have so many crackheads that nothing can be done is even more absurd. That graffiti and tagging are becoming common is a sign of problems to come. You're ignoring gang trouble. And I'd love to know where you got your figures about rental rates. I live here and can't find housing for those rents.

Best grocery store option is in Queen Anne; would like something closer I could walk to. I wish people tagged fewer walls with spray paint. Unhappy about people who set off huge fireworks that shoot up 10+ stories at 1-4am for weeks after 4th of July. It is difficult to sleep when things explode out of my window.

We need more cops getting out of their cars and walking the beat. 3rd and Lenora is a mess.

No trolley down first. It's a waste of money. The waterfront is a better choice for tourists. Also it is redundant with the SLUT and Monorail.

extremely concerned about drug use/trafficking

We need more arrests of drunk and disorderly, drug sales, coercive begging, urinating in public. We need police walking the beat in central Belltown, talking to shop owners and residents, discouraging scary drugged people. We need mental hospitals and clinics and permission for police to pick up the reckless mentally ill to take them - not to jail - but to a caring facility, for psychiatric care and where they can earn furloughs back to freedom on the streets. We need a county wide change in procedures for treating them. I'm afraid of the shouters on street corners, and I'm tired of the excuses. Everyone in the neighborhood knows when someone is under the influence of a mental illness. The law should also recognize them. A new mental health facility would make more sense than a new jail. King County jail holds more mentally ill than any other in the state except the state mental hospital. Move the mentally ill from the jail and it would free up room for others.

It really feels like the only shelters in the city are in Belltown. (I know there are more in Pioneer Square.) The number of aggressive homeless and mentally challenged people has dramatically increased. The shelters provide a great service but attract a huge number of homeless hanging out and the criminal element associated with them. It's unsafe, unsettling. It's bad for the neighborhood, the families. Spend some time at the 3rd and Virginia bus stop - and you will see what neighbors see and all those tourists catching a ride the the space needle see every day and imagine the impact.

Drugs are a problem, so I hesitate to be on the street at night. We don't really have any public facilities that I know about. There are no schools or a community center, no place to hold open public meetings. Social rooms in condominiums are not suitable because access is limited. The only significant open space is the P-Patch, which is in the least accessible area of Belltown. I understand many residents do not even know it is there. I also am dissatisfied with "Transportation" as far as it includes sidewalks and pedestrian amenities.

I work over in Bellevue / Factoria, and it is nearly impossible to get to my office in a reasonable time. Also there are very few connections. I can ride my bike faster over there than take the bus.

I think we need a school

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Parks - The Sculpture Park is wonderful, but it's the only one. I wish there was more. The dog park is great for those with dogs, but not really a multi-use space. Business district - the businesses are good, but I wish there was something that actually felt like a core or business district (akin to what the Seattle neighborhoods like Ballard, Columbia City or West Seattle have)

My biggest concern is the continuous building of hi-rise buildings (over 7 stories) blocking light and views of the residents...there appears to be a lack of a consistent plan to protect views and light that impinges on our streets and existing building. We also need a major supermarket in Belltown. The city needs to invest in more parks.

Safety is a huge concern, also it would be great to have more bus options.

We carry much of the city's low income housing units, which adds to crime. We have a serious crack problem, which does not just involve Honduran gangs. We were promised a community center, and never got it. We have no real parks, and our new Bell Street park will likely be the new location of the Belltown crack black market.

The plans for the viaduct tunnel are going to ruin the streets here when they dump another 30,000 cars a day on these streets that won't be able to handle it. We are going to suck fumes all damn day. The Bell Street "park" will only make the gridlock worse. And that particular project will also have the added "benefit" of giftwrapping the neighborhood for as many drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes, drunks and assorted lowlifes as the free ride zone can bring us.

MANY HOMELESS PEOPLE / ALCOHOLICS / DRUG USERS IN THE AREA

Cleanliness is important, requiring the upkeep of existing structures is important to the overall look of vitality, should consider ways to draw more general merchandise retailers, cleaner markets, groceries, bookstores, etc.

I do not feel anywhere near as safe as I used to in Belltown. There is rampant drug use and dealing, and violence.

Still too many panhandlers on the streets of Belltown, even during the day. Not pleasant to be out at night. We could also use a library in the area.

Safety is definitely a problem and my friends usually get chased to my front door. The dog park is nice for some people, but I don't have a dog or reason to go there. Bell St. should be cool, so thanks.

While I am pleased with the recent progress toward cleaning up the streets of crime, much more has to be done. I don't believe that Belltown gets its per capita share of police enforcement.

I don't see improvements in safety or cleanliness (despite higher income housing). Most of the new buildings are uninspired (architecturally). One that is reasonably attractive, Mosler Lofts, violates the idea of maintaining sightlines to the Space Needle. I guess guidelines can always be violated in the name of increased property tax base? Until the recent BCOP activities, I was not aware of any activities to unite residents and business owners. More activities in this area could help with safety and appearance. We shouldn't need to crack down on nightclubs, they should want to be good neighbors in the community.

Belltown lacks any meaningful park space that can be used for recreational activities such as soccer or sports.

Drug dealing continues to be a problem that has high public awareness in the city and threatens the long term viability and growth of the neighborhood. Parks and open space continue to be lacking--there is not a single children's swing or slide in the neighborhood.

I would like to see Bell Street as a green street.

The Metro Free Zone should extend to Denny Way. I am disappointed that we did not extend the Monorail to Ballard and West Seattle. This would have been a great way to move through the City to other neighborhoods. Buildings - disappointed with the zero setbacks and full lot coverage of most all of the new condominium buildings. The Elliott and Cedar Condominium project should be carefully reviewed and not allow a massive block building.

Maybe it's time to put a local police precinct at 2nd/Bell. If they actually close the Battery Street tunnel, the triangle of land at the current entrance to the tunnel would make for a great terraced park.

We could really use a major supermarket in Belltown proper. I also hope one day the street cars running through Belltown are all the central neighborhoods.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Aside from the Sculpture Park there are few parks that are usable. The amount of drug dealers and subsequent users on the street is unacceptable.

Convenient and accessible public transportation options to and from Belltown are non-existent. Riders are often required to transfer downtown causing what should be short trips to neighborhoods such as Capitol Hill or Fremont lengthy excursions.

I'm concerned about the aesthetics of building projects.

Since Belltown is a neighborhood, why can't residents get parking zone stickers for our cars? Crazy that the MODA building was allowed to go up with so little on site parking for its residents. There must be some way to discourage drug dealers from hanging out on our corners till the early morning hours. It looks junky when businesses are allowed to continue placing sandwich boards on our sidewalks.

We need zoned parking I live at the Concord and having to pay \$2.50 where I live is crazy. Zone parking for Eagle.

Just a growing concern about aimless folks wandering the neighborhood.

Architectural design review of new buildings not too impressive. Police presence needs to be improved at night.

There is still a lot of drug and shady activity going on in Belltown. We get little bumps of help from the police from time to time which seems to really help a lot, but they don't stick around for very long and then things go back to "normal." Retail shops seem to be closing and are being replaced by bars. Parking is horrible in Belltown and the parking enforcement is very tight. It would be great if there were better places for people to park longer without the fear of getting ticketed (which is so very common). I wish as much time was spent on keeping crack addicts and other shady people in check rather than ticketing people who are in a spot 5 minutes longer than they paid for.

Too much peak hour and weekend traffic, too much concern over preserving parking. These are my neighborhood streets and I don't care to accommodate everyone who wants to drive through. I hope the First Avenue streetcar becomes a reality. I don't like the drug activity but don't want to change the diversity of the neighborhood, either.

We need more parks in this dense neighborhood. We need a community center. It would be really nice if we could have a community center with community gardens surrounding it, to involve all the people who live here in local food production for the benefit of the homeless who live in Belltown, and the low income who do not get enough nutritious food.

Many homeless people sleep and/or otherwise live on the streets, understandably with all the services here. We must provide housing even for the alcoholics to minimize their impact on our streets. Let's take care of these folks and keep them out of our emergency rooms and jails by mercifully providing minimum housing. It's cheaper too! At least provide bathrooms.

There is still significant open-air drug trafficking. While it has improved considerably in the past few months, much remains to be done.

The safety issue is getting out of control.

Not pleased about the open air drug trafficking/pan-handling/street crime. Would like to see more public open spaces. Would like to have a library branch, we have no public facilities that I know of. Would like to see more business/stores/restaurants attracted to the neighborhood. We do not need more underage clubs that contribute to late night crime.

Small parks are few and draw loiterers and drug users. It would be great to have a library but QA, Ballard and Downtown are all accessible by public transportation

all of the homeless

See preceding question that shows a problem specific to Belltown & downtown.

The zoning core of Belltown has a reduced height limitation which inhibits viable development. In fact that zoning restriction can now be visibly identified...outside of which there is recent new housing development at a density that promotes good street level retail and restaurants. Inside this height restricted zone, only non-profit/social services activities are economical, so the core of Belltown is eroding while the edges flourish. There may have been good reason for the adoption of that zoning plan, but it seems time to reevaluate past assumptions.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

ugly high rise condos are being built. no focus on wellbeing

Too many high rise

Parking is a challenge, and crime is a problem. Would like to see a greater police force in the area.

1. Safety--we must stop gun violence and hate crimes, NOW! Let's get rid of the graffiti while we're at it too!
 2. More parks, green space needed. Finish the Vine Street corridor that was planned, and paint the P-patch cottages. The plan the city has is decent--it just needs to be fulfilled. Bell Street park is a good idea, but finish the existing projects (e.g. Greening Vine Street) first.
 3. Re: buildings--I'm not against new buildings, but Seattle will be well-served if they keep clear view corridors open to our icon, the Space Needle. Those views are rapidly diminishing.

I like to drink and love good restaurants, but the noise, shootings and unsafe environment make this area of town less appealing after dark

We need more lighting on streets; more police everywhere, i seldom see police- the drugs and homeless need help- the streets need to be cleaned by merchants, the trees need to be cut back for light and safety, we could use some street cars; we need more open areas and parks like downtown portland has. the past two years, i have spent alot of time in portland and if i had spent time there first, i would have bought a condo there instead of seattle; the parks and the layout with the public buildings are wonderful. the transportation outstanding downtown. i walk around there and feel safe, and im from new york and la. and at night, i do not feels safe in beltown. also, the older buildings, which could be wonderful, are a shambles. i think they are housing low income, but do they have to look so decreped? old buildings can be well kept and beautiful. again, look at portland. they seem to have it going there. its like belltown was discovered and then forgotten, when other parts of the city were discovered. all the energy for change went over to the lake union area, or now, downtown. wherever. and belltown, got stuck.

transportation: buses are loud, crowded, often do not come at all, when non-bus public transportation is proposed, a very few voices seem to keep it out of Belltown, often with the reasons seeming "made up". housing: a good mix of affordable housing with a realistic, fully funded program for reduced harm housing has yet to become an integral part of our community. Again a number of loud voices against 'more services' concerns me greatly. public facilities: Sadly, these are extremely under-represented in Belltown: some being not to hard to accomplish. While the downtown library is not too far for most to visit occasionally, it would be very nice to have a small satellite, perhaps in one of the very many now vacant storefronts. Could be staffed with a librarian and a security gaurd: neighbors could volunteer and perhaps volunteer hours could count for matching grants. space could be used for meetings in the evenings. community center: As I've heard more of the different ideas, I am increasingly convinced that the right placement for this is in an expanded P-patch on Western Avenue. I believe that concerns that it be placed 'up the hill' are all taken care of by the ancillary library/meeting room idea. business district: building owners refusing to negotiate through the recession and lack of sidewalk street clean up services in Belltown are hurting business owners. Sadly, many are convinced that this is about lack of parking, or the mere existence of troubled homeless people. I remain very sad about this.

see previous comments at start of survey

I wish there was a plan for light rail in Belltown. I do not understand why we have so many transportation options (light rail, SLU Trolley, buses) but none of them connect to anything? As for safety, I would LOVE it if the city spent more time on Fri/Sat nights arresting for DUI's in Belltown. The city would make a ton of money and drunk drivers would be off the streets. Every Fri/Sat night the bridge and ferry kids come to Belltown, get wasted, and often drive home. I have seen so many kids stumbling to their car only to put the keys in their ignition and drive!! I have often called police but by the time they can respond the culprit is already on I5, or 99, or wherever they came from. This would be a HUGE money making opportunity for the city in addition to keeping the streets safer.

It is still a little sketchy on certain evenings; the homeless crowd and the low income housing so close to great businesses:)

Do not feel safe near 3rd and Lenora, even sometimes during the day because of all the homeless hanging out.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The category of transportation for me includes the bus stops, condition of the roads, pedestrian cross-walks, stop sign visibility, etc. These all could use additional improvements.

We do not have the Vine street open concept and we need more police.

The number of homeless and pan-handlers on the streets seems to have increased over the last several years. Not sure if that relates to not enough low-income housing or human services to assist folks.

No trash cans, ridiculous amounts of litter and filth throughout. Just take a look at all Belltown bus-stops -- and also the Western corridor north of The Market, leased parking lots, residue and refuse in blocks surrounding clubs, the 3rd Avenue corridor from Pike to Bell -- and more. The filth is sickening and is the one thing that makes me want to move out of this neighborhood.

Seattle Center (Key Arena) needs to be revitalized. It's an important economic driver in the N. Belltown/Uptown neighborhoods.

I don't know of any library or community center in Belltown. I walk to the main branch of the Seattle library.

There are far too many homeless people and drug addicts roaming the streets in our neighborhood, so much so I don't feel safe walking alone at some times of day.

I moved here two years ago and am shocked and amazed on a daily basis by the rampant drug use I see in Belltown streets. I walk daily from Columbia tower to the north west corner of Belltown and can see generally 2-3 people using drugs or dealing drugs on my commute.

1. Safety: Am furious about the drug scene at almost every corner of Bell Street from 5th to Western and the lack of police presence...this activity at all hours of the day, very boldly being conducted! 2. Believe a Community Center is mandatory. It would provide a place for a farmers' market(which would also have food vendors)art shows, block parties, concerts/outdoor movies, etc. so we would not have to go Seattle's other neighborhoods for these events. 3. Businesses: Instead of more bars/lounges/clubs why can't our neighborhood have a great ice cream store? Why can't we entice some of the 5/6 owners of these stores to open one in Belltown? We may not have as many families as other neighborhoods but folks of all ages love good ice cream/gelato!

Belltown needs a lot more police. There are almost none, and there are constantly safety issues. I should feel totally safe walking alone at night, and I don't.

Parks are not safe as the number of drug dealers, prostitutes, and homeless is very high. This also makes me feel unsafe at night walking to and from my apartment. The police monitoring is poor. I also am frustrated with the late night trash pick up which is loud and at inappropriate hours, waking me up at 2am-4am

Safety continues to be an issue. We appear to have no public facilities to speak of. How about a library? Please put more trees on the sidewalks.

While the Olympic Sculpture Park is a great addition to the neighborhood, it is still missing significant green space to benefit all of the residents. The neighborhood also seems to have gotten less safe in the last 2 years that we have lived here. We are not always comfortable walking at night.

Question 3: Please describe how well your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies are being achieved.

We lack open space, and too many of the new buildings have been block-hogging, light-blocking monstrosities.

As with Belltown aesthetically, there is no 'center' for neighborhood information where do we turn to read up on community news? There is no reliable community forum online to access or participate in. I think maintaining an active and up-to-date website for neighborhood residents to actively participate in should be a focus.

Based on the plan described, we haven't done much to Vine Street other than the cistern. The P-patch cottages need to be taken care of, painted, etc. There is no community center (nor a library, but that isn't part of the plan).

The plan has only recently been revisited so it's hard to judge but there are definitely improvements under way.

I think the park is a good addition to making the neighborhood feel more "neighborhoody". I am interested though to see how well the Bell park will be lit and policed. I do not want it to end up being a hang out for crackheads and drug dealers. A

Belltown is evolving beautifully. I am excited about the Bell Street boulevard linear park.

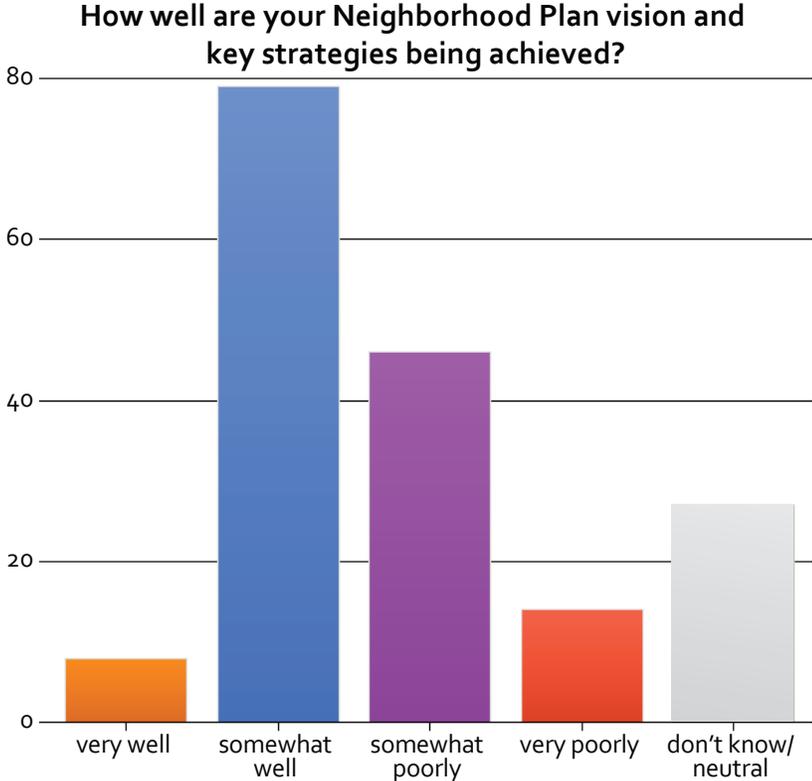
too little too late

The neighborhood plan was put together many years ago, when the demographics were very different, and fewer buildings were here. They need to be re-examined with an eye toward creating a community that works for a large middle class: that way, Belltown will be more economically secure

The Bell St park will be a welcome addition.

Security is lacking. Drug deals still happen all along 2nd and 3rd avenues. And in my opinion, have increased in the last 4 years.

Hooray for the Bell Street plan! And the trees on 3rd and 4th ave.



I think the Green Street and pedestrian connection plans are progressing. The neighborhood keeps its diversity and the historic buildings are being revived and renovated with thriving and neighborhood appropriate new businesses. We still don't have a community center but I prefer a good neighborhood coffee house anyway, which we have. We may not meet numbers on park space but if we can reduce traffic and continue the street improvements I'd be happy to count great street space as urban park space, its the best kind. The alley situation is improving, although they are still not being utilized much for pedestrian and bike connections. Pedestrians and bikes still haven't gotten enough priority over vehicles.

Where is the police presence? Why do I see groups of tourists and visitors aghast at open air crack smoking on the corners? Why do the streets smell of urine?

Security/Police patrols should be more visable. I just don't see police patrolling the area -- just speeding by with their lights on going to another location.

I don't think I have enough detailed info to weigh in on this.

I like the Belltown area. There are lots of places to eat out and grab a drink. I am excited to see Belltown sustain and grow its character.

Q3: How well are your Plan's key vision and strategies being achieved?

I am probably one of the people who disagree with the objectives of the plan. I do NOT want parks - in the neighborhoods and the suburbs they can be pleasant places. Downtown they only attract the dregs of society and I don't think this neighborhood needs that. I also object to ANYTHING that is going to gridlock the city (the tunnel or that even more moronic surface option). I also am entirely disgusted by the amount of deference given to the bicycle lobby. I'd have more sympathy if they actually followed traffic rules and stopped at red lights and for pedestrians. But they don't. And that obscenity known as ""Critical Mass"" needs to be stopped in it's tracks. SPD needs to be enforcing the laws when it comes to bicycles - bicyclists keep demanding rights but don't live up to responsibilities.

I am thrilled beyond words that the Bell Street Park project was approved. However, Belltown still desperately needs its community center.

i see no progress on finding a community facility for neighborhood activities

I do not see the plan on track. The plan is one thing. The reality is we have too much crime and too much chaos on weekends. Too much filth. The police do not seem willing to intervene. Businesses want to move out of the neighborhood.

The city has allowed this area to become another Pioneer Square, a magnet for 20-something drunks from Bellevue, North Seattle and Renton. It is the least family-friendly neighborhood in the city. It is sterile. It is lifeless until 11:00 p.m. (when the drunks start whooping it up - every night...) The sidewalks are filthy. The few families in residence flee when their children reach school age, thus limiting the population to young singles and retirees. All-in-all, it's a rather pathetic excuse for urban planning.

Get rid of the viaduct and improve the waterfront is a very high priority with me.

why does it take SOOO long to move on anything in this city?

Belltown has become greener with more trees and landscaping

We have no community center where groups can meet; open space is clustered at one end (Sculpture Garden and Myrtle Edwards)

Belltown is not as eclectic and mixed in population as it was 10-15 years ago.

Belltown has been sold out to developers

The Vine St. Parkway Plan seems to be taking forever to be accomplished.

Seems like some initiatives started a couple of years ago and never went anywhere (like the plans for Bell and Vine streets).

Streets are being repaired but streets have a lot of walking traffic therefore garbage is found on our streets daily with very little city services.

We have the greatest concentration of social service agencies, shelters and low income housing in this neighborhood. We also have a high concentration of 300k to 1 million+ condos who pay a huge percentage of taxes to the city. In order to protect your ""cash cow"" I think you should pay more attention to the safety and concerns of the people who are paying the bill--so to speak.

The cistern steps are still not operable and the lighting has never been completed as part of the Cistern Steps project. This is a missed opportunity!

I'm unsure of what the neighborhood strategies are.

Not sure I've been here long enough. But the fact that retail spaces are leaving isn't a good sign to me.

Economic Viability and Environmental Stewardship seem to be doing ok. I don't think that Security in Belltown has improved.

The new trees along 3rd look great and the the new park is exciting (provided the community doesn't immediately lose it to the crackheads or become the next Belltown urinal for drunks). The only key strategy not necessarily achieved is the parking supply issue (I don't drive but street parking seems like a concern for others... businesses and visitors).

only parts of it were accomplished like parks and arts. I don't feel that we have a vibrant safe place.

The P-patch and bell street parks are great additions to the neighborhood.

Q3: How well are your Plan's key vision and strategies being achieved?

the green open spaces - I don't see them - I know that homeless will take over.

The Denny dog park was a great innovation.

There has been no increase in open space or community space in years with the exception of the Olympic Sculpture Park. Continuing focus on housing and social services for those most troubled means we have more than our fair share of these individuals in our area.

Would like perhaps a Library in the Belltown neighborhood. Concerned with the safety in central Belltown, am satisfied with the safety in my direct neighborhood (NW corner of Belltown by the OSP).

I did not know these were the 3 key strategies for Belltown. I am not sure how "adequate parking" makes the list (wouldn't ACCESS be a better term than parking?)...but I generally support the aims of these three.

The question is, are we really working on them?

Particularly the strategy to maintain Belltown's unique character(?)

I don't see that a broad range of services required for a vibrant and healthy downtown residential community have instituted. Post office, schools, clean streets, etc.

Our plan was never formally adopted, and on the status report, many items in plan were never implemented.

No green space, no security

Major liveability issues are not being resolved; e.g., noise, pedestrian safety, drug dealing, and violence/public safety.

Doesn't seem like much progress has been made on the greenspace inits. since I've been a part of the community in Belltown (3 yrs)

The plan to turn Vine Street into a street park seems to have been abandoned - what is still suppose to be accomplished north of 1st Avenue? The upgrade on 3rd Avenue regarding lighting, trees, side walks, landscaping is terrific from Broad to Bell.

Bell Street Park (green street) will be completed. However, Vine Street, also supposedly a green street, is moribund. The effort of completing the two demonstration projects wore down the project participants, and, without some help from the City, the street is unlikely to be completed.

More could happen with Growing Vine Street - it is a beginning but needed and still needs better support from the city utilities and SDOT to implement each piece that could contribute to the whole street. Acquiring the adjacent parcels to the P-Patch could expand the garden, use of the cottages, maybe become the community center location which could add some eyes on the park. There is a problem with urban campers, many drug deals, and serious vandalism occurring in the P-Patch - makes it discouraging to try and maintain what is a lovely garden in the center of a dense environment. Having a community center could really help benefit the sense of community.

The diversity and number of residential properties has changed greatly over the past 10 years, so vision and key strategies really need to be updated to remain pertinent.

not enough modularity in new building. limited use of heritage material (bricks...)

no focus on wellbeing

Major grocery secured. 3rd Ave Lighting achieved. Other visions and key strategies are failing/not being achieved.

I'm happy to see the attempt to turn Bell street into a park. But I think it won't work unless some cafes open along that street. A park that is family friendly (e.g., with swings) would be a nice change.

I think the plan to make park space out of Bell St. is great. I am looking forward to that.

I see progress on the Vine Street conversion, and the sidewalk fixing etc as per plan. I just don't know if it'll be enough.

I'm a huge fan of social equity & economic viability, but we really seem to be an "hourglass" neighborhood which makes for more alienation than eclectic-ness. We need some middle class, which I speculate means we need rental housing, but the report belies that. However income ratio chart re-inforces the hourglass problem.

Q3: How well are your Plan's key vision and strategies being achieved?

Incremental steps are being taken to achieve the vision statement but progress is slow. Green streets are have been added but are far from complete. Mixed use housing with some elements of affordable units continues to be a challenge, but organizations such as LIHI have made great strides, and Seattle Housing Authority has done a good job in managing to keep their properties from being crime magnets.

See earlier comments about core zoning detriments.

I never see police actively breaking up drug deals, yet I see at least 5 a day.

Survey states many of these plans were in place 10 years ago.

idk

We need more garbage clean-up (and bathrooms!) and more security especially given that we have the highest number of homeless and indigent people on our streets.

I feel like our open space, while limited, is well liked and used. Our character continues to grow and flourish in many ways. The parking is an issue, I have friends that refuse to visit me on weekends because of it.

I don't really know the plan, but if it is to increase density of residential housing, add restaurants and retail, that goal was going very well before the economic turndown. The apparent inability to curb open drug use is of concern, however.

Question 3: Please describe the priorities for your neighborhood.

I would like to see ""Strategy to Sustain Adequate Parking Supply"" completely abandoned - it does nothing to benefit residents of Belltown, and encourages all the Friday/Saturday night idiots to drive in, which then means they drive home drunk. From my balcony this is rather entertaining, but when I'm cycling home at those hours it's terrifying.

It's a good plan. Could add preserving street level views of the Space Needle.

I think one of the original goals of the plan was to develop housing so that 67% of housing would be directed to a lower income group which represented only 40% of the population, leading eventually to an unrealistically unbalanced neighborhood with concurrent negative effects for all. Most of the low income housing built has gone to an even much lower income group. There has been considerable private development but the future and values for that could falter if neighborhood problems are not better addressed.

A community center and parks with families in mind are in fact now extremely relevant to future planning. The idea that the neighborhood can house solely retirees and very young adults is not workable. Folks in their 30's and 40's with children are a stable economic base. People would like to 'move around less'.

Pedestrian travel through the neighborhood needs to be a priority, and the strength that we have in our few public 'anchors' (OSP, P-Patch, dog park, Bell Street Blvd.) need to continue, grow and be completed.

Need to concentrate more on safety.

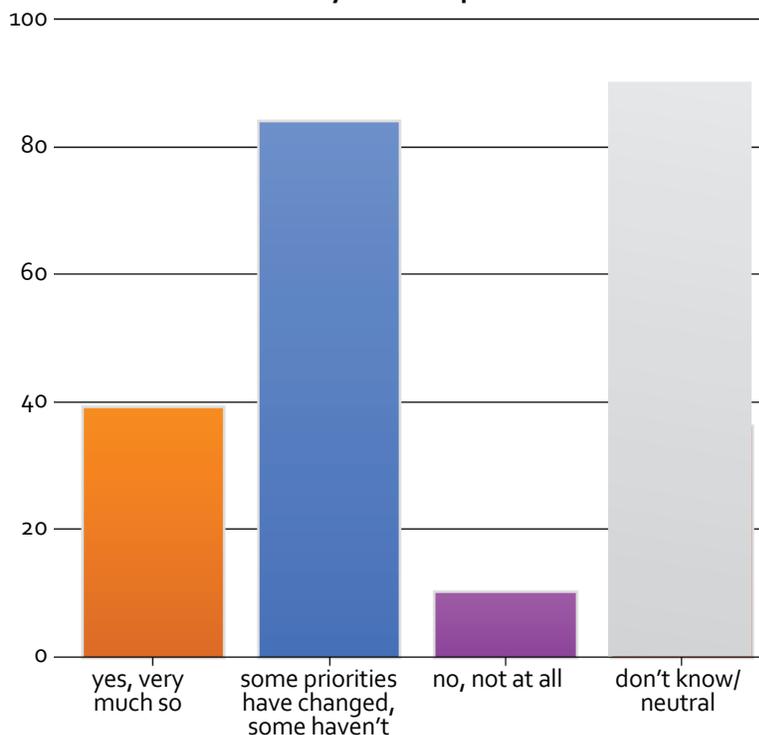
I think more needs to be done to promote independent and small businesses.

I would put safety at the top and hopefully green spaces and parks can help create community and awareness.

I think we need to add cleanliness as a priority. Again, limited trash cans.

I don't think I have enough detailed info to weigh in on this.

Are they still the priorities?



I do not find ""Green streets"" offensive, but nor does it do much for me. I want streets to be lively and exciting. Perhaps we could make it more affordable for businesses and social clubs to start in the area (I see a lot of for lease signs).

please see above answer

I remain ambivalent about parking being a priority of Belltown development.

I think the vision of future transportation has definitely changed but it is not necessarily the view of the residents and business owners.

a priority for me, or for the City? Very much so for me . . .

Vine street will never be a green street that connects to Elliott Bay. It may have appeared that the building on the west side of the intersection between Elliott and Vine was going to be torn down when the plan was formed but it has since been restored and will be there for a long time.

Perhaps this makes more sense to apply to Broad street? That connects Seattle Center to the Olympic Sculpture Park and waterfront, which should see a revitalization after the viaduct comes down.

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

You can't develop a neighborhood or even really have one if you aren't willing to solve the crime problems so that the people feel safe at night. And a parade of drunken, rowdy idiots yelling and screaming obscenities at 2am when the bars close isn't a "vibrant night life".

I envision less traffic, more pedestrians, bicycles and trams.

What the heck does this question mean? My priority is safety and cleanliness. Are they being addressed--who knows? The graffiti increases, the noise, and sometimes gunshots, continues. The panhandling has become more aggressive--my 10 year old granddaughter refuses to walk with me down 2nd or 3rd avenue because we have been accosted and chased for blocks. The bicycle police? USELESS--unless they receive some interpersonal training. I think this city is going down the tubes and I only hope that I can get out with some investment intact.

For very little money the cistern steps could actually operate and result in capturing rain water from the Vine Building and the building on the south east corner of Vine and Western and storing it in the cistern rather than have it run into Puget Sound. The original plan was to have this water used to water the P-Patch. Not finishing this project would be a terrible waste of an important opportunity.

Security needs to be added as a goal. The vacant lots and the drug deal can still be found.

I would like my comments above to be taken into account along with the developer issues in our neighborhood. Although I accept development, I believe developers should share a greater responsibility for the cleanliness of the streets, alleys and neighbors of their developments. And I think merchants need to take greater responsibility for the blocks in which they do business.

Economic Viability, Security, and Environmental Stewardship are all important to me, but the others are not. I would rather see a focus on transportation and improving services like Grocery stores and parks.

While I think green streets/open spaces are important, security and safety needs to be MORE important and it doesn't seem like much of a priority in Belltown. What good are open spaces if no one in the community can use them because they aren't safe?

I think a priority should be placed on stopping open air drug markets and on finding a way to give people seeking social services something more productive to do that to take up all the sidewalk space.

It is a greater priority for Belltown to encourage it's community members to utilize more sustainable modes of transportation by designing the neighborhood for pedestrians not vehicles.

I would like to see the neighborhood focus our energies on being a neighborhood. Be the best Belltown we can be and then let others come as they will. If we have great residences and great businesses (including bars, restaurants, cafes, and galleries), we will all be successful. If we only focus on the residential requirements or we only focus on the business requirements -- we will never be as good as we can be by working together.

I don't see that social equity, economic viability, environmental stewardship, or security have been worked on. I'm not even sure what Social Equity was meant to be.

Seems as if the priorities should change to drug/crime control and then worry about greenspace.

A Community Center, where people could have open public meetings, would help facilitate neighborhood involvement and develop a sense of community.

I don't believe social equity should be the number one priority. I would like to see a stronger focus on community and community infrastructure such as a Library.

Many of the goals to create a greener, safer COMMUNITY are even more pertinent today than when the plans were drafted.

I would like to see a focus on bringing more services that cater to residents during the day. e.g., a drugstore.

I think safety/security, homelessness, and drug use are the key areas that Belltown is lacking. This doesn't appear to be a main priority of the plan.

Well, they are a priority for ME. I don't know about anyone else

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

A few great folks are driving green visions, Plymouth Housing is a great neighbor (I've been really disappointed by opportunity place) but I don't have a sense of a unified community. I haven't checked out the new community council post-Zander, I should. Don't know what Sustainable Belltown is doing either. Seems like driving it through building organizations might be a way to go, I've been trying to build community within my own building.

See zoning, social services, and emergency vehicle comments above.

Of course, updating of the Vision and Key Strategies is appropriate. Nothing remains the same over the years.
- Not wholesale changes, merely updating.

idk

We still need more security and the other priorities were too vague to mean much

I'm surprised I dont see more about Security/Safety here. I have seen some steps being made to crack down on the underbelly of Belltown, but I still feel like we have a ways to go.

Question 4: The Status Reports should focus more on...

Parks, pedestrian-friendliness, connections to the waterfront, policing of drunk drivers, encouraging bars and cafes to maximise outdoor seating

Middle-income housing stock. Belltown should be the model of a high-density, urban neighborhood with affordable, good quality housing. Also (and unbelievably) we STILL need a 24/7 full-service grocery store I can't believe the densest neighborhood in the city doesn't have the political capital to make this happen.

Safety, security, cleanliness. Retaining Belltown's character (eclectic, artsy, cool old buildings)--this is in there now, but should be dialed up. Being business-friendly--listen to Belltown shopkeepers and restaurant owners.

cleaning up the homeless, prostitution, drug users

Safety, Transportation, Parks & Rec

Western and Elliott: Enforce speed limits, make it safer and more inviting for pedestrians. The Waterfront: too touristy. Should be a better multi-purpose destination. Balance: The concentration of 1) social services and 2) bars catering to young singles is at the root of many problems in the community. Would like to get that Community Center.

The additional affordable housing in neighborhood should be for people with middle income jobs who do the work of the city. Up to now it has been built for completely dependent and transient people.

Building the Community Center

public amenities, housing affordability

over building of hi-rises

Making the area more livable and attractive for people. This would include increase safety.

Close some of the problem clubs in the area. They make a bad name for all of them.

Beautifying streets! Expand sidewalks. Mass Transit.

schools and parks

community building activity outside of the traditional evening meeting structure.
Equitable housing for all. "greening" the balconies and rooftops.

Stable community support for small businesses who participate actively in the life of the community.

Solid programming for public spaces.

Controlling traffic (provide alternatives like the streetcar) and getting more street use for residents, pedestrians and cyclists; preserving the remaining small-scale historic buildings

SAFETY and taking care of the homeless and drug users.

Safety

small business, crime and security, neighborhood character.

Parks and open space for physical recreation.

My guess would be safety.

Safety. Building Community.

Getting people to feel like Belltown is THEIR neighborhood, and making people proud to live here. I feel like lots of people don't want to settle here, they plan to move away in a couple of months or years.

Cracking down on the drug market and homelessness/loitering. The drug dealers and crack heads have taken over the streets of Belltown. We also need to get all the project housing and recovery cafe type of establishments out of a neighborhood that is so densely populated and that attracts such an immense amount of night life. It's ridiculous to stick the homeless and mentally unstable in this environment.

Focus on building the long over due community center and building a school

Curbing street level drug activity (dealing and use)

Street cleaning (hire CleanScapes to pressure wash 2nd Ave every night)

Public safety

Public Amenities

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Safety

lighting, public events, public space, sidewalks. Elderly housing. Student housing, for AI, Cornish, AND the UW. small scale and Micro-Retail

projects in progress and how they are doing (on schedule, budget, etc).

what was completed/finished since the last status report.

Security.

Community activities and affordability

Cleaning up the graffiti in the area and working to move the drug trade out of our streets.

environmental and social sustainability, providing a safe environment

moving traffic

providing parking

policing

Safety

safety

Extending bus routes to come down to Belltown so employees do not have to transfer at Westlake or walk 15-20 minutes from Westlake in the dark and rain during the spring, fall and winter.

Do not install a street car on 1st Avenue. Perhaps reinstate and upgrade the waterfront street car since tracks already exist.

building library/senior center

Get back to basic services. Public safety, policing, cleaning of the streets, remove the graffiti, fixing the potholes. Police should be patrolling the bars on Friday and Saturday nights to reign in the aberrant behavior.

Doing your job. You know what's needed. Do it. Where's the leadership?

Safety

safety

Public amenities and transportation. A free bus ride from Denny Way to Westlake and the light rail tunnel would be very beneficial.

Safety!

Transportation networks

safety - when SPD comes to Belltown Council and essentially says, we're not going to increase patrols until we have more data, so call 911 and report everything. what more evidence do you need? man arrested w/ 16 guns in apt? Stabbing here. Shooting there. Violence over there. We're at the tipping point now...stop waiting for a flood.

getting rid of crime and drug dealing CLEAN UP BELLTOWN!!!!

Safety and Public cleanliness.

Safety, park space/green space. Business development.

Positive community facilities - not just social service buildings or half-way houses

Transportation, empty storefronts

police presence, support for BCOP, rowdy night clubs.

Strengthening the police department with an increase in personnel and training.

Increased parks and safety.

Sustaining Belltown's eclectic character and history. Green streets and open spaces.

Crime prevention, preventing buildings from forming urban canyons (blocking too much light/air), cleanup, parking

Developers who trash lots and walk away, such as 2nd and Bell and Elliott and Bell (I think, across from Art Institute).

better architecture, less dogs.

a friendly neighborhood for families. Cleanliness and safety. Parks and open space. Metrics should be set based to match or exceed quality of life of other great urban residential centers such as Vancouver and Portland.

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Controlling crime and building affordable housing for low income people

Security and noise control.

On time buses. Shorter wait times. More seats and shelters. Clean safe streets.

public transportation, bicycles, walking, safety

-More pedestrian friendly streets / sidewalks
-Continued development of green spaces (parks, etc.)
-Housing that attracts families rather than singles or couples only. Most of the affordable housing units are studio or 1 bedroom units. This is not family friendly.

Police appearances more often

public amenities

Keeping Belltown green and its skyline as open as possible.

1. Crime
2. Beautify the town

Getting rid of the drug dealers and having more police presence when there are crowds after big events at the Seattle Center.

POLICE--POLICE--POLICE. BUT--thes police should receive some training on how to interact on the street. They are hopeless--as far as I have observed. I did training programs on how to interact with the public and these guys don't have a clue. This is key--if you make yourself part of the community then you can have an impact with your presence. If you just ride around and talk with each other and not the people--then you are worthless--which is what you have now.

Public amenities, such as a community center, and an inclusive attitude toward the financially less fortunate among us. continue to develop bike and pedestrian friendly transportation systems.

Finishing the Cistern Steps!
Purchasing the land adjacent to the Belltown P-Patch to expand the garden and create an urban park
A clear plan for maintaining the cottages in the Belltown P-Patch.

More focus on issues of drug dealing and crime.

Green space/scrutiny of bldg aesthetics. I would like to see some the historic bldgs renovated in an effort to balance new construction.

neighborhood cleanliness and facilities for those who live on the street.

making the streets safe
preserving green space between buildings

security

drug dealers and roaming addicts

Litter, street homelessness, cleanliness, trash cans, developer responsibility in provisions for street health.

Providing amenities for families with kids, safety and transportation.

I would love to see Belltown become a great place to raise a family, we have a great opportunity with our existing investment in parks to make the environment even more friendly to families with kids by providing play areas for children in our parks and investing in better safety and security - to make Belltown a walkable neighborhood at any time in the day. We should invest in better transportation so people have a convenient way into Belltown, we need convenient and affordable alternative transportation means to car, it would be great to have the light rail or street car extend into the neighborhood.

I think we need to step up our security in Belltown, car prowls seem to continue in their usual cadence, ""day worker"" area in Belltown seems to have become a place where folks who don't speak English, who are looking for work seem to congregate by the dozens. We need to be able to land a stronger helping hand for folks who are homeless and in need - I still see many folks sleeping in shop entrance, as I walk by the smell of urine is a harsh reminder that we are not doing enough to help these neighbors, who are in need, live with dignity

crime

Safety.

Transportation (Rail and keeping the neighborhood walkable)
Shopping (Fresh Food and Produce)
Schools
Security

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

safety (open air drug markets, aggressive panhandlers, etc.) and also how the residents can help out to this effect. it should be a group effort. new condos (and existing) should be brought into this so that if they benefit they can share some of the burden. seems like new condos have a 24 hour concierge but i can't imagine their jurisdiction extends past the front door.

Safety and security needs to be the primary focus.

The regular drug dealing at 2nd and Bell. They don't even try to conceal it, they deal with impunity!

crime. Parks and public spaces

Clean up streets - litter and graffiti. Get control of the nightlife. If there was APPARENT POLICE WATCHING AT NIGHT we believe there would be less graffiti and litter as a result.

* more focus on safety especially in the late evenings. and more parks space! the olympic sculpture park is nice, but we need more green space for people.

Safety and Arts. Better placement for social services or better rules to ensure less negative impact on the neighborhood and the tax paying commercial and residential owners.

Community spaces, parks, and a grocery store. Also, on the continued drug dealing that goes on along Western and Bell.

SAFETY, TRANSPORTATION, AMENITIES

More police presence and public safety, new solutions for the homeless, more variety of retail, more green spaces like the SAM park.

Handling the homeless hanging out everywhere, tourists won't come back a 2nd time because it is very concerning.

Crime! Get the cops out of the cars! Drug dealers are everywhere.

security

safety, affordable RENTAL space- not condos

- Encouraging sustainable modes of transportation
- Transforming dead space, no matter how small, into green space
- I would like to see less luxury condos and more architecturally interesting developments such as sky farms

Safety

Residents + Businesses + Public infrastructure / services communicating and building alignment

Cleaning up the neighborhood, making it livable for its permanent residents rather than the transient ones.

Community space, crime, community building, pedestrians.

Safety and civility, followed by job growth, and transportation.

Addressing safety concerns

safety
transportation
cleaning the streets

Security

Safety

public amenities, development patterns and demographics

A community center or accessible gathering place, preferably both. The community has proven that it can produce activists, but they need some support.

public amenities and facilities, improving the pedestrian and bike transportation network

The demographics of the Belltown including the transient population.

Safety and development patterns

Open Spaces
Public transportation (light rail)

Making downtown liveable!

development patterns and affordability

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

The crime level

open spaces, green streets

wellbeing, open spaces

Community and community infrastructure.
Encouragement of Vanpools: this is a high density population area that works across western Washington. It would be a great idea to have reserved parking spaces for public vanpools to encourage ridership. The lack of this amenity discourages such programs.

Equilibration between cost of living in neighborhood, value of working in neighborhood.

Stop the Beggars! Clean up the homeless and drug dealers!!!
More focus on keeping the traffic moving! You can't build a city for cars and then expect to convert it to bicycles by using the same space! Instead, how about thinking forward for a change! And by the way - did you know that Seattle is the only city in the country to put crosswalks on offramps of highways! So sad.

open space, police presence on the streets

Development patterns to attract more people and more businesses to the area; and also make the streets safer

Safety, homelessness, drug use.

Sustainability: both economic and environmental. We need to look ahead 100 years. Where are the jobs going to come from? Where is the food, energy etc coming from? Naturally Belltown is a small part of the whole but we need to have more independence to be durable or robust

Show the green streets progress on the aerial photos (planned and accomplished or in-progress) as well as other improvements.

I do not think that people will pay millions of dollars for condos in an unsafe, dirty, unattractive neighborhood, when alternatives are now available.
Again, Belltown, was the first alternative neighborhood downtown to be discovered ten years ago- now, there are multiple areas, and Belltown seems forgotten.

Belltown zoning limitations...particularly the reduced core height and its impact on viable development in that zone.

Security / Open space and parks / Business / Overload in one neighborhood of drug and alcohol related treatment outlets and low income housing, compared with other neighborhoods [let's get better balance].

cracking down on crime / drugs

safety, diversity, parks & open space, small business, infrastructure

Rent and parking

Cleaner sidewalks and streets, homeless housing here or in other neighborhoods and security (beat cops on foot would be good!). Middle income housing and family amenities.

Safety/Police Enforcement in Bell/3rd area.

Affordable housing

Cleaning up petty drug sales

crime

drug activity and violent crimes

engaging with the homeless, addicted, unemployed rather than just harassing and "shooing" them out to have them just come back later...

Question 4: The Status Reports should focus less on...

Car access, policing of nightlife activities that don't pose a danger to residents.

Housing for the very rich or the very poor; there is a huge demand for middle-income housing, which seems impossible to get out of the ground. There should be a moratorium on any new/expanded social services facilities/programs in the area until we can address the problems that have been created (actual and perceived) by these services in the concentrations that exist today.

building development and businesses

n/a

The Park Boulevard is a great idea, but without corresponding incentives for developers and landlords to create a pedestrian friendly destination, it risks becoming another Vine street. Nice aesthetics, but no real change in sidewalk culture.

Very low income housing in Belltown. There should be more equitable distribution among neighborhoods to prevent blight which could or is affecting downtown as well.

Subsidized housing stock and increased social services in Belltown.

development patterns

keeping developers happy

Parking.

putting in high rises.
parking.

Streetcar

green space

Any more development of p-patch space. P patches are used by a very small number of people in relation to the space they occupy.

No idea.

Anything car-centric.

Nothing! Any improvements on any level are needed, in literally any category: drugs, crime, park space, retail

transportation networks

human services, transitional housing, drug treatment

Traffic.

green, automotive traffic

parking

housing affordability (this is just an expensive neighborhood; live with it.)
bicycle access

transportation

Development patterns

All the damned planning in some bureaucrats office.

Enriching bar owners at the expense of residents.

Community centers. We have a lot of neighborhood bars/restaurants that act like community centers. A community center in Belltown doesn't make much sense, crackheads would probably end up using it more than anyone else.

Parks - it will encourage loitering and the fact that we are off the 99 doesn't help (as evident by the large drug bust recently)

Social services - Belltown has more than it's share of social services and low income housing.

Politics

Keeping parking - of course there needs to be some but I would like to see traffic slowed down and discouraged somewhat.

Community centers - the demographic shows the bulk of the population is comprised of young professionals, who seldom use community centers.

Open space, parks

parking & services for homeless.

green spaces without crime control (since they'll just become wild/war zones) and upper class housing

Q4: Status reports should focus less on...

-Community center
-Parking - focus on use of public transportation

No comment

demographics

Being the nice guy in the background. As I have stated before, Seattle has an INCREDIBLE tolerance for aberrant behavior. This is what drives people FROM our city and brings the less desirable elements TO our city. owners in Belltown pay a huge amount of taxes for the area and, if you are smart, you will want to maintain this tax base. If you kill the "cash cow" you will certainly be up the creek as far as maintaining the city.

new condos. I think we're pretty well saturated when it comes to condos.

Community center/bldg.

A FIRST AVE. TROLLEY!

Parking violations.

The community center thing would be a bust. Most of us use local coffee shops and businesses as our "community center". Or have community areas in our condos. And the left off but previously discussed trolley down 1st Ave. would be an epic fail.

transportation

Nothing in particular.

street construction

building housing for the homeless

Sustaining "adequate" parking

Residents complain about businesses and the infrastructure; businesses ignore residents and complain about the infrastructure/services; infrastructure/services ignore business and residents

Locating more social services in Belltown.

Business, parks, roads and driving.

development patterns

Housing affordability

things other than safety and civility issues; we can't accomplish long term goals if we continue to ignore the serious underlying issues.

Affordable Housing

Greenspace and Parks could be the same priority. Why was safety never a key strategy?

I would say parking, but as I'm not a driver, my opinion may be very biased.

Parking- there are many parking lots which are dirty and unused during the week and overflowing on the weekend. Make the focus instead on public transportation options

Bikes lanes, art

building condos/ high rise

Tearing down old buildings to erect new ones that remain substantially empty.

parking supply. If parking becomes in high enough demand, someone will build a profitable parking garage.

Parking

Parking. Actually I don't mind having some focus there but I think we need to de-emphasize cars for local transport (long-term parking still important of course for residents)

Statistics for the sake of statistics.

....see previous "more focus"

large development

new buldings and renovations

Respect for culture and tradition and parking

Major sidewalk changes for aesthetic reasons only if money is an issue. Keeping up utilities, curb cuts cleanliness of course, but perhaps not enhanced rounded protusions on corners and so many trees if money is an issue.

parking tickets and jaywalking busts

Question 4: Are there important gaps in the Status Reports?

Pedestrian crossings. Belltown's streets are too busy to have non-controlled or stop-sign-controlled intersections any more, and in places this creates uncrossable streets (e.g. Vine Street crossing Western or Third Aves).

I only viewed Belltown's draft status report which I felt was incomprehensible without more context than what was provided.

2024 projections are for 4,700 more households, but only 4,000 jobs. I feel sorry for people who are homeless and I want the city (and its residents) to help them, but I don't want to encourage MORE people coming to Belltown without jobs. 4,700 more HOUSEHOLDS > 4,700 more people. If only 4,000 have jobs, then are we promoting that people live in Belltown but work elsewhere? That's bad for traffic congestion and pollution. If it's retirees we're after, then safety needs to be REALLY dialed up. I wouldn't move my 78 year old mother to a graffiti-tagged neighborhood that just had a drug bust of 50 dealers. So--I see this as a huge gap. Maybe I'm missing something? I'd welcome more info on this.

No one on the City Council or in the Mayor's office has bothered to implement the neighborhood plan recommendations. Things have just happened willy-nilly.

community involvement, adequate parking

Alternative transportation: breaking the dependence on cars and taxis: walking alternatives, etc. Better distribution of services, neighborhood involvement: opening up rather than buildings acting as fortresses against community.

There is no elementary school education in belltown. This means families have to leave the area rather than establishing a footprint within the city.

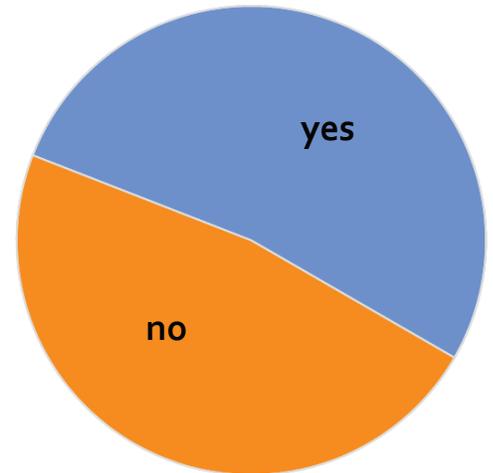
school

Well first off, it's been established that The Denny Regrade, and Belltown are separate neighborhoods, so right off you lost me. But alot of the rest of it is great.

There are no details available.

The status report in general is great! The Home Value chart looks odd or else not very useful (are there only two owner-occupied units??).

Bring more safety and police presence to the area.



The biggest problem with the draft is that it concentrates on demonizing the automobile. The automobile is and always will be the primary mode of transportation for people in Seattle. Cars will become more fuel efficient and alternatively fueled, but they will always be there. Seattle's only plan for transportation only focuses on transit (lite rail, busses, etc.) and takes away capacity for autos. This is a HUGE mistake and will only gridlock this city.

While there is very good detail on past/complete projects, more information on in-progress, future, and planned projects would be appreciated.

Not that I am aware of.

where is library budget?

You seem to have NO clue as to the reality of the neighborhood.

Yes. Get cops on the sidewalks.

preserving neighborhood safety

Safety. i didn't even see it as a focus point. it was all about beauification and not about the real issue at hand. Clean up the streets!

traffic management. this city needs a clear plan on how it will manage traffic flow as density increases.

Q4: What are the important gaps in the status reports?

Police presence needs to be increased with a satellite office in Belltown

Need to have a place where residents can meet and councils can hold townhall-like meetings

Earlier bus service would help and better bus service on 2nd Ave (now service is limited to rush hour)

More emphasis on traffic control in this densely populated area.

As previously stated, the residential unit to parking space ratio is all wrong. People are just parking on the streets unless they happen to be very enterprising and snatch a few extra spaces when buying a unit and then renting them to other residents. Parking spaces in my building rent for \$200 a month! Several units have 3, most have 1, some have 0.

status report listed each of the major accomplishments in the neighborhood, but has not listed any of the setbacks or failures. The acreage of parks/open space per person in the neighborhood significantly trails other major cities like Vancouver. How does Seattle's premier urban residential center compare with other regional urban residential centers such as Vancouver and Portland in transportation, parks, safety, density, open space, resident satisfaction, etc.?

Specific provisions for lower income housing and specific provisions to address Belltown's problems with crime. Belltown can't thrive as a neighborhood until its troubles are addressed.

Not very familiar with the reports

I have not delved deeply enough into these to give a good answer but the city has done a good job in attempting to update them and keep neighborhoods informed.

You haven't made the connection between the people who pay for the services and maintaining the safety, property values and concerns of these people. You can bring all the social service agencies you want into the neighborhood but, if you don't maintain the safety and liveability in these neighborhoods and the property values drop--how will you be able to continue? It's as if you are hell-bent on turning a million dollar neighborhood into a ghetto in the name of being socially conscious. But, if you do that, who will be here to pay?

Less traffic

No where has there been any positive ideas put forth in regard to the people who live in this neighborhood without benefit of shelter. Pretending they are not here does nothing to improve anyone's life.

No clear plan for maintaining the cottages at the P Patch

No plan to complete the Cistern Steps

Alley-use in existing and new condo developments -- ie. the alley between Cedar & Clay/Elliott & Western. This alley should not be used as a thru-fare for adjacent blocks and should be kept for access by residents of the building in that block (i.e. The Klee; The Bellora). This could go for other blocks, as well. City should play a part in this. Developers should plan ingress/egress appropriately.

I would love to see the objective metrics that indicate the health of the community, and measure our progress against our goals - How has our population changed over time, how has crime rate changed, how many new businesses have opened, how many people does Belltown businesses currently employ, what are our statistical measures for social equity - how many affordable housing units do we have.

Plans for safety/crime issues seem to be really under-addressed.

See above about 2nd and Bell.

What about the Viaduct?

I would have liked to see light rail go through belltown instead of near it.

Handling the homeless issue

homeless issue is NOT mentioned

I feel that the estimates of unit value and other statistics on the given page are on the low side. They should be re-assessed in the next report evaluation

Please focus more on helping people seeking social services have someplace to go instead of the 3rd Ave. sidewalk

Mentioned above (i.e. encouragement of alternative modes of transportation)

Q4: What are the important gaps in the status reports?

I think the commercial side of the neighborhood merits further detail: Are the commercial endeavors primarily retail-oriented? Are they targeted at residents or non-residents? When we better understand our overall profile, we can better work together and we can better react to the changes...(e.g. How many residents are aware enough to support local businesses during tough times? If we realize that we are NEIGHBORS, then the support increases. Further, business owners might try to keep their property clean or have concern about their patrons if they understand how many are coming from the neighborhood)

Giving us neighborhood status.

The focus should be on pedestrians, and should include our community center.

They do not properly address safety concerns

Liveability issues such as noise, public safety, drug dealing, pedestrian safety are not addressed. Also, use of Viaduct land for community center, open space, and connections between Waterfront, Market, P-Patch, and Sculpture Park.

There is no discussion on the status of safety in the report.

Focus on lightrail or public transportation options not just parking.

ZONED PARKING

Law enforcement/crime.

Please no trolley down first---I think it would be way better suited for the waterfront area. I also think more people would use it and it would help the parking situation.

Community and community infrastructure.
Encouragement of Vanpools: this is a high density population area that works across western Washington. It would be a great idea to have reserved parking spaces for public vanpools to encourage ridership. The lack of this amenity discourages such programs.

Lower income rental (including subsidized housing) is largely occupied. (Note: specified owner occupied units exclude... units--such as condominiums--in multi-unit buildings..) As nearly all owner occupied units in Belltown and the city at large are such units, this caveat places these figures between misleading and useless.

not enough of a focus on safety and crime prevention.

As above, we need to think more about cutting Belltown's footprint (e.g. garbage out) and dependence (e.g. garbage in.) Naturally we will never be 100% independent and that is just fine, but we need to keep thinking about sustainability for jobs and health(environment).

Should we look at how people commute? I'd assume in our 'hood it's mostly non-car.

also we should look at local retail business viability - rents; turnover; coverage of basic neighborhood services like drycleaning, giftshops, casual dining restaurants, grocery access, drugstore access. Those things make a place livable. Hair Salons and bars are ok but it ain't a neighborhood.

Crime statistics (if the report is going to emphasis statistics). What have been the trends? Do the statistics support neighborhood perceptions?

Alley clean up program.

Also, what is meant by the note beside the Home Value pie chart? Does ""Specified Owner-occupied units"" really exclude condominiums? That must exclude over 90% of the type of owner occupied housing in Belltown!

Q4: What are the important gaps in the status reports?

i have to re read it again. and write. the fact that after waiting a long time, for our dream apartment, and then less than one year later, our view was gone, with a new building that cant even sell out- angered us about planning. there didnt seem to be any. just greed- more and more apartments, condos, without the support services first. Its what destroyed calif. and ive watched that for 35 years now.

Developers need to put in parks and green ways, if they want to develop condos. the City needs more police on foot, on horse- something. somewhere all the time. the lighting on the streets is inadequate.

Some of the streets could use some pretty trees. those pines are ridiculous. who plants pines in a downtown area? 4th street is very pretty and 2nd and 3rd need to look a little more like that.

The drug dealer, homeless corners are getting old. i hate zigzagging around to avoid them.

There are no gaps in an ideal-world implementation of the report, but the above comments on 1) zoning restrictions, 2) too many social services outlets, and 3) emergency vehicle ""noise"" inform where re-emphasis may be in order.

not certain, specifically

I live in a condo - owner occupied - with a value greater than \$400k. According to the data, I'm not here. That, to me, is an important gap.

yes because they are some of the biggest issues that belltown people face

Provide incentives for middle income housing and services. Cleaner streets! Less Parking! More mass transit and bike lanes!
