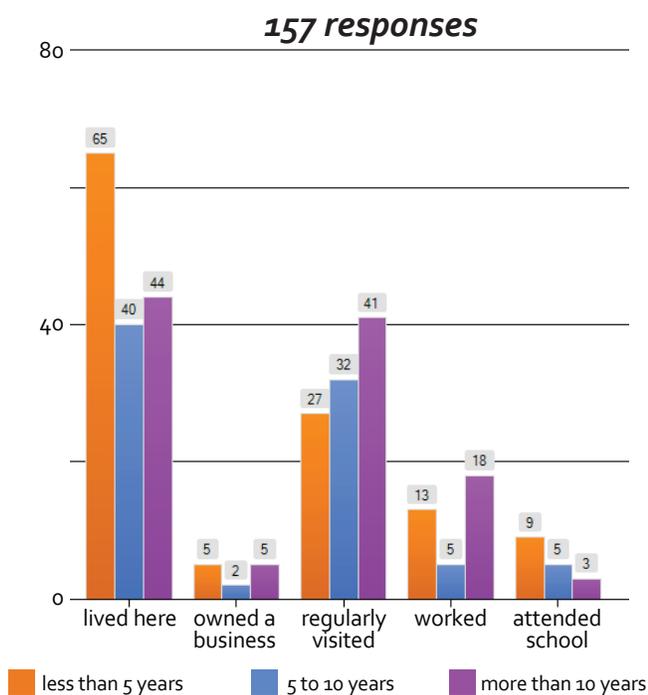
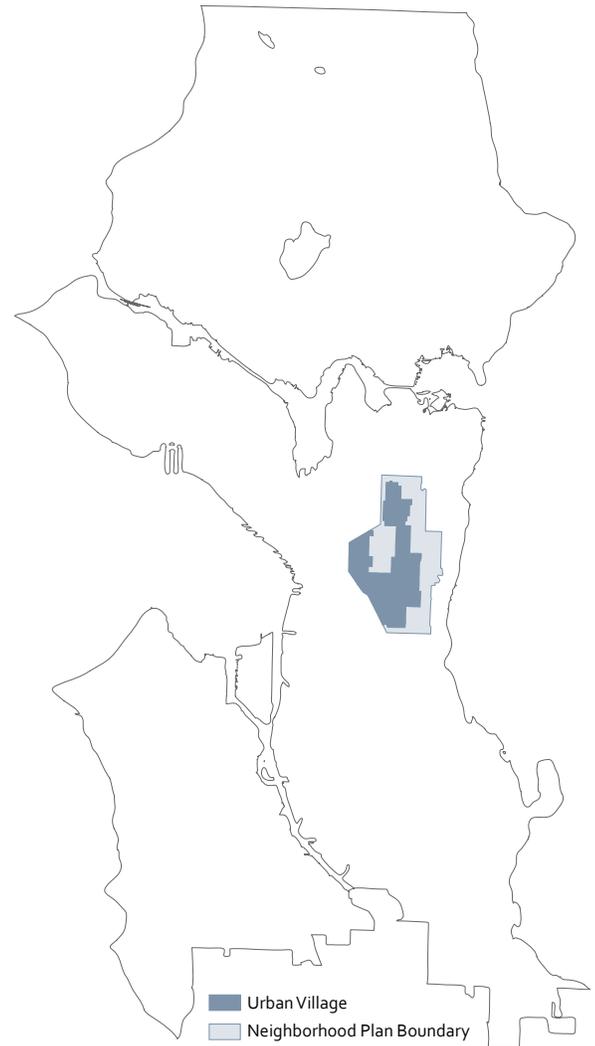


Status Check

Transcript of Central Area Questionnaire Responses

The Central Area Action Plan was adopted in 1998 and includes the 12th Avenue Urban Center Village and the 23rd Avenue @ S Jackson-Union and Madison-Miller Residential Urban Villages. The map shows the neighborhood plan and urban village boundaries.

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)?

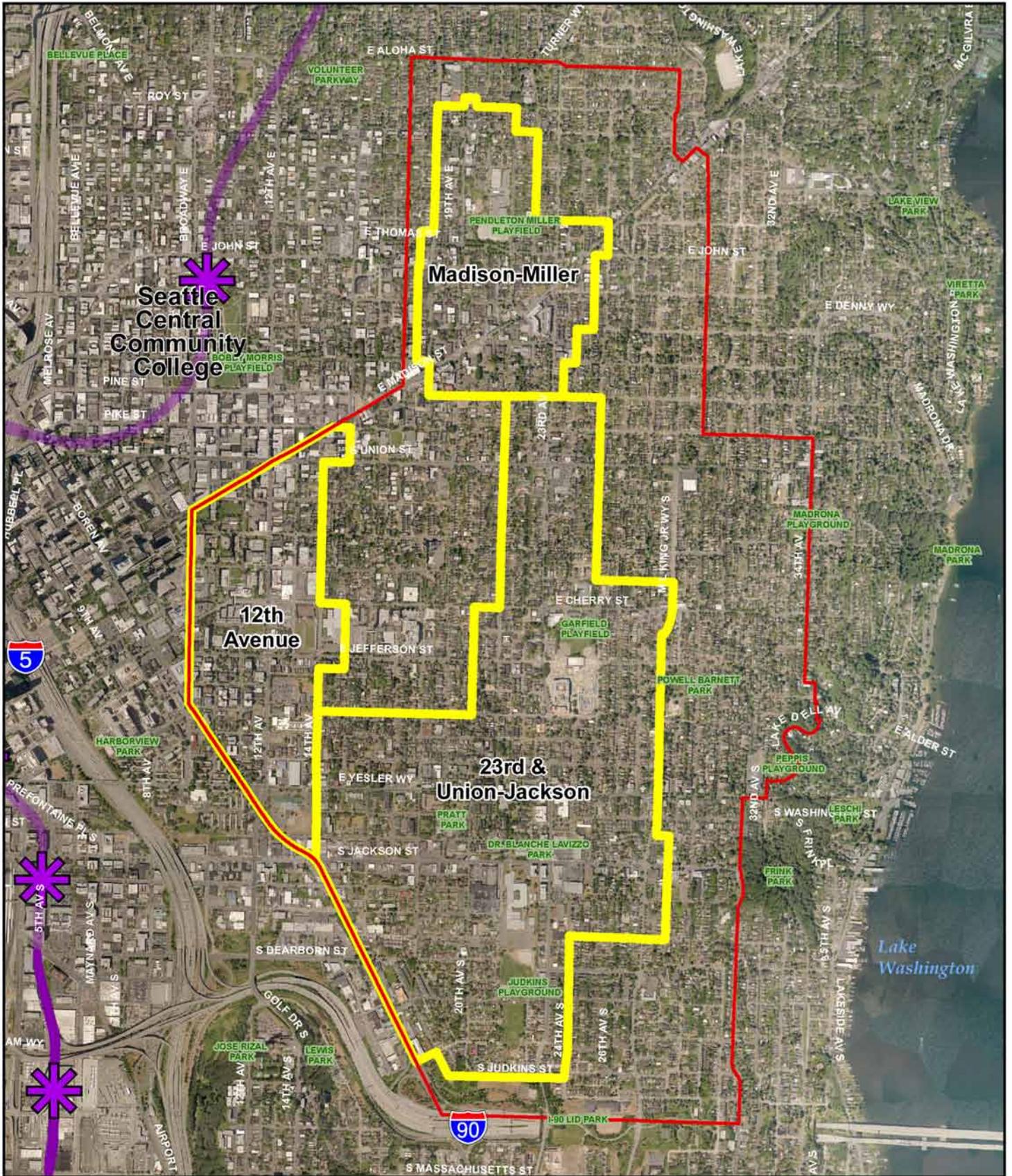
*Question 2: What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you...
most pleased about?
most dissatisfied about?*

*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.

CENTRAL AREA AERIAL MAP



Urban Village

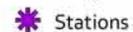


Neighborhood Plan Area

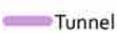


Aerial Photo: 2007

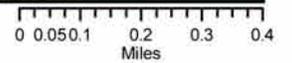
LINK Light Rail



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)?

Much improved but somewhat gentrified.

Some development, lots of new residents.

I live in the Madison Miller part of the Central Area, and our micro-hood had changed considerably in the years that I've lived there. An increasing number of middle-class families have moved into the neighborhood, so there are more kids playing on the sidewalk and needing schools. At the same time, Deano's/Club Chocolote City closed and subsequently the building was demolished in preparation for redevelopment which will hopefully happen once the economy improves. The closure of that business in particular has greatly improved the security and safety of the neighborhood, as the drug dealers and prostitutes who frequented the area around 22nd and Madison have moved to other areas (unfortunately, the problem appears to have shifted only a few blocks away to 23rd and Union). With these improvements in quality of life, gentrification has also resulted in lower-income minority households being less able to pay rent or property taxes, and so many have moved out of the neighborhood. Racial and economic diversity, which I see as a plus for the neighborhood, is unfortunately being lost.

Crime hasn't improved, if anything is worse.

The neighborhood has changed in its makeup- both economically and racially. There also appears to be a much larger bicycle commuting population.

The area has gentrified. Providence has expanded and caused a lot more noise, traffic and parking issues. 12th Avenue has improved and become a place where we spend time. The area is becoming more walkable.

- demographic shifts (ethnicity, income, etc.) - new development, increasing density (e.g., townhouses), some tear-downs replaced with McMansions (million-dollar homes in the Central Area!) - new (e.g., Homer Harris) or improved (e.g., Powell Barnett) parks - Dino's is gone!!!

There's more people total, less african american neighbors, and an increase in crime.

The positive changes I have noticed, related to the plan, are the addition and improvement to parks and the addition to the Douglass Truth library.

YES!

Well it was pretty ok in 2003 when we first moved here. we heard lots of stories about how bad the area was but that everyone was hopeful for the future. The republicans ran the country into the ground and there was alot of animosity and a growing anger without an outlet. The shootings increased dramatically and fortunately the police were good about getting the bodies off the grass. I appreciated that.

The neighborhood seems more affluent. Crime is down (with the exception of periodic waves) and housing prices have increased. The neighborhood is concerned about safety and education.

More diversity plus businesses. Walkability has increased.

Getting a little more deveopled. Cleaning up.

Not much has changed really with the exception of the work on 23rd.

Yes, the area has changed and improved, and I participated in the Neighborhood Planning process, as well have remained active with the stewardship comittee.

SU is doing a very good job of developing their campus, both on and off campus.

Pockets have been over developed- too dense. Some areas have postively gentrified- most areas are unchanged.

Yes. There are no longer people knocking on my front door and asking for spare change. That seemed to drop off last year. Also, the level of general trash left on the ground in my neighborhood seems to have declined a bit.

new businesses and better communication with residents about planning

Yes, we have more housing, and more active block watches

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Gentrified. More older homes being bought out and either updated or replaced with newer homes. Less African Americans in the neighborhood than before. Less of a sense of "neighborhood" than I remember from years earlier. Less obvious crime being committed (at least, I feel safer in areas than I had in the past).

WE've seen way too many poorly designed townhomes, with silly mandatory off-street parking spaces and absolutely way too little flexibility in design. I would rather see apartment buildings at this point than these awful, awful things. Our Metro service has not kept up with population growth. Routes 2 and 3 in particular are standing-room only at rush hour. It will be good to have the Route 8 service increase, assuming Metro's budget troubles don't eliminate that. We need more neighborhood retail! There has been a tremendous increase in the amount of people bicycling and walking from 1997, when we first moved to the neighborhood, but there aren't enough destinations for these folks to really decrease the number of car trips. We're grateful for the Spring Street P-Patch. We need more green streets connecting our parks. We need, somehow, to get the School District to pull its head out and re-open TT Minor. The number of families with young children is *so* high in our immediate part of the CD, and it's incredibly frustrating to watch the District yank the rug out from under them. We are grateful to SPD for their attention to our crime issues, but feel the City needs to continue to look at programs like the DMI in the 23rd Avenue corridor. Holistic solutions are the best way to combat the drug problem, which is both a seller and user issue. Working with the community organizations is critical.

With the economy it seems businesses are closing, the Central District seems to be on the brink of a crime precipice and the cliff of economic disaster. Things are looking somewhat bleak to be honest. Transportation has stayed the same. Businesses, I would say there are less. Crime seems to be on the rise. Parks are great here, but again safety can be an issue. I really wish this area was more walkable, but I don't really have the desire to walk to a strip mall. I was so happy when Mezza Luna (on Judkins) opened, but so sad to see it close only about a year after it opened. We need help in the Central District -- maybe things are better than 10 years ago, but they have a long way to go to catch up to our richer neighbors -- Mount Baker, Madison Valley, and Capitol Hill.

Not as much change as I would hope. The usual gentrification and upcropping of condo's, but 12th ave is only just finally starting to become more vibrant. I think 12th Ave is CRITICAL to this region, and connecting the Central Area to Capitol Hill. I think a trolley down 12th Ave would be EXTREMELY beneficial to businesses along the corridor, as well as reducing traffic for people who might work on capitol hill and commute from the Central Area, but don't have an easy way to get there via bus(no north/south buses in this area), it would also help out Seattle University and perhaps they would be willing to donate to the project...?

In my particular area there has been a noticeable decrease in crime, particularly drug dealing. There has been a significant increase in new development.

I feel that the neighborhood had gotten rougher with more frequent reports of gun shots incidences. I lived here from 2004 to 2007 without incident and then in 2007 there was a random gun shot into my kitchen window attributing to a stray unintended victim. Since then there seems to be very frequent reports of gun shots at 23rd and Cherry at the arco station and then the community center and then at MLK near Union with my personal visual of a police at 3pm on a friday carrying a semi-automatic weapon looking for a suspect... I feel that it seems lots rougher. I tend to drive most places instead of walking now.

Many of the people that lived here when I first moved in have left. Most of my neighbors that left were older people that have died. There are now strollers on the sidewalks which I did not see the first ten years I lived here. The energy in the area has changed. People seem more interested in getting involved with each other. For example our blockwatch which ran for 7 years and died a boring death has been resurrected 5 years later by some newcomers. There is much less graffiti and garbage on the streets. I haven't heard drug dealers whistling to each other more than a couple of times a year the last couple of years. And I definitely haven't heard guns going off like I used too!

lots more townhomes

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Housing and Population overcrowding by the City letting people build in their back yards and almost any open space. Deterioration of the street pavements and sidewalks with no corrective action taken by street maintenance. No street handicapped parking spaces provided at the business centers on Broadway or 15th avenue. No regular Police patrols off of the main arterial streets which cause late night car and house prowling.

Few changes have happened in the 2 years I have lived here.

Gentrification is a real concern. I see housing prices skyrocketing and I just don't understand it. I live at 23rd and Cherry, a fairly economically depressed area that has seen more than its fair share of violence over the years. And yet...developers are allowed to build huge new houses that are on the market for more than \$400,000? It's insane - at this point, I know that I will never be able to afford my own home in the neighborhood that I love. Poorer people are getting pushed out. African-Americans are getting pushed out of areas that have been their home for generations.

Crime rate feels like it has stayed the same if not increased. It feels as if gang violence has become a larger problem than in the past and the drug dealing is more visible than it has been in the past. For example - there is almost continuous gang and drug activity at the corner of 28th S. and Jackson. I once saw a police officer in his car on the north side of the intersection taking to some kids while on the south side of the intersection drug deals were occurring. The business zone of Jackson is still mostly barren and the city has done little to make sure that small local businesses are successful. If Columbia City can turn their downtown area into a vibrant walkable street we should be able to do the same in the CD. To this point city zoning laws have made it impossible for small new restaurants to open and be successful. We need to fix this in order to keep the CD growing and turn it into a walkable, pedestrian friendly community.

It has undergone a lot of gentrification and gotten more expensive. A lot of ugly, poorly-built condos and town houses have replaced old single-family homes.

Gentrification has taken complete hold on the Central Area- much of the housing has been built in the last 10 years. Vehicular traffic has increased proportionately. It appears like the City Government cares much less than it did 10 years ago to the plight of the Central Area.

Not very much. The new library is a huge improvement, but other than that, there is not a lot that has improved our livability. Not much happening in retail and bus service is quite deplorable. The CD still has the feeling of the city's forgotten neighborhood.

More businesses open on Madison (a good thing). More townhomes replacing single family homes - not necessarily a good thing. Poor design, overcrowding, diminished street parking, diminished neighborhood character.

It seems like there have been a lot of burglaries in the area lately. Also, it seems like the city isn't doing enough to preserve the cultural diversity of the central district. Many low-income citizens who have lived there for years are being pushed further and further south due to high rent increases that have occurred because of the large portion of residents who want to live close to Cap. Hill and are moving to Central District as a slightly cheaper alternative. I'm worried Central District will become another Cap. Hill, which once was really cool but now is just another bland commercialized area filled with cookie-cutter condos on every corner and no independent businesses or unique buildings.

Less crime, but otherwise it hardly feels like it has on a day to day life, been part of the boom cycle of the city.

The demographics have changed quite dramatically, both in racial diversity and economic status. The CD is no longer a low-income neighborhood, nor is it predominantly African-American. The Union St corridor is still struggling to become a vibrant business and neighborhood center. Due to development by CADA, the Jackson St corridor is progressing well. 12th Avenue has improved the most and is a walkable, energized business district. 12th Avenue needs the streetcar line to complete its transformation. The sale and demo of Deano's on Madison eliminated a major drug and prostitution hot spot. The participants moved south to E Union, Cherry and Jackson Streets. Recent efforts by the feds and SPD have reduced the number of drug dealers and loiterers along Union, Cherry, Jackson and 23rd Avenue, for which we are grateful. As economic recovery progresses, development should continue at 23rd & Union, which will have a big positive impact on the corridor.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

When I moved to this location, the house next door was abandoned (and had been for over 10 years), and there was a house with a drug abatement sign across the street. Within 5 years, both houses had been renovated, and are now both occupied. Visible drug dealing occurred on the street. Drug dealing is still a problem in the area, but it is less visible now. There had been a few elderly women living in the neighborhood. The current demographic is fairly diverse, but is lacking homes occupied by elderly residents.

Old buildings torn down One upzone to 65 feet lots of townhouses big change in housing cost Fewer people of color

Since I've been here I've seen some attempts at making the neighborhood more sustainable. There is a Walgreens and shopping center close by. There seems to be a few small businesses that are rallying together to try and accomplish what this plan is projecting. Sadly, we've lost an elementary school (T.T. Minor) and I feel this will have a lasting impact on the younger generation.

totally.....about 75%

Buildings are taller, housing is more expensive, and violence has become more about guns and gangs. There's also been tremendous gentrification in my area since I moved here in January 1995. At the time, there were numerous empty lots (used as default parks by the neighborhood), and this was considered an affordable part of town. I live at the cusp of the Central Area, Pike/Pine neighborhood, and Capitol Hill (15th & Union). Some of the gentrification has been great - Madison Market, shops and restaurants on 12th, etc. But it pains me to see so many condos and apartment buildings go up with only studio and 1BR options, designed for young professionals making more money than has traditionally been the income in this neighborhood.

Much greater amenities and open spaces opportunities, which is great! Keep it coming as this area gets more dense!!

Gentrification and more density. Two nice playgrounds were built that serve as community gathering spots. Development of 23rd and Jackson- a good thing

Has deteriorated in our immediate neighborhood
-increased gang activity

Increased crime Destruction of original housing Infill with townhouses, megahouses, supermodern structures School closures

More small homes are being torn down and rebuilt, or remodeled beyond recognition to create "mini mansions."

The Seattle Buddhist Church is located at 1427 So Main Street, more and more on street parking is being utilized during the day. You see them parked there during the day and they are gone after 5pm.

See more mixed condo and retail now than 4 yrs ago. Thank God Dinos is gone! I almost bought a house in that exact neighborhood 4 yrs ago. Had to revoke my offer once I did a evening drive by. Thankfully I can shop at Safeway without much trouble now. I have been broken into 3 times since I've lived here. I think the police department think it is a joke. "They are kids and we can't do anything about it- the juvenile courts are not doing anything" I've had the police ignore when I told them that I saw a man run through my back yard, while they on a call 4 houses away for a break in. They don't seem committed to the big picture of crime - just "let's close out this one case, show up and write a report!"

It has been "SLOWLY" improving in certain areas (park improvements, building, street lighting, etc.) and done worse in others (there is more graffiti, vandalism, etc.)

The growth areas have changed since the boom of townhomes and large multi-family mixed-use buildings. Additionally, the demographics and needs of the community are changing drastically with more and more young families purchasing and leasing in the Squire Park Neighborhood of the 23rd and Jackson/Union area (Central District).

My neighborhood is safer, and several homes have been sold to new residents who have updated or renovated the homes. My overall impression is that the new people who have moved in are less friendly, often pass by without saying hello and often erect fences (so that they don't have to see the neighbors?).

new to the area

Yes. The opening of the light rail system and changed parking zone has changed the neighborhood for the better. I am seeing less cars during morning rush on the side streets and more people using public transportation.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I've been here for 4 years, and in that time I have seen improvements such as, old uninhabited homes bulldozed and new townhomes spring up. I know that many more are planned on my street and I am concerned that many do not include garages or off street parking. I've also noticed an increase in traffic and streets clogged with cars that are parked right up to the corner of every street (affecting safety and limiting sight). I've also noticed that the Seattle Housing Authority properties on 29th Ave S and S Norman St are barely maintained - the yards are not maintained at all and the people who live there do not have the means to do so. These properties are an eyesore. In one case about a year ago, a lovely evergreen in the front yard of an SHA property was cut down. The stump was ground down and left as is. The front yard is now a bed of saw dust. At the very least a new tree should have been planted. There is also a 3ft high stump in the parking strip in front of the house next door. Ugly.

There are more residences in my neighborhood and more residents. Some of the areas zone for Lowrise development has seen the removal of single family or other small-scale houses and replacement with 4-pack and 6-pack townhouses. Several four-story apartment buildings have been built. There are fewer African-American residents in my neighborhood. There are more retail establishments. Seattle University has expanded in size and in number of students. Providence Hospital sold to Swedish Hospital and Swedish subsequently sold about half of the Providence campus to the Sabey Corporation which has taken the position that it can develop its private development under the auspices of the Major Institution Master Plan.

More Townhouses. More development of undeveloped property.

The area around 23rd and Union up to Madrona has some new townhome infill. I don't see much in the way of places for new businesses or many new businesses in older buildings in this neck of the woods. How effective has the East Precinct been in crime reduction? 23rd and Jackson has made great strides to reach the goal of a vibrant hub and that is due mostly to the addition of mixed use projects, the improvements to Promenade, and street improvements.

Have not been here long enough to notice changes.

The area has had it's ups and down since I purchased my house. On the bright side, both area libraries have been updated, a Safeway has been constructed, a movie theater has gone in and we now have a farmer's market and a new p-patch a block from the house. Transportation into and around my neighborhood has always been good - whether by car, bus or by foot. Several new coffee shops, restaurants and bars have also opened and I think they help to create a feeling of community. On a darker note, crime has really skyrocketed. My home has been broken into twice in the past 3 years, whereas before that, I never had any trouble at all. Obviously, there's also been a lot of gun violence in the area over the last couple of years. There's a lot of drug dealing and other low-grade crime happening in and around the post office parking lot. My theory for this increase has two parts: First, as the area on Madison, between 19th and 23rd was being cleaned up, the dealers up there just moved a few blocks south. Second, the Nisqually earthquake in 2001 destroyed a building on the SW corner of 23rd and Union. There was some sort of Islamic men's organization there and I understand that they made it clear that that block was not going to be at all friendly to dealers. Even if this wasn't the case, more people were present, so it was less likely things in that area would go unseen. I do feel as though things are turning the corner, though. The Central Area is a diverse and dynamic neighborhood and I really do think that a development here and one less school closing there and my area, at least, should feel more inviting to all.

Housing density has increased noticeably. More homes seem to be owned by families than in the past.

It is more mixed, but is still plagued by problems such as gang violence and vandalism. The violence is getting worse and I am considering a move to another neighborhood even though I grew up and LOVE the CD. I feel my child's safety is more important.

I have seen a lot of improvements in the central area ever since I start living there. New homes are built, the sam smith park is very amazing, kids have fun in the park area.

Significant gentrification, many more immigrants, new modern style multifamily housing that doesn't fit the character of the neighborhood.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Now that I'm a homeowner and know more of the folks who have lived in the area for generations (or who used to live there a generation ago), I recognize the increase in the number of white or white/mixed individuals and families living in the neighborhood. But there's also an increase in Hispanic and African immigrant families who live or work here. A lot of single family homes have been torn down (especially in the last 3-5 years) and replaced by condos, townhomes and multi-family residences. The diversity isn't good or bad per se, but I recognize that new home construction can attract a higher income bracket, increasing property values (good), but also pricing out long-term residents (bad). A neighbor told me that when he bought his townhome on 23rd & Yesler a man from down the street (who had been in the neighborhood for generations) also looked at the property, but couldn't afford to buy it. Although there's a mini-precinct on 23rd & Union, I never see police cars parked there when I drive by (day or evening, weekend or week night). I know several of the businesses on that corner have gone out of business, which means a great community (and city/government) presence is even more important. The corners on/near 23rd & Jackson have also lost several businesses, leading to a more depressed, less pedestrian-friendly feel. I live in the George sector of the East precinct and I understand our neighborhood was recently absorbed/moved into a different policing area or at least is now covered/supervised by officers who hold responsibilities in another part of town. That's disappointing. I hear our CPT contact is also an acting sargeant and doesn't seem as accessible to the community. Few of my neighbors even know what a CPT is. I learned about it through my work in south Seattle and had a great impression of the program. My impression of the program where I live is not so stellar. My condo neighbors and I have had to call the police several times and the response seems to take quite a while.

Increased development of commercial businesses (good!), more residents (good!), fluctuations in crime (seems worse now, but it's relative since there are more residents overall), transportation has not improved (not so good), buses are our only link to downtown, no connections north or south (BAD!). Apparently trolleys are coming to 12th Ave, which would be great, linking Capitol Hill, 12th Ave, Seattle University, International District/Little Saigon, and Beacon Hill. This would be an incredible improvement to the area.

Single family homes have been replaced by townhouse developments. Some businesses have changed, but most appear to be managing despite economic downturn. Work continues on flood water retention project.

In the last year, since moving to 29th and Jackson, I've already noticed some positive changes. I moved here because I loved cultural diversity and friendliness of the area. But immediately noticed gang activity. My building as well as the bus stops I use and the buildings around 28th and Jackson are regularly tagged in gang graffiti. There have usually been groups of young men loitering either near FloWare or directly in front of convenience store at 28th&Jackson. I have also noticed out in the open drug deals at 20th&Jackson, FloWare and 26th&Jackson as well as prostitution at 28th and Jackson and the bus shelter at 30th&Jackson. Since around November 2008, these activities have been declining. I was always most concerned with the groups of young men at 28th&Jackson, knowing that is known as a gang hang out. The boys (often teens) were usually quite friendly and non-threatening, but I worried that they could be a target of violence since I walk through the area several times a day. And I was concerned about crime in the neighborhood in general, with these activities going on so obviously in the middle of the day. Now, I do not see a crowd of young men at 28&Jackson. I also see less dealing, although I still see people obviously looking to buy at 26th&Jackson.

not really at all. The only change has been for the worse. Since Deano's was shut down all of the drug dealing has come down to our area. I live at 27th and Alder, and even with Larry Gossett on the corner there are rampant drug deals and gang activity 3 houses from him.

There has been a loss of some of the diversity that I moved to the neighborhood for, there is a lot more extreme violence and I feel less comfortable walking in my neighborhood after dark and I didn't feel that way when we first moved here

Younger population appears to be moving in. Mostly caucasian. Some families with small children appear to frequent the neighborhood more as well.

There has been welcome development and revitalization on 12th Ave and on Union Street between 12th and 23rd.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I don't feel like I've been here long enough to see changes.

I've only lived here for two years; I haven't seen much (if any) change in that time.

Madison-Miller neighborhood. One large neighborhood commercial project has been completed along Madison (Safeway w. housing above). A long-term problem bar (that was a source of drug dealers and crime) has been closed, and the site sold to a developer (Jim Mueller) who has plans and building permits for large mixed use projects on the site and across the street. When the economy allows these to proceed, we will have achieved much of the main thrust of our plan, the revitalization of the Madison Street corridor. The multifamily part of our neighborhood has been mostly redeveloped, almost all with townhouses rather than the (higher density) apartments and condos that had been anticipated.

I have lived in this neighborhood for 2.5 years. In that time, I have seen more new "mega homes" go up on spaces that were once vacant or had older homes on them. I have seen a gradual gentrification, but at the same time, there seems to be an increase in gang and drug trafficking.

we haven't been in the area (we are on E. Remington Ct between 13th & 14th) for very long, but we moved there because of all of the development springing up on 12th, and because of the possibility of a streetcar going up 12th. we are looking forward to the mixed use buildings that Seattle U and the city are building.

It has gotten denser, safer and prettier, overall.

More town-home structures have been built. African-American museum and Garfield HS renovations are now complete. Businesses have opened and closed.

I have seen low-income community members (residential & small businesses) displaced due to the rising cost of living. I have seen houses and storefronts sold and demolished, to become vacant lots and unoccupied homes & storefronts. I have seen condominiums built throughout the neighborhood that current and former residents cannot afford. I see these same condominium buildings with vacant units for months and years. These changes are not good for the vitality and sustainability of the Central Area.

More density and gentrification

N/A - arrived last year

My neighborhood has been changing since I moved here 14 years ago. It is becoming more segregated than it was when I first moved here. That is simply because of ever increasing living and real estate cost.

I've only been there 6 months.

Number of housing units, mainly apartments, has increased substantially over the past five years. Just along Jackson between 18th and 23rd, close to 1,000 apartment units have been constructed. Several older homes have been torn down in my neighborhood, Jackson Place, and replaced with large, townhomes that seem out of scale with the others on our streets. Violence has gone down then back up and seems to come in waves. There is a good deal of general loitering and transient movement that also surges and wanes over the years.

Don't know yet, haven't been here long enough to see the changes. The plan, however, sounds very promising.

There has been some new development, but a lot of stalled development as well. Several new businesses have opened, yet several have also had to close their doors. I feel like my neighborhood has been on the brink of something great for several years, but for reasons I can't quite determine, it has remained more or less the same. Gang activity, vagrancy and loitering at the intersection of Union and 23rd, drug dealing by the Nova School, are probably a big reason that visible change has been so slow. Stalled development at the vacant southwest parcel of Union and 23rd, the closed business at the northeast parcel of the same intersection (former Philly Cheesesteak place), vacant storefront at the southeast corner (supposed police drop-in center - mostly closed) all contribute to creating a transient atmosphere, i.e. a place you pass through, not a destination neighborhood.

Lots of building. More parks. More crime. More white people but most are not involved. An East African community. Ugly townhouses.

I've seen some major new parks, the library, the African American Museum, demographic shifts with more white people and the development of an East African community, a new Garfield High School, Jackson Street development (although the 23rd and Jackson shopping center isn't great), a ton of new townhouses, and a rise in the murder rate.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

crime is still a problem, and gangs. guns/shootings. drugs.

Yes it has.

woodworking school improved. Promenade shops continues to have excessive vacancies. gang activity has resulted in multiple shootings in 23rd and jackson area in past year. Neighborhood often seems to be getting worse since i've moved in.

I have lived here since 1977 when Seattle was still recovering from the Boeing economic woes and there have been cycles of growth and revitalization, some for the good. All of Seattle has gentrified, but this area is accused of gentrifying, as though it is all wrong. Really the crack epidemic of the late 80s and early 90s was responsible for much of the flight of African American families with children, including many middle-class African-Americans. An older group moved as they retired, often to Louisiana or other locations. The younger generation tended to leave and sell the homes of their deceased parents who moved here during the 1940s or even earlier. There are many fewer empty lots and shuttered homes. There are more homes and families with children and at the moment FEWER SCHOOLS--this is a disgrace,

Extremely gentrified. Not necessarily a bad thing but I also feel as though many of the "original" residents of this neighborhood are being shut out. Many people can no longer afford the properties they once owned and have been forced to move. As a result, the neighborhood has transformed into a hub of high priced condo's and apartments. The central district is rapidly becoming over-populated. Having been in this neighborhood for the majority of my life I see the benefits in some of the changes, however due to the changes, I am losing the sense of feeling like this neighborhood is "mine" with so many of the people and places I used to relate to gone.

Yes, much more gentrified - has become more dense with condos and townhouses

It appears that the neighborhood has become more diverse, with more young families moving into the neighborhood. We have also had a large increase of apartments and condominiums being built. The neighborhood continues to lack enough police presence, affordable shopping, and safe parks.

Neighborhood has cleaned up somewhat. Lots of gang activity, vandalism, theft from young African American kids STILL. Lots of disconnect between races. Though I do see more integration and less confrontation in general, as the years progress.

More families, more gentrification. Great improvements at Powell Barnett Park

much more development, gentrification. Where I live is actually just to the south of the border of the map shown in this plan, but from what I can tell we are not covered in any of the other plans either. Completion of the NAAM in the Coleman School is a major accomplishment - where does it belong?!

Since 9/2006, we've seen a marked increase in drug dealing and gang activity on the 23th ave/union area. Other than that, we've seen a steady increase in development -- mainly mixed use buildings -- that has slowed, but not stopped, during this recessionary period. There's a good amount of grassroots activism in our area too.

seems like more gangs, trash and vandalism.

The area around 18th and 20th and Union has been more developed - businesses target audiences seem to be younger white people. Housing prices in the CD have continued to rise.

The drug, loitering and criminal activity is worse today than ten years ago. Anytime day or night you can find organized drug dealing and gang activity in any number or areas. The neighborhood is unsafe for families and business cannot exist or thrive in this environment. Drive by shootings occur regularly and the police response is totally ineffective. In short, the CD is amongst the worst areas in the city.

It's become gentrified, home prices have gone up, many condos/townhomes have been built, but there are still few amenities, and the crime rate is still too high (the neighborhood doesn't feel safe for a female walking alone).

More high density housing, more diversity (when we first moved in the neighborhood was almost completely African American), more crime, more gang activity, less safe, more crowded, fewer older people, fewer people home during the day to keep an eye on neighbors' homes.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I have lived in this neighborhood since 1990. Overall I can say that there are few changes in this neighborhood that I can directly attribute to the comprehensive plan. I am currently and have been a block watch captain of the 28th Ave. South Block Watch for several years. Prior to that I have been involved in the block watch and neighborhood activities almost as long as I've been here. There have been changes in the last 10 years. Primarily I can directly attribute them to changes in zoning, changes in the way zoning is applied, and inexpensive land relative to the cost of land in other neighborhoods. During this period we have had an accelerated rate of the destruction of single-family homes to be replaced by higher density units primarily four or six unit condo buildings. The zoning for many of these changes was long set prior to the implementation of the comprehensive plan (Central Area Action Plan), and the area was only waiting for developers to recognize the opportunity to profit by inexpensive land values. I find a majority of the new occupants disenfranchised from the neighborhood as there are no community focal points that bring them together in a lifestyle they're accustomed to. Usually after purchasing their unit they suddenly find they are living in a community that has always been a destination neighborhood for drugs and prostitution. So they tend to pull into themselves and hibernate or cocoon as some people refer to it. While they may know their immediate neighbors, (other people in similar conditions), we find it's difficult to get them out of their dwellings. On the other end of the spectrum are those individuals whose residents has been provided for them via SHA, (Seattle Housing Authority) or Section 8 through the Porch Light Program. While on opposite ends of the income spectrum we find these people to are very difficult to get to know, and participate in few, if any, of the local activities. As a community this neighborhood is unbelievably fragmented. The elimination of the "corner store" in this little neighborhood has been a seminal event. This occurred through the act of eminent domain by the Seattle Housing Authority as it was directly adjacent to their maintenance facility at Dearborn and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The closing of the store eliminated persons not associated with the neighborhood from the neighborhood. It eliminated public drunkenness, public urination, and the propensity for individuals who seek to buy or sell drugs to congregate. It has had the very same effect on prostitution. As best I can tell, very few of these conditions changed directly because of the comprehensive plan.

There are more families with young children. There have been a number of school closures (even as the number of young families increases). Rent and housing costs are up significantly. In many ways the 23rd/Union corridor has become rundown. There are some nice small businesses that have opened on Union / 20th-22 but the corner at 23rd is gas station, empty lot, abandoned building, and a liquor store...it's ripe for the 24/7 crime that happens there. The "police station" is rarely, if ever, occupied.

lots of growth

There have been considerable changes largely due to the changing socio-economic conditions associated with new homeowners coming to the neighborhood.

Seemingly dramatic increase in density; racial demographic more concentrated; traffic increases; losses of cultural identity even with increase of outdoor spaces named for African Americans - lack of full history; sense of shared ownership and pride shifted to more balkanization and privilege.

The neighborhood is improving step by step. There is still more open air drug dealing than I would like to see / live with.

The physical quality of the housing has improved, I think since existing residents were able to take out home equity loans to improve their houses, and new people moved into 'fixers' with the intention of improving them to get equity. The diversity seems to have gone down overall (more white people, fewer African American people, but a few more people of other ethnicities). The crime levels went down for a few years with the increasing house prices, but violent crime and breakins seem to be up a lot in the last year or so. It seems there are a lot more children in the neighborhood, with more every year. Overall, the identity of the area has changed from primarily African American, and I think that has led to more issues. Some African American people feel that they are losing their neighborhood identity, and some white people moving in feel uncomfortable being part of gentrification. Cultural differences (even communication styles) and historic/current racism make it hard for people to find common ground.

Primarily there has been considerable demographic (socio-economic) shift that comes with the influx of new home owners who purchased residential property in the area due to its relative affordability.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The plan has done fairly good job at developing certain areas (southern part of the central area), but has virtually ignored others (23rd and Union, 23rd and Cherry, and generally the entire area on 23rd north of Jackson.) The Cherry Street business district (between 22nd and MLK) and the 23rd and Union areas are worse off than when the plan was adopted. Neighborhood businesses have declined and more windowfronts are vacant. The perceived lack of security discourages patronage, while the narrow, dirty sidewalks along 23rd discourage foot traffic. The Seattle School District has been particularly hostile to neighborhood development. The reopening of Garfield is a welcome development, but the school and the school district actively opposed the opening of two neighborhood businesses. One, a local wine bar gave up another neighborhood pub, the Twilight Exit opened late after a protracted battle with the school. At the same time, the School district closed the Nova Project at the Horrace Mann building and refused to engage with any community groups regarding a temporary use that would have prevented the historic building from being boarded up. The building is now boarded up and garbage and graffiti is accumulating on and around the building.

Unprecedented growth and increase in average household income and living expenses. Skin color distinctly whiter as new more affluent residents have moved in and existing darker skinned residents sell and or can no longer afford rents. Also seems average age is younger. Lots and lots of new development - most I find interesting and attractive, some cheap and ugly. The Safeway monster store being an example of ugly, though not necessarily cheap. Looking forward to the developments currently slated for 23rd and Madison and 23rd and Union. Love the sort of SRO development on 23rd and see this as one way to meet vision goal of 'as the economic tide rises, the community must provide solutions for its existing residents so they will not be left behind'. Not enough truly affordable housing, not enough truly functional mass transit and not enough truly open space.

Seems to be getting more upscale. Still has difficulties.

Yes, our Cherry Hill area especially is even more gentrified than in the previous 10 years-- i.e., huge rise in values of homes and many in-fill or replacement townhouses & SFRs. I have worked with continuously since 1989 the Squire Park Community Council on community building as in the 1992 Mayor's Plan for 12th Ave Development and on formulating the 1996-99 Central Area Urban plan. The latter was NOT a successfully implemented plan-- despite the rosy picture presented in your review... largely because of lack of good guidance and latterly (until this year), obstacles to cooperative work emanating from those who tightly controlled the trivial power and city support given them. The 12th Ave plan, because of poor support and policies of the DON, has been very slow to take hold, but is poised to do so now IF we get the loop option on 12th AVE for the street car connecting Jackson/5th ave to Capitol Hill light rail stations.

Gentrifi

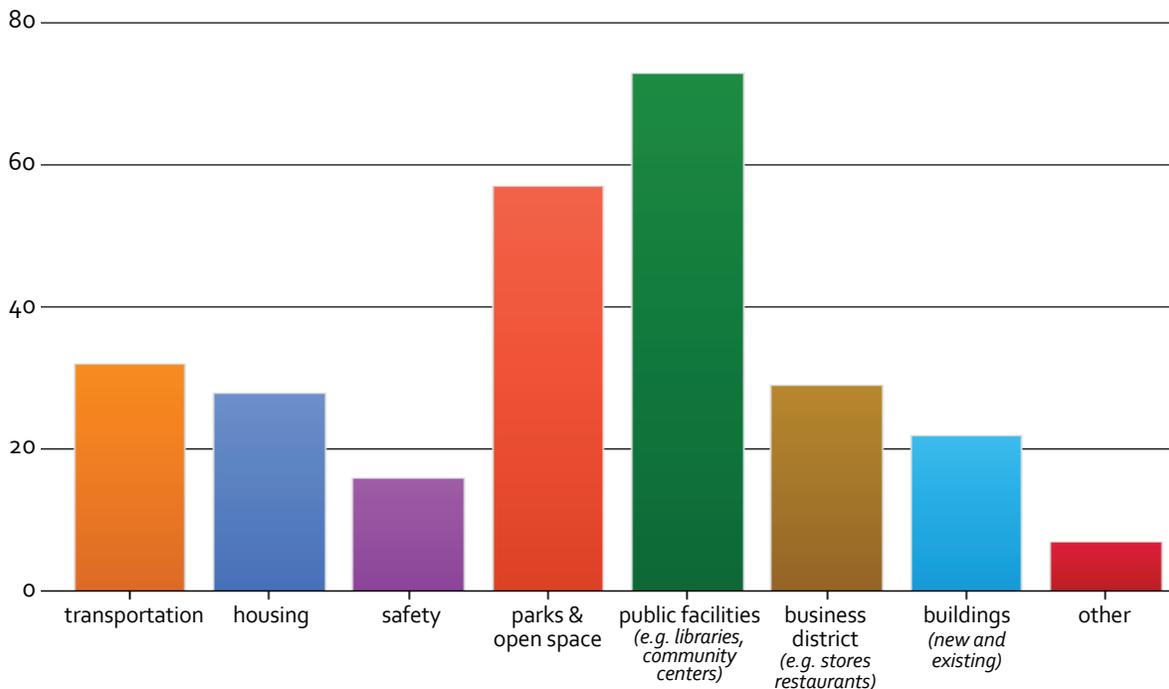
I'm really impressed by the development along 12th avenue and I'd like to see it extended South of Jefferson to where I live. I'm concerned about the potential displacement of low-income seniors that this growth may cause. I'm also concerned that there are too many social services for the homeless/mentally ill/addicted in the area. This generates a lot of transient traffic that leads to litter and makes the residents of the area worry about personal security.

There's not that much change in the neighborhood

Not enough. Insufficient infill development. Too many surface parking lots. Almost no proactive code enforcement.

Modest change, some new mixed use along Broadway, more along Pike/Pine. Mostly remains a dense mf neighborhood to the west, sf neighb to the east. New Brix is great.

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



I am pleased about *improvements* in parks and public facilities (libraries, community centers), but much more is needed too

Hats off to those who have worked to make the 12th Ave corridor so welcoming and busy and safe for pedestrians and cyclists. I'm also pleased by new parks and by the continuing use of our existing parks for neighborhood activities.

Bus downtown is easy

development

The addition to the library at Yesler and 23rd is beautiful and inviting.

Library improvement--douglass truth-is nice.

New library's and community center are nice.

Love that there are 5 buslines within 3 blocks radius of my house (don't love that those routes are cutting back and that the cost keeps going up, but that's another issue). love that the Garfield Community Center, Medgar Evers swimming pool and Douglass Truth library are all walkable.

They've updated both the library and the community center - both of which are great.

Nothing!

I like the new douglas truth library but then to go to the Montlake one as it seems friendlier and the staff more helpful.

Other things respondents are pleased about:

- Convenience of location
- diversity
- Big street trees
- walkability
- neighbors talk to each other
- The police have rounded up the knuckle heads
- None. I feel progress has been slow to stalled

Q2: What are you pleased about?

While we have accepted density we have not received additional public amenities

Improved bus service has been nice.

parks are amazing for kids. Old houses are demolished and the new ones are built. This will increase the value of the neighborhood.

Transportation: The Central District is fairly accessible from downtown and along the 23rd Ave corridor (north-south).

The improvements at Douglass Truth library, Garfield HS, and other public facilities have really helped to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. Multiple development projects that will bring more housing choices and small business opportunities are poised to go once the economy improves.

I enjoy living in the 12th Ave area because of the convenience to downtown and my workplace. The 12th ave business district is developing nicely and is exciting to watch. I don't think that the services offered by the city stand out in this area. For example, there is a lot of litter on the sidewalks.

I'm impressed with how FloWare park has been improved. I used to only see young men loitering in FloWare and now I see children playing there. It no longer seems shady, but like a nice city park.

We have a 'pocket park' destined for 12th Ave and James Court, but not enough money to implement, so now we basically have an empty lot. The King County Court facility has a small open space with public art, which is one of the only public gathering places in the neighborhood.

Many apartments and condominiums have been built in the neighborhood although it appears they are having difficulty renting up.

Judkins Park is a great resource, but underused, and under-usable. It needs to be more multi-use, and entrances & exits to the park need to be made safer and more inviting.

The parks, ease of movement and nearby access to a few libraries made me want to move back.

Thank goodness we invested in our libraries and parks.

The Central District really is centrally located, and the neighborhood has good "bones" - places like 23rd & Jackson and 23rd & Union which could become real focal points for the neighborhood. It's easy to get to many other parts of the city and the east side from here. The library has good hours.

The Douglas Truth library remodel was much needed and is very nice. There are great parks in the area that are in pretty good shape as long as the drug dealers are not there.

Madison is finally coming along. Jackson is finally coming along. Garfield campus is great. New parks are really nice. The African American museum. Crosswalks on Union, Parts of MLK are beautiful.

Public safety in area greatly improved. Miller Community Center thriving; playfield synthetic turf will both provide better sports opportunities and eliminate long-term dust nuisance.

The infill has added vibrancy. The new people seem proud and happy to live here, which translates into less littering and garbage in general on the streets.

New Cal Anderson Park is awesome.

Good to see more businesses open on Madison.

Too much money seems to be spent on parks

Need more police and less gang violence

It's great to see a variety of races, nationalities, ethnicities. When we first moved in the neighborhood was quite homogenous, almost all African American.

Crime is down and the business community is developing and getting stronger.

Lots of green space around is great.

Sam Smith and Judkins are well maintained and nice assets in the neighborhood.

I like the library and the parks along the lake as I live on the eastern edge of the area.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

the starbucks park is an improvement and our library is great, you are just scared you will get shot walking there

Affordable housing is great - I wouldn't have been able to buy a home without it, but as white, college-educated individual, I'm not sure affordable housing programs were designed with me in mind. It's ironic that people with the most access to resources seem to hear about/find more resources and people with fewer resources/education continue to be left behind. I do appreciate all the parks in the area and see individuals and families using the parks who seem to reflect my neighbors.

Judkins Park is a great public asset and the Douglass-Truth Branch of the SPL system has benefited from the expansion and remodel.

good east-west choices and lots of buses Many older homes being renovated and/or well kept

Several new businesses have opened, especially around S.U.

I'm glad we still have the #4 bus. My children use and appreciate the Powell Barnett park.

Although we're underserved by the light rail projects. They are still an improvement and improved transp. is a step in the right direction. Though we live in a high crime pocket of the CD, I've been impressed w/ the East Precinct's response. They do a fantastic job with the limited resources at their disposal.

I like that there are several bus routes that go from downtown to my neighborhood. I also appreciate the 48 that goes down 23. It makes it easier to visit friends that live in that area.

Some lovely small parks around. Love being near the Arboretum. Great neighbors.

The Douglass Truth Library remodel is great and Powell Barnett Park provides a hub for the community.

In my immediate neighborhood, I am happy with the parks improvements at the Madrona Playfield, the Madrona School remodel, street improvements adjacent the Madrona Playfield and the retail and eating establishments. Garfield is a great community center for the neighborhood and the new community center and school remodel are terrific. The infill townhome development happening on Union east of 15th is starting to help the appeal of the Union corridor. Jackson Street redevelopment is coming along with the help of new construction mixed use infill and the Swedish Hospital expansion. Redevelopment around Seattle U has added vibrancy to that corridor as well.

The reason I moved to the Central Area in the first place was because the housing and infrastructure was well established. At 103 years old, my home has a "style" that a block of new townhouses just can't touch. Bus transportation is excellent, and even though I do use my car, I use it much less than I did while living in Fremont.

SPD, the FBI & DEA have made good progress in reducing drug dealing. Black on Black and gang violence remain a big issue.

There is a lot of history and potential for the Central District.

The Douglass-Truth library is a true asset to the community. Also, there is an increasing housing stock, which hopefully will be beneficial to the community by creating a critical mass that will lead to more commercial development in the CD.

The parks are much cleaner and more user friendly

We chose this area because of the good access to frequent bus service, the ability to walk to nearby services (including library and pool and parks), and the fact that people will talk to each other in the neighborhood. None of that has changed, although the transit is so heavily used that the busses are nearly always full to capacity during peak hours.

The CD is well served by transit and has a diverse stock of housing, for a variety of household incomes.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

The Douglass Truth library is lovely; the addition is architecturally interesting and it coexists harmoniously with the original structure. I appreciate the materials chosen - they do not look cheap and they age well. I also appreciate Homer Harris park. It is nice to be able to take your child to a lower-key park such as this one. I like the big open space to run around in and the simple play area is much more peaceful than the "big toy" play areas at most other parks. This open-ended style encourages more imaginative play and kinda reminds me of the (seemingly old) concrete structure/sculpture at Pratt Park and the awesome modern playgrounds of the 1960s era.

Powell Barnett is a fantastic park. I love being in walking distance. We also enjoy T.T. Minor playground, Miller CC, and Medgar Evars pool. With T.T. Minor closing, we hope this area can remain a safe and enjoyable open space for the neighborhood.

It's great to live so close to two libraries (Madrona and Douglas Truth) and the Garfield Community Center. I also love that there are a number of parks within a half-mile. There have been some efforts to build interesting developments (Union and 25th live-work lofts, modern townhomes near corner of Union and 26th).

the neighborhood is cleaner and safer than it used to be.

It seems most public money has been spent on renovation of existing schools, libraries and community centers. The effects of seemingly unrestricted residential and commercial development without first bringing infrastructure services such as road and transportation and sewage and drainage and electrical and other utility systems in line with demand is what I find most frustrating. The Madison Valley storm/sewage overflow debacle is the most obvious example - the condition of other utilities - ie electrical grid - are less obvious but will soon be hard to ignore if more resources are not committed.

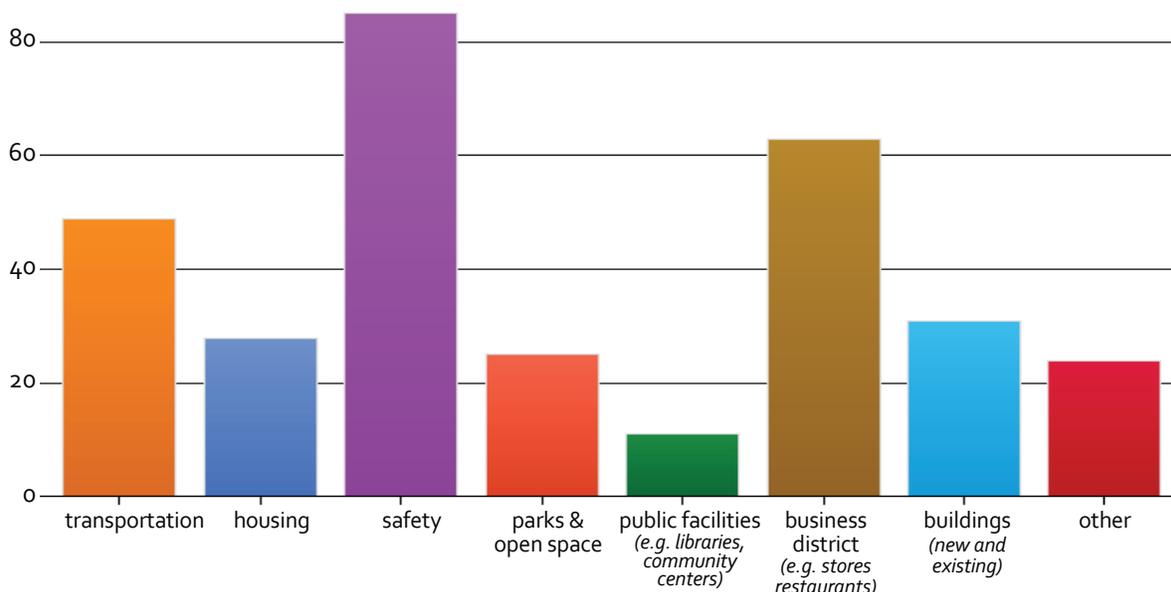
i'd like to see the in-ground lights at whale park on 14th and E remington ct be replaced so the park has more light and the sculpture be highlighted.

The police took their sweet fuckin time, they let drug dealers and hookers wander around behind the post office all the way down to the Nova High School, which is now boarded up. Whose brilliant idea was that? People were passing drugs back and forth in front of my house at 3am for MONTHS. The police knew who all these people were yet they waited for the psychics to give the go ahead.

Parks and open space is great. The Judkins Park to greenway to NAAM are great! More of this kind of development. Douglass-Truth library is wonderful. Medgar Evars Pool and Garfield Community Center are great (when not overrun by gangs).

The new library and the development of 23rd/Jackson have worked well; the Union & 23rd development remains a big problem, despite big infusions of aid for the Metropolitan ctr (so called) and the SE corner with the attached post office and strip mall. Frequent violent crime scenes there (and at the Garfield site from Cherry-Alder) certainly constrain economic development and community feeling.

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



Other things respondents are dissatisfied about:

- **SCHOOLS!**
- Gentrification that pushes diversity out of the CD
- City response to fixing streets, water supply, and snow storm
- School closures in an area that has a quickly growing school-age population.
- Lack of schools
- school closures
- police presence
- the fact that there is still a fair amount of crime in Pratt Park, i.e. shootings, dealings,
- police and animal control do not respond in timely way.
- Not feeling that I have the support of SPD.
- gangs, shootings around Jackson between 23rd and 29th
- increased gang activity, youth crime
- very pedestrian un-friendly -
- Number of dogs
- Providence not being a good neighbor.
- Drug dealing and lack of police response
- Schools
- availability of on street parking during the work day
- implementation of the Mayor's 1992 12th Avenue Plan
- lack of affordable housing and affordable retail space
- Funds for parks & other public facilities were never available until the majority moved in.
- It is a long trek in any direction to get to a grocery store, such as QFC or Safeway.
- Infrastructure, broken sidewalks, parking, zoning
- litter

- pedestrian safety: street lighting as well as new development (and design guidelines) to put "eyes on the street" - would like to see more useful, walkable, local neighborhood businesses on Madison between ~17th to ~24th (near top of hill, above Madison Valley) - a road diet, with bike lanes, for 23rd Avenue -- plus crosswalks - can we do anything about substations?

As I said before, I'm not pleased with the housing prices - and with the assumption that no families live in my neighborhood so it's fine to build small units. The recent violence has everyone a bit nervous, as well.

parks have been created but aren't usable due to safety issues

crime, gangs, guns, drugs

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The CD is not a safe neighborhood. I would like to see regular foot patrols in key sections of the neighborhood. Drugs are frequently bought and sold in all parts of the neighborhood including our parks. Two strip malls at 23rd and Jackson do not a business district make. The stretch of Jackson between 18th and MLK needs to be revitalized into an active and welcoming business district. Many buildings (retail and housing) are allowed to fall into disrepair leading to squatters and rats.

Parking is becoming more scarce, graffiti doesn't get removed despite the complaints. More streets should be bike-friendly.

Buildings & housing go together. There is an overwhelming amount of new housing being built. I see this being an issue when it comes to parking and traffic... Public facilities- Community centers overall are not meeting the needs of the community and providing options for our youth. It seems that the Dept. of Parks & Recreations main goal is to make money and not really serve the community...

Number 1 issue is safety---there's still too much crime and gang crimes, but the police are working on that (drug initiative and other things). Parks are few and far between and run down. The stores are pathetic. They call Jackson place an "urban village" but having an old run down Red Apple, 1 nice starbucks, a nasty walgreens, and a few fast food restaurants, doesn't make it a village. Not to mention lots of small business went out of business this year (book store)--which is sad. Our "urban village" looks like central ohio--run down, no longer populated, noone can make a living. Oh--and there are some nasty run down apartments and houses that are ugly.

Some concern about gentrification turning the neighborhood into an all white enclave

SDOT has done a terrible job in the Central Area. The infrastructure needs a major overhaul and is being neglected by the City Gov't. Many streets and sidewalks need major repair.

Obviously safety is a HUGE concern at 23rd and Cherry. I've witnessed shootings from my bedroom window and frequently do not feel safe venturing outside my house after dark. The level of robberies in this area is also out of control. There needs to be more incentive and help for small business owners to open businesses (cafes, restaurants, retail) at 23rd and Cherry. The old Dilettante building has been sitting empty for far too long. Rents and housing prices keep skyrocketing in what is usually a lower income neighborhood - forcing many of us to think about leaving.

I miss seeing brown people - American Blacks in particular.

The abandoned Horace Mann School, the abandoned Cherry Cleaners

Buses can be better. Graffiti and drug problem in the area.

No actual contact with the area tenants about what goes on in our area. The people making decisions do not live here and do not experience the day to day issues in the area.

While housing density has increased, the type of housing (namely townhouses) has negatively impacted the neighborhood. This type of housing isolates its residents from the rest of the neighborhood, with the front doors often on the inside of the development, rather than facing the street.

The status overview for the Central Area mentions a "mini-precinct" at Union and 23rd. I don't see that space being used or creating much change and I am curious what it's purpose is.

I really wish that this is the type of neighborhood that I feel safe about taking a walk around after dinner but alas I do not. The shops are pretty much geared toward fast foods, manicure places and not really sit down boutique restaurants. The caliber of restaurants are also really slim.

We are not supporting our growing number of families if let schools close

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I would like to see a park created in this neighborhood where neighbors could gather for community meetings. I place it would be a central focus outside of their own homes truly in the community and entirely neutral. The only community center that we currently have is the central area Senior Center up on 30th. As a whole it doesn't well serve the community of average residents. Which is not to say it doesn't do well for seniors. Most people in this community have never been there.

I don't see many convenient stores around where I live. But if I drive up or down a couple of miles, I can find. Safety was ok in that neighborhood the last 7 years but this time around it gets worse. My car was broken and CD players and other stuff was stolen. We see some strange faces on the street. I think that is not a good sign for this kind of area.

Transportation: a direct bus route that goes south (along 12th Ave) to Beacon Hill is greatly needed. The only bus that services Beacon Hill from the Central District/Capitol Hill is the #60, which is a very indirect route and does not run often. The #8 route needs to expand its service along MLK Way for evening and weekend riders. Housing: the increase in condominiums and housing costs has forced low-income community members to relocate. Safety: I am concerned about the increased presence of Seattle Police in the Central Area. The increased presence of police on 23rd & Union (and throughout the Central District) does not curb street/gang violence, and I do not feel safer by having more police nearby. We need more community spaces, job opportunities, low-income housing, and community-oriented businesses in the neighborhood. Business District & Buildings: Many small businesses have closed due to rent increases and clientele displacement. There used to be several buildings and small businesses along Madison between 19th & 22nd Aves. Several of those blocks have been razed and sit as vacant lots. A new condominium on 23rd and Madison has had vacant units for years.

Bus service in the Central Area could certainly be improved (although the changes to the #8 are good). Specifically, more frequent service on the 12, 11, and 2/3/4 routes would help to better connect this close-in, dense neighborhood with the CBD. Also, the closures of TT Minor and NOVA are unfortunate and short-sighted, as the increased number of families in the neighborhood is going to increase demand for schools in the near future.

Litter and graffiti are common and not cleaned up. I don't feel there is a good police presence in the neighborhood even though I see suspicious activity going on, especially at the corner of Broadway and Jefferson.

No bus service to and from Capitol Hill on weekends. Being next to the CD, Capitol Hill is a great place for restaurants and entertainment, but the only way to get there on weekends is driving, since the 8 only runs during the week. The CD needs more restaurants and shopping. I am still going to the international district for nearly all of my food needs and it would be wonderful to find in my own neighborhood. And there are times in this area that I do not feel safe. Criminal activity is very apparent in the area and I worry about opening up my home to air out in the evenings that I might have unwelcome guests.

Businesses closed Schools closed

There are still an inordinate number of purse snatchings, car vandalism and frail elderly still don't use Pratt Park because of the lack of a police presence.

The Promenade and Jackson corridor are in dire need of renovation. They are not pedestrian friendly and especially south of the Promenade, behind BofA, it is unsafe. Also, townhome design code lacks teeth, vision, and care for the neighborhoods. Buildings whose prominent features are garages, with few or no windows on the street and very little setback are unsightly and unsafe.

Many are being pushed out of the community. I would hate to see the CD become a neighborhood of 'haves'. A good neighborhood is a mixture of 'haves' and 'have nots'.

We need a Fred Meyer. I drive to Ballard to do my shopping. I don't like it.

Every peak hour 14 bus is crowded & standing room only. Homes/Units per block should be more limited. There are too many townhomes going up where one house once stood. I don't shop at any of the stores around 23rd & Jackson because of the crime that occurs in that area on a regular basis.

NO NEW CONDOS!

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

There is a huge amount of visible drug dealing. I run, and I can see various points along my route becoming more firmly in the "drug dealers and their clients only" camp. There also isn't a worthwhile business district. What we need is something like the business district in Madison Valley, with non-chain stores and an atmosphere that doesn't include drug dealers.

Bus transportation is terrible to get us to places we need to go and slow. The route 4 is a SLOW Bus. We need a streetcar down Jackson. While I know that the townhomes are the future, there have been too many cheap, ugly ones built that do face/take part of the street. It's like we're building units that allow people to not be part of the community.

Wider sidewalks, nervous about the 12th/madison/union area because there needs to be trees or something between the people and the cars. That is why business can't thrive at the 23rd and Mad Safeway. Upset that low density townhomes built instead of apartments where it was zoned for on 23rd near Mad and between 12th and Broadway for example. 23rd and Union. 23rd is awful to walk on. Union and MLK. What happened to the beautification of MLK that stopped at Cherry? Need more businesses that are actually useful instead of just restaurants. 23rd and Jackson strip mall is really bad. Should have had a second and third floor with housing. Want to preserve buildings on the historic inventory, especially on Cherry. Want a simple (no bigger than a SF home) duplex zoning allowable for ANY SF lot inside the Urban Village.

Economic downturn has stifled development. Desire for workforce/affordable housing as part of redevelopment not yet realized.

By safety I am referring to cars speeding. Speeding down Union is treacherous. People fly down at 40+ miles per hour. I have 'almost' been hit many many times. We lack some basic stores such as shoe repair and small hardware. Small businesses need more encouragement and help, and less of the taxing/regulations that bigger businesses can afford, and that makes smaller businesses teeter on the edge of viability. And last but not least, OMG the skinny homes architecture is foul! Building codes HAVE to be altered to allow more variety and to please god give us something to look at that is remotely attractive!

Townhomes are cropping up EVERYWHERE and they are poorly designed and often do not fit in with existing character of homes in terms of scale and density. They have created parking problems and detract from the overall quality of the neighborhood.

There are a lot of home burglaries and I am very concerned about youth violence.

Traffice is getting a little heavy

Too many drug dealers. The neighborhood is grossly underserved by restaurants, shops etc. Look forward to seeing more improvements in the business district while hoping diversity is maintained.

The neighborhood is much less safe. Older people who were home during the day and helping to keep an eye on things are gone. Young "urban hipster" types move in, rent, don't take care of their property, ride their bikes around at night with no helmets or lights, demand vegan food at the local food bank, irritate the older neighbors. Gang members and wannabes congregate at the corner of MLK and Jackson, all the way up to the corner of 23rd and Jackson, muggings are frequent, I never walk in my neighborhood anymore -- I even take the car to go two blocks to the Walgreen's pharmacy. Drug activity and prostitution are rampant. Urban hipsters tolerate this in front of their rental homes, possibly because they think it gives them "street cred" or "ghetto chic." Yuppies move into the newly-built, ugly, expensive, townhouses and suggest that problems could be solved through public art and having the mini marts sell organic vegetables and local wines along with 40s and hot cheetos. New immigrants seem scared and confused. How will these groups ever connect to make a safer, more neighborly neighborhood?

Bus service is still poor on weekends (no #8, infrequent #11). Zoning restrictions are encouraging more tear-downs as people try to create more value on large lots with small homes in single-family zone-restricted areas. Zoning needs to be changed to allow more infill, especially to encourage multi-generational housing and affordable housing.

would like to see more small shops and restaurants/cafes aside from what is on the Rainier "strip" increased density is probably good, but all of the new housing looks the same and is ugly

Not enough retail to keep my \$\$\$ in the neighborhood

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Over reliance on automobiles. Rainier, 23rd, etc all need road diets, wider sidewalks, etc. Urban form is fractured by surface parking and driveways. New construction needs to prohibit surface parking and address the most significant arterial fronting the site. Many vacant or abandoned houses seemingly ignored by DPD. Proactive code enforcement for vegetation, derelict cars and other nuisances nonexistent.

Safety continues to be a concern and I believe the area is very under policed. The area needs a good grocery stop. Red Apple has improved but not by much. It can be more expensive than QFC and can have quite low quality produce and meat. There are almost no bars or retail of interest.

lots of buildings remain vacant, and recently closed schools are adding to this list, especially Nova. Cherry has not developed well. safety is a major issue as we feel we are in drug containment zone, ironically in walking distance to a HIGH SCHOOL!

Considering how close to downtown we are, buses should not be running every 30 mins. It takes much too long to get downtown. Still too many shootings. The business district could use a good boost. The Promenade is dated and ugly. It could use a facelift.

We experience a great deal of cut-through traffic in Jackson Place from the extreme back-ups at Rainier/ Dearborn and Rainier/Jackson. Our neighbors that have live in Jackson Place for decades are getting priced out. Older homes are being replaced with oversized, out-of-place townhomes. We have been longing for more small, local stores and restaurants that we can walk to. Jackson has been slow to develop and the now-defunct proposed Dearborn Street project was out of scale and character with neighborhood needs. We now have some opportunities for businesses on Jackson on the ground floor of the new developments at 18th, but the economy is going to make those slow to fill up. Jackson and 23rd is crying out for an overhaul. The days of massive street level parking lots should be behind us. Parking at Red Apple is typically low, but you will see many pedestrians walking precariously through the parking. We need a more pedestrian- and bike-friendly development there. Red Apple is a great neighborhood grocery, however, and I would not want to lose them to a corporate chain. Again, from Jackson Place meeting, I know that neighbors would love to see a more vibrant, local development at 23rd as well as down on Dearborn someday.

Cost of housing is changing the demographics, historic black community getting smaller and older folks moving out. The business areas are scattered and don't have critical mass for a strong pedestrian district yet.

Safety is a concern in the neighborhood. Also, while there are parks, the upkeep with respect to rubbish hauling as well as plant life maintenance appears sub-par compared to other neighborhoods I have lived in here in the city.

Multi-family housing units are largely uninspired in design and appear cheap. Newer green units seem more inspired and uplifting. Lack of reverence for older architecture and the lack of ability for some owners of older homes to afford specialized upkeep.

Safety is still an issue. Three shootings outside our building (12th and Jefferson). in the last several years. Hip-hop club seems to attract drug 'tourists' to the neighborhood on weekends.

I feel threatened by the number of dogs in the community. I can't walk down some blocks without being barked at by a ferocious and unattended dog. My step son was bitten by a dog that got loose and my son was chased by one. We still don't have great retail opportunities.

Many of the townhomes and condos are ugly and don't facilitate community building. As noted, the East Precinct can use more resources. (who can't.) They do a great job with what they have.

It would be nice to have a closer, larger grocery store in this part of the neighborhood. There are a lot of elderly in the area and I can imagine it must be hard for them to get certain things because of the distance they need to travel on the bus. There is no direct bus route from here to any of the grocery stores around. That makes it difficult also.

Would love to see the old MLK school become a community center. Also wish there were more frequent bus service, particularly 8 and 11.

Crossing Madison and Union streets to reach transit, groceries, and other services is not the most pleasant nor safe. 12th Avenue needs a transit route. Connecting the future Capitol Hill station with the existing Beacon Hill station via a direct route along 12th seems like a no brainer.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Light rail won't come to the central district. Bus service is not always reliable. Housing prices have skyrocketed. Violence among young people as well as general petty crime don't create a feeling of safety.

23rd and Union is not adequately policed at night and therefore does not feel safe. It would be nice if the intersection of 23rd and Union had better street appeal. The Existing MF projects along Madison street, East of Capitol Hill do not have street friendly retail so there hasn't been much improvement in the retail shopping experience. The new Safeway store development could have been more street friendly as it sits at an important gateway to CH and the Central District.

Traffic is still largely ignored. Nothing has been done to reduce the number of vehicles cutting through the neighborhoods and park all over the streets, especially those generated by Providence. There is still not enough bus service to all areas.

Crime is still a problem here and in some cases, getting worse. Around 23rd and Union, we're losing businesses. Some to earthquake damage, one to murder, but generally, in a direction which has created a business and social vacuum. Drug dealer, gang bangers, prostitutes and others have come in to fill that void. We need some life back on the corner. I'm not really sure what that means, but something positive has to take back that intersection, one business at a time.

The CD has been left out of the new rail and streetcar services. We have a long way to take the bus to get to light rail. That will be a major pain in the neck and an impediment to use it to get to SeaTac airport from the CD. We still lack some major businesses and services in the CD and have to drive to find them.

The city condones the open air drug dealing. You can find drug dealing and prostitution any time day or night. Business cannot exist or thrive in this environment and anyone with kids would be insane to live in here.

Lack of true business nodes and commercial areas that are safe, family-friendly, and easily accessible.

The roads here are in very poor condition; bicycle commuting is very difficult because of all of the pot holes, some of which are enormous. The community is becoming more safe, but it is still a major issue for all residents. We have parks here in the CD, but they do not appear to be kept up like parks in other neighborhoods in this city. There are few areas in the neighborhood where I consistently shop or go out to eat. This is partially due to the quality of the businesses, limited services/products offered, safety (especially near 23rd and Jackson) and just a general lack of quality.

open air drug dealing is prevalent. Drug paraphernalia is all over the streets

Where there is a core at 23rd and Jackson, it seems to reflect only one section of the neighborhood. As a white woman I often feel intimidated or harassed when I go there - NOT by shopkeepers (I love the businesses) but by the folks that seems to 'hang' out nearby. Why do we put up with drug dealers and gang members constantly patrolling the park at 28th and Jackson? It is insulting to have such visible crime in what should be a safe family neighborhood.

Violent crime and breakins have gone up a lot in the last year or so (six people have been shot within 4 blocks of our house in the last year alone). The commercial development hasn't happened as quickly as I expected, and the reason appears to be soil contamination from previous businesses (dry cleaners and gas stations), making it financially difficult for the properties to be developed. The few commercial properties that are nearby are far apart from each other and oriented to cars (big front parking lots on busy streets), making it impractical for people to walk to these services.

Closed public buildings create a negative impression on visitors. The Cherry and Union Street Business Districts are underutilized because of a perceived lack of personal safety at night. 23rd avenue should be narrowed (2 travel lanes, 1 turn lane) and the sidewalks expanded to allow for pedestrian traffic.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Regarding safety, the violence in our area is upsetting. The shootings and deaths affect everyone negatively. Finding needles is freaky. I walk around with my little one, but there are certain areas of our neighborhood I will not go to because of persistent problems with drugs and violence. The 'central district news' community blog has a daily police scanner update and there are some clear patterns. The current transportation system could be much improved simply by running certain buses more frequently. So many times, even at off-peak times, my little one and I have squeezed onto a full (frequently with people standing) bus. An overcrowded bus is especially difficult for elderly passengers and people with young children to navigate. And people are not always jumping up to offer seats to the elderly and/or those juggling groceries or children. I would also like to see the 12th ave. streetcar happen! There are no options for north-south transit through the center of the central district. You either have to bus or walk up to 23rd ave (along which there are certain bus stops I will not go to because they are too sketchy) or bus or walk down to 12th and Jackson to catch the notoriously late #9. Or catch something and go out-of-the-way through downtown and make your way back up to/through capitol hill. Lame! More truly affordable housing! Stricter requirements placed on developers who tear it down requiring it to be replaced. Or a greater percentage of what they build must be affordable to people with lower incomes - or if the development is condos require that some are sold at a rate that is affordable to people with a low or moderate income. I am not pleased with the majority of the new construction in the neighborhood. Yes, I too hate most of the townhomes. I am not an unyielding opponent of development but I think the current situation could be improved. I would like to see some better aesthetics when it comes to townhomes (and the enormous mixed-use buildings too). Perhaps consider something they do in Portland where 4 or 6 designs are approved and developers can choose one and go through an easier more streamlined permit process. I would be very interested in that if the designs were created or reviewed/approved by some real architects along with input from neighbors. Putting a little pitched roof on it and some trim does not make it "craftsmen style" or make it fit in any better! I think a number of people appreciate tasteful modern design. It would also be great to allow the addition of "cottages" to the lots of single family homes rather than have nice (and even slightly rundown-though still repairable) old homes razed and replaced with the current townhome style and pavement/parking covering nearly every inch of the property. For the health of our environment, and because it makes sense,

we can and should do more to encourage the re-use of current structures. A neighborhood program assisting interested homeowners with lower or fixed incomes with navigating the process of financing and building a "cottage" on their property could be a way to create responsible development/density, and generate income in the form of rent or sale for the homeowners. The remodel (or even larger scale vertical addition to) and re-use of our neighborhood's many vacant storefronts would also be a positive thing for our neighborhood. Overall, neighborhood development should be benefiting the residents of the neighborhood more. There are some nice locally-owned businesses in our neighborhood and I would like to see more! We are happy the huge Target development on Dearborn did not pass and that is one of the reasons. There have been some new openings, and there have been closures and relocating too. We need more places to walk to within the neighborhood, beyond the areas 12th, 23rd, Jackson and Madison. I am pleased with the new G-projects live/work building at 19th and Yesler and I am looking forward to seeing what moves in.

Open drug dealing, crack smoking, prostitution, and burglarly are horrible in this neighborhood. I see open dealing and use on a daily basis. I worry about my kids in this neighborhood. I will no longer cross anywhere near 23rd avenue after dark. The corner of 23rd/Union is a mess. It is falling apart, 1/2 abandoned and in need of a fresh start (empty lot, gas station, liquor store, abandoned retail, and open air drug market 24/7/365). Buses are frequent but almost always overcrowded...very disappointed that light rail did not continue down MLK through the CD.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The neighborhood plan called for north/south transit service on 12th Avenue. There is none and no apparent progress on achieving that. I believe the 12th Avenue urban village is the only urban village in the City without transit service on its "main street". The current Multifamily Land Use Code encourages the worst kind of townhouse development. We need an improved Code so that future multifamily development is better. King County has said for the better part of the last ten years that it will develop or partner with a developer to put mixed use (housing and retail) buildings on the parking lot portion of the DYS site at 12th and Alder. Nothing has been done, and progress appears to be years away. I would like to see the City help the County put in place a development that replaces this vast surface parking lot and repairs this gaping hole in our urban fabric. The Parks Dept. recognizes 12th Avenue as an "underparked" neighborhood. One small piece of property has been identified as the site of a future park, which is good. However, even if and when that piece is developed we will need more parks and open space. The City should do more to support the areas that have been designated as commercial hubs (business districts.) Recently the City appeared ready to change the zoning and vacate streets in order to support a nearby mall (on Deaborn near Rainier.) The promise of the Neighborhood Plan is that if neighborhoods accept residential density then the City will support and encourage amenities, such as increased retail opportunities. The City seems to have forgotten that promise. In the future, zoning decisions should not take away from the vitality of nearby small-scale business districts. The Mayor's 1992 12th Avenue Plan contained a mechanism for funding capital improvements in the neighborhood by devoting the proceeds of the sale of City-owned property to such improvements. That funding mechanism was stopped by City bureaucrats contrary to ordinances previously passed by the City Council and promises made to the neighborhood.

I am extremely displeased with what I see as huge influx of condominiums without any thought to design or how they fit in the neighborhood

More small business development or multifamily housing is needed along 23rd, between Jackson and Madison. Townhomes, in my opinion, are not a good fit for such a major arterial. I would prefer to see development similar to what one sees along 45th Avenue in Wallingford. Transportation options have not expanded to serve the growing population in this neighborhood. There is not great diversity in restaurants (predominantly Ethiopian/Eritrean cuisine) or stores (nail salons, chain stores). Level of drug and gang activity remains high and also very visible. Block between Islamic School and Nova School frequently filled with drug dealers and prostitutes. I would like to see more multifamily development with set-asides for affordable housing units. Townhouse development in the neighborhood has, to date, been largely boring and predictable, with few exceptions.

the buses are still incredibly slow.

Parks Department upkeep of parks is sub-par compared to other neighborhoods. Public safety remains an issue, in part due to the lack of economic investment in commercial districts and the neighborhood as a whole.

Not enough adequate transit options. Not enough affordable housing. Just moving drug problems from one corner to another. Not enough open space. Not enough affordable retail space and too many corporate chain stores. But - headed in the right direction and pleased with commitment to involve community.

we need the streetcar on 12th! going north between the ID, CD, and Capitol Hill is nearly impossible! Also, there needs to be a real stoplight at 14th and Jefferson.

seattle is like the crappiest run city of all time. Whose clever idea was it to remove the light rail down 23rd Ave in the 40's? We sure could use it now. Thank God the bitches that were running the city then didn't run San Francisco. Think about it. Seattle could have been so accessible and pedestrian friendly and not so car oriented had you just FUCKIN LEFT IT ALONE.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Current plans call for a new mixed use retail/residential building on 23rd and E Union. The developer was granted a variance to go to 6 floor in a NC-45 zone, without having to submit documented justification of financial hardship to remain within zoning height limits. I attended public hearing of the Design Review board for this project. While there is neighborhood support for something going into this long unused lot, I feel that the city was irresponsible in granting the height variance. It sets precedent for future construction going to a height that is inappropriate for a neighborhood comprised primarily of single family residences.

The 23rd and Jackson business district is just a giant strip mall. How about having a real urban village that people can be proud of instead of a strip mall? Crime is on the rise, safety is a big concern. Gang violence seems up. We hear gunshots a couple of times a year which isn't fun. Please bring the Rainier light rail close by when the over the bridge (I-90) connector comes in!

Few useful businesses have moved into 23rd & Jackson area in past 3 years. Public transportation to other areas in Seattle still limited - must take multiple busses to get to Bellevue. Still not safe at night.

I understand the why and I know things are going to get better until equal gets real.

fewer buses because of light rail

Cookie cutter (or worse) designs for townhouses and other "tall-skinny" in-fill/replacement housing MAY be restrained by new rules for Design Review for such "developments." 12th Ave shd have had a bus line for the past ten years at least... the street car MUST be a top priority-- AND at last a decent sized park (not the pathetic make-do at 12 & James Ct... even if augmented by a woonerf street and MAYBE a decent open garden on Seattle U's still vacant property at 12th & Cherry...

We are in dire need of North-South transportation along 12th Avenue. There is no north-south transit of any sort between Broadway and 23rd, 12th or 14th Avenue are the logical choices for this. 12th is more of a commercial district and probably a better choice.

The Rainier Valley and the CD area seems under served by grocery stores and movie theaters and shops

WE haven't had functioning street lights along Othello Park since well before I moved into the neighborhood. Also, there is often hordes of young teenagers milling about the neighborhood.

Safety is a major concern. I feel the neighborhood has actually gotten worse when it comes to violent crime. We also need more businesses on Madison and Union which will increase foot traffic and make the neighborhood feel more urban.

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

12th Ave North of Jefferson looks great, it is neglected or vacation South of Jefferson. I find myself avoiding the South end of 12th ave even though I only live 2 blocks away.

See above-- some are VERY poorly implemented

Given the realities of economics, I'm not sure how to achieve the vision of fairness in access and opportunity. I'm not pleased with development before infrastructure, though I do very much support the density goals - in fact, would like to see height limits increased, which might be a way to gain more dollars for affordable housing/retail?

Business districts have declined.

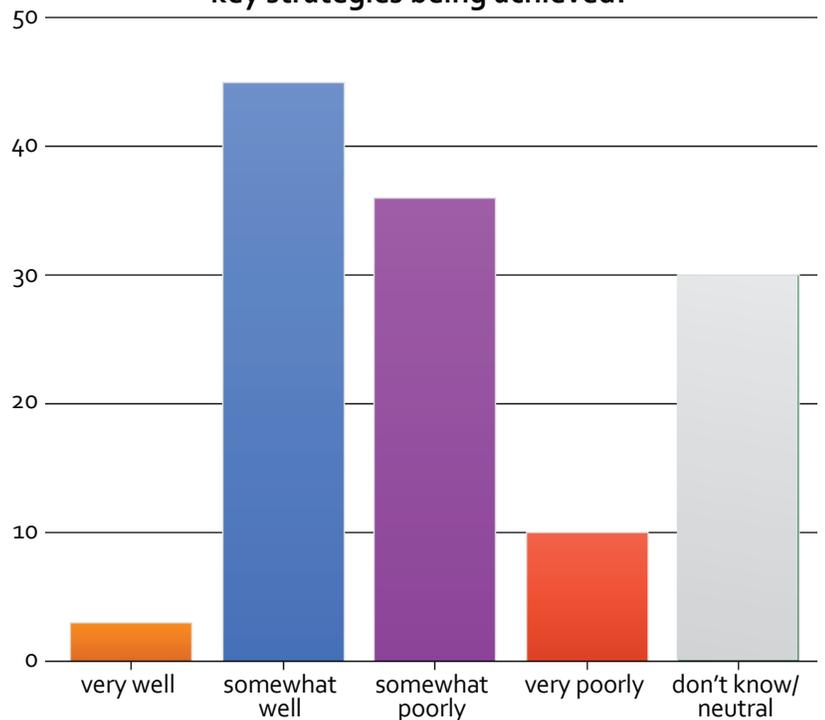
The narrative seems extremely respectful however the applications seem much less committed. Many attempts seem token and minimal at best and lack proper involvement of diverse community residents.

I think some pieces have been achieved or are actively being worked on while other parts are being neglected. I feel like it is squarely in the middle of somewhat well and somewhat poorly.

23rd and Jackson is still a weak business district. 23rd and Union is still a poor gathering place.

Change takes time. I think the efforts for public spaces have been good for the CD. But I don't think a lot of the key strategies are being met. I haven't seen the area around Rainier/Boren/12th become a gateway to the CD. It doesn't seem pedestrian or bicycle friendly or very connected to the history of the CD and immigration in Seattle. 23rd and Union doesn't have open space elements - the Philly store has been shuttered, the car wash is boarded up, there's chain link fence around an empty field, and drug activity a block away. I don't see the Madison/Miller District revitalized for African American business. 23rd and Jackson is an "urban village" around largely chain stores, not independent businesses. Subway, Starbucks, a video store, Walgreens - these do not an urban village make.

How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved?



For what they expected to achieve I think the Central Area Action Plan has worked adequately for the central business hub. The outer neighborhoods still have difficulties.

Housing has improved but police presence and sidewalk maintenance are still lacking.

Goodwill complex / target would have been great for this neighborhood, but too many community organizations slowed the project to the point the developer lost interest. Our neighborhood lost a good opportunity because those afraid of new development dragged their feet and discouraged the developer

Some business areas such as 23rd and Union have been mismanaged, rather than reasonably developed. A vision with schools should have been included.

As described in the previous answers, things seem to be just coming to fruition in places.

A lot of ideas for the Madison-Miller area are great, but the economy is not cooperating. It would be nice to see some stuff built on the empty lots along Madison.

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

As far as 23rd and Jackson, the crossing on Jackson b/w the developments is dangerous, the development, in general is not pedestrian- or bike-friendly, there have been recent shootings, the smaller businesses struggle to stay open (the bookstore failed, yet we still have military recruiting), and it lacks any community character or local appeal.

Key Strategy A: Even though it's ugly, I like the new bike rack (instead of a car parking spot) on 12th Ave. I am concerned about new businesses on 12th Ave catering to high-end clientele and displacing nearby low-income community members.

Key Strategy B: Many small businesses have closed due to rent increases and clientele displacement. There used to be several buildings and small businesses along Madison between 19th & 22nd Aves. Several of those blocks have been razed and sit as vacant lots in addition to other nearby vacant buildings. A new condominium on 23rd and Madison has had vacant units for years. The Safeway storefront below this condominium is NOT a community-oriented business.

I've seen the improvements to 12th Ave and the traffic light improvements to Jackson and 23rd, but I'm not familiar in detail with the Neighborhood Plan.

After long lag (most of decade) the redevelopment of the Madison corridor began but is now stalled. The drug-related crime issues in our immediate neighborhood have been resolved, but have re-emerged at 23rd & UNION.

Maybe there was more drug dealing in the past, but there is still quite a lot of it here, along with the violence that often accompanies it. I feel uncomfortable in my own neighborhood.

The neighborhood is becoming more dangerous. There doesn't appear to be any new businesses, namely restaurants which will attract more foot traffic.

There are a lot of positive possibilities with all the planned construction along Madison, too bad it can't start any time soon. There is a lot of talk about maintaining 23rd and union as a hub of the area. There should be some more work done making it more pedestrian-friendly by slowing down traffic on 23rd and providing on-street parking on 23rd.

Madison Valley is not addressed specifically in the Central Area neighborhood plan vision.

The vision and strategy are described in vague, macro-level terms that seem to come straight out of a text book or manual. It's unclear to me what the vision and strategy really mean beyond the jargon.

23rd and union is a ghost town. Three of the four corners are empty. The community police station is a joke because it is empty and drug use, drug dealing and absolute thuggery happens right outside it's doors. If I didn't have to go to the post office, I would avoid it altogether. 23rd and Jackson is doing great in comparison and I feel 'community' there.

And people are still isolated by race and class. There are the 'owners' and the 'renters' and each group is demonized in the neighborhood.

Some areas are really coming alive and others need help.

Maybe I'm just a little jaded by work and past experiences, but mission statements rarely reflect what's actually going on on the ground. I think they're valuable in communicating complex processes in a simple sound bite, but they aren't so good at providing any sort of scale for measuring success. Given that, I think the Neighborhood Plan vision is still, more or less, on target.

We are at the beginning of the neighborhood's transformation. This would be a better question to ask 18 months from now.

I think some of the strategies have been achieved, but without hearing from the neighbors/NPAC about what they consider signs of success, this is difficult to judge.

My neighborhood falls outside of any of the ""planned"" zones so we see no improvement or changes. General vision seems to be working, but only for the planned areas, like Madison-Miller. My home falls a few blocks east of this planned area, so it gets all of the blight and problems without any of the benefits.

Gentrification

Some good new venues can't be used because safety (crime) issues

I've only been living here a year so I'm not aware of what it was like even 5 years ago to be able to tell.

Union streetscape was a big improvement

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

Very little has been done to achieve the Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies. Mayor Rice's 1992 12th Avenue Plan put in place a mechanism for funding some of the key provisions of that Plan which also became key provisions of the late 1990's Neighborhood Plan. However, recent actions by the Office of Housing took away the mechanism for funding the plan. There has been no action on providing public transportation for 12th Avenue. At the time of the Neighborhood Plan, Metro indicated that the likely transit route for 12th Avenue would be a circulator between the Madison/Boylston (First Hill) Sound Transit light rail station and another S.T. light rail station (perhaps a station on Rainier or the International District station. The Madison/Boylston S.T. light rail station was eliminated. Now there is a plan to connect the Capitol Hill S.T. station with the International District S.T. station with a streetcar, but some of the plans for doing that would have the streetcar bypass 12th Avenue. Successful development of the urban village strategy for more residences and retail space depends on the willingness of large institutional property owners to participate. Chief among them is King County, which owns approximately 8 acres on 12th Avenue which it has held as a surface parking lot. In addition to King County, Pioneer Human Services, the Catholic Archdiocese, and Seattle University have held large pieces of property in states of decay, pending their later (apparently much later) decisions to develop. The Parks Department has moved forward (through the Pro Parks Opportunity Fund) to identify a small parcel for a park. This is much appreciated and we are looking forward to the future development of that site. We are also looking forward to another park to serve the neighborhood. Identifying and purchasing appropriate land for parks and open space is difficult because of the cost of land. The successful development of the neighborhood plan is hindered by the unwillingness of Swedish Hospital and the Sabey Corporation to participate in neighborhood planning. It's likely that rezoning should be considered. There may be a need to allow greater heights on 12th Avenue.

I don't really see much happening...

I do recognize there has been progress in the neighborhood plan--lots of services and general improvements.

I do think there's been tremendous progress along 12th, in particular, and the area around Jackson & 23rd. Union & 23rd has been problematic for a long time, especially since Philly's closed due to the shooting there. I don't think the Central Area is remaining affordable for its traditional residents, especially POC communities.

The economic health of the CD and business districts are lagging behind other neighborhoods. We lack many basic services and suppliers. Public transportation service plans have ignored the CD. It has been and remains difficult to get older, long-time African-American residents to participate in neighborhood planning and meetings. As the demographics change, we need to hear their voices and hopes for the CD.

23rd and Jackson is a mess and is detrimental to the health of the neighborhood as opposed to it's core. It's amazing that a neighborhood so close to the city could have such an uninteresting, bland mix of retail, if at all. I hope someone knocks down that ill-conceived Promenade 23 and starts over there.

I don't see much improvement at 23rd and Jackson in the last 5 years. Perhaps as the new developments finish up Jackson, the area will pick up a bit.

23rd and Jackson and 23rd and Union look pathetic. They are depressing places. The demographics of the Central Area have changed tremendously in the past 10 years--the plan should reflect these changes but does not appear to accommodate this matter.

We need notice of a town hall meeting for the area with city planners.

The safety issue needs to be resolved otherwise no one else is going to want to start a business here or to buy property here!

It seems as though there is still a variety of housing for a range of incomes, however the supply of lower income housing does seem to be decreasing, which is detrimental to the neighborhood in my opinion.

23rd and Jackson is barely hanging on as the business cornerstone.

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

People are afraid to be at the "core" of 23rd and Union.

I don't see the neighborhood magnets.

There seems to be slow movement.

With neighborhood continued involvement things have kept moving. However there are multiple areas where without the push from the neighbors the City would do nothing. The City should be more committed to follow through.

Need a strategy that tells Seattle that the Central District is a very livable place and kid friendly.

we need much stronger, walkable business districts. To much prime retail space is taken up by non-productive uses along major arterials.

Those were a whole lot of words that said absolutely nothing. You high if you think ZONING is the way to fix the future. how about teaching more personal responsibility and a little less social engineering. We had a gravel parking strip that was useful for probably 50 years and the city in it's infinite wisdom took it out and planted trees and grass and put up no parking signs. Well the signs have been stolen, and now everyone parks up on the grass. It rains here. I'm not sure anyone downtown knows that. The "grass" turns to mud and washes down the street. It's a filthy mess and clogs the drains. Great Job.

People are still pushing for good development along 12th ave.

23rd and Union is a mess!

I have seen no signs that East Madison is a shopping center that celebrates African-American history. Did the "economic opportunity area" etc, ever happen?

Address the confluence of at the "central gateway" how? That statement is vague.

23rd and Jackson area has seen some development but it is the scene of too much drug dealing and violence to be considered successful.

I read the plan, I sit on the Providence CAC, I attend Squire Park meetings. I am involved.

The neighborhood plan appears to be aspirational rather than a true assertion of realistic goals. Most of the neighborhood plan goals appear to still be nothing more than a hope for sometime in the distant future.

I'm afraid we're losing our diversity in the neighborhood, which low income minorities continuing to move out. It's a difficult challenge though.

Question 3: Please describe the priorities for your neighborhood.

Gentrification as it applies to small businesses is a growing concern, but may be controlled if we move fast enough.

I am encouraged by talk of the streetcar serving the area, that demonstrates the city's commitment to improving the area.

The SUPPOSED (but only on paper) focus on and so-called pan for the so-called 23rd Ave corridor from Union to Jackson areas is NOT likely to bear fruit within the next decade.... Certainly the 12th Ave Plan can work sooner, but, OF COURSE, it is not in the center of this large Central Area-- not even of Squire Park. BUT it is a plan/place with promise... Capital Hill HOusing is a more successful non-profit developer than CADA, as can be seen in the sad situation on Yesler & 17th... (The Casa Latina farce there is not helping build community support for building a more interactive community...

The vision seems honorable. I need to learn more about the key strategies before I can really comment.

The CAAP II plan does not appear to be taking into consideration all members of this neighborhood, especially when the word gentrification is used in the pejorative throughout the plan. The language of the plan excludes some of the diversity of the neighborhood that the plan says it is committed to fostering.

With regard to the neighborhood plans themselves my neighborhood is specifically outside of any of the neighborhoods set for the specific plans.

many have been achieved, need new strategies

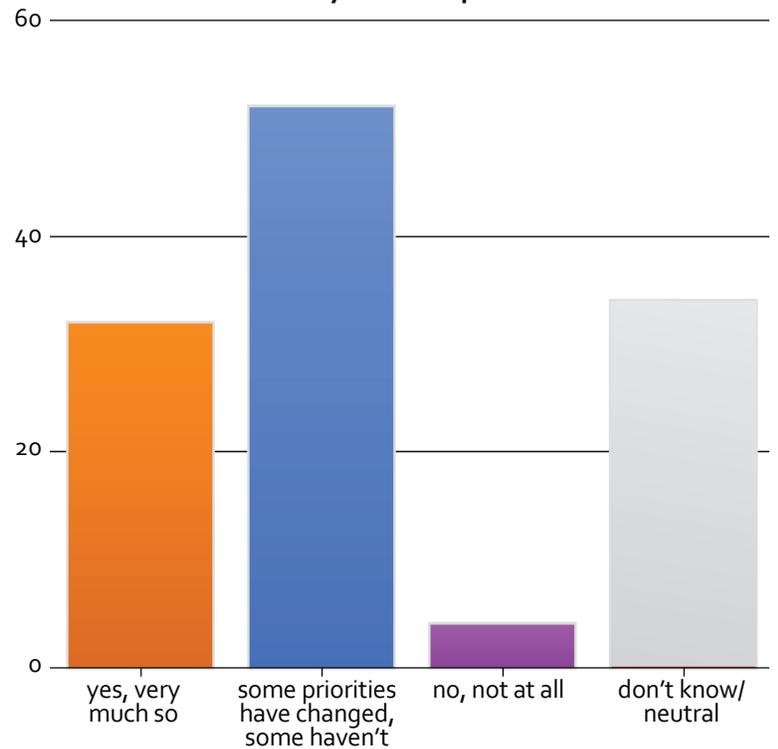
SCHOOLS must be added as they are key to the fabric of any neighborhood.

They can be built upon. We might want to reframe a bit and look at some ped zones like at MLK and Union.

I'd like to see sustainability and community interdependence become more of a priority. ...major shifts to solar and other alternative energy sources. I would also like to see the Farmer's Markets become more central to the sustainability of the neighborhood.

The Central Area seems to be left out of transportation planning.

Are they still the priorities?



Ongoing townhouse developments are beyond the economic reach of many of our neighbors. Neighborhood will be most stable if it can provide housing for the whole spectrum of our neighbors.

The plan looks like it assumes success; the planners may think that phase one is over, but it isn't.

Transportation is still a priority. So is revitalizing business districts around Madison, Union, and Jackson.

Forget honoring the "African American" community. The community needs progress, not an homage to antiquated delineation based on race.

Some priorities should not change and we should hold the course, others should be reviewed and if they are to remain, they should be better supported.

Priorities need to change. If the "vision" is a strategic goal, then it will only be achieved if individual problems are dealt with using the right tactic and in the right order. The city is obviously re-prioritizing some of its programs around drug and crime problems. So long as our community vision stays in touch with current realities, I think our priorities will be okay.

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

I assume since crime is my major issue, that you are asking if the priorities of development, business core etc should still remain. Can't fight crime without people having jobs. Would really prioritize the 23 and Jackson area get cleaned up from drugs and shootings. I get verbally harassed just going into the liquor store. Can't we get a neighborhood group to go out there as a presence? The cops sure don't. I have never seen one go into the neighborhood police station.

Gentrification

Parks, pretty new libraries etc are of little use if gangs are allowed to control the streets.

I think the priorities in the neighborhood plan remain similar - but public safety really needs to be addressed in this neighborhood. The new policing initiative to give low-level drug dealers an opportunity to clean up their acts and the inclusion of community members in that process are both interesting and potentially positive actions. I don't have answers - but I know that 23rd & Union, for example, isn't going to thrive until the risk of violence there decreases. I've been distressed, too, by all the violence occurring near the Garfield Community Center, which should be a safe and vibrant place for community members.

See above.

I think the neighborhood plan is still a good one, though while focussing on the inherent diversity of the neighborhood, we probably need to address the fact that it is the "historical" home of the African American community, and realize it is not really the center of that community (if it exists) anymore.

Small neighborhoods like Leschi, Madrona, Mt. Baker are neglected, while 23rd and Jackson is continually talked about. A ridiculously large rezone was foisted on 23rd and Union by the Developer and Mayor which is totally out of scale and character with the neighborhood and now is proposed to be the standard by which other rezones in the area will be decided- this is criminal. Finally, the arterial of 23rd which crosses the Central Area is not planned or studied in any way. Ignoring the planning of 23rd is shortsighted on the part of the planning department in that it affects any potential of developing the abutting communities in a humane way. The Planning Dept. gets an "F" in not even recognizing the lost opportunity they have in not planning 23rd properly.

You seem to think things are better than they are Deprioritize 12th Ave, they have Seattle U to pull them along
23rd and Jackson needs bigger focus (more so than what you have now) 23rd and Union is in need of desperate help

We should review this in the process.

I think the city in general has given up on the neighborhoods.

ZONING ZONING ZONING. It's a Dept. of Rubberstamps, oh I mean the Dept. of Neighborhoods lingo for tear out a house and put in 6 townhouses with to little parking.

This neighborhood is changing. Much of the plan focuses on mitigation of the impact of redevelopment in this once neglected neighborhood. I would like to see some changes in the plan that reflect the positive impacts of this redevelopment.

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

Restricting auto access, promoting bicycling walking and transit. Aggressive code enforcement for public nuisances.

bringing businesses to the area. Especially around the 12th ave

Safety - 2 murders at the corner of 12th & Jefferson in the last year

Parks, public places, creating a sense of community

Given the age distributions, more focus needed on getting good schools working here... HOusing affordability can be helped by Capitol Hill Housing and CADA (but NOT by the bloated plan for Yesler terrace-- 5000 units!! how will it be squashed like the failed Goodwill project that we fought so hard? Many of the units in both plans were luxury or above median units...

Pedestrian safety. Encouraging new business development along Cherry, Union, 23rd and MLK.

why certain items haven't been achieved (has the goal changed? was there not money? lack of political support?)

Drug Dealing

Proper melding of business and resident needs; intelligent traffic and urban design that is not just expedient but well conceived and sustainable; consideration for future residents and the significance of history in continuing development; City oversight and responsibility to maintaining certain streetscape elements of the plan.

Capital improvements, especially gateway projects; failed goals of CAAP II from 1992; considering the needs of the people who are referred to only in the original plan as those who have come into the neighborhood because of "gentrification";

Cleaning up the area on Jackson between Flo Ware Park on the east and 23rd and Jackson on the west. Please! When is the new fire station going to be build on the southwest corner of MLK and Jackson? When can the Seattle Girls School build a permanent building on the northeast corner of 23rd and MLK? And get rid of that hideous billboard. Crack addicts, gang members, prostitutes and drug dealers render the whole area unsafe. Does anyone care?

parking opportunities for those who want to use light rail, developing local business districts.

Safety, eliminating drug dealing

transportation networks and development patterns

gang violence

Facilities that allow residents to have a place to form community.

walkability

affordability

businesses and development that fit the character of the community, rather than building more strip malls/box stores

commercial/retail investment. I really like the urban village plans. Need more safety and police particularly around 23rd to 30 on Jackson and around 23rd and union

Police presence, development of commercial enterprise, additional buses

safety & public transportation

AFFORDABLE housing, employment, crime prevention (that actually works)

businesses and transportation in the area

Safety

Schools to support the demographics and development patterns

Retail areas on Jackson Street and crime on 23rd and Jackson

guns, gangs, crime, drugs

Trends. The status is point in time, but it would be good to see what the numbers were in 1994, 1999, 2004 etc. Can't tell if we are even increasing density. Also need to understand that we are just at the point of a lot of tearing down and rebuild in some areas, so we need to included permitted stuff.

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Pedestrian and public safety, development patterns, green infrastructure, transportation options (e.g. street car on MLK Blvd to link to Mt. Baker light rail station), the intersection of 23rd and E. Union

crime prevention, neighborhood-friendly development, preservation, and education

housing affordability.....

revitalizing business centers like 23rd & South Jackson and 23rd & Union; road repair for 23rd b/t South Jackson and Madison.

increasing low-income housing, community spaces, job opportunities, and community-minded business.

Improving safety through environmental design.

transportation, development

Transportation
Business development
Parks

Economic development and housing for all

crime; walkability

safety as it relates to youth violence

Helping small businesses thrive. Engaging youth and providing alternatives to gangs and violence.

safety, business development in tough areas

Safety and making the neighborhood a place you can do business in. I find it ironic that I have to travel to downtown or Cap Hill to eat or shop.

Crime, public transit.

As the area is getting denser, there needs to be more public open space.

How the African American residents, especially seniors and youth, can be integrated into this new vision. It feels as though the City is waiting for the old blacks to die and the young men to be sent to prison, so that young affluent (mostly white) folks can move into the pricey condominium units that are swallowing up the neighborhood.

more walkable residential streets, more opportunity for local businesses to have retail spaces to meet demands of more residents, students, and workers in the neighborhood, more public art and open space!

Safety, especially in the night time!

Making a neighborhood for all income levels.

Detailed neighborhood demographics

getting the word out and inviting people to be involved. If only a few people have filled out this survey from certain neighborhoods, someone dropped the ball!!

Be smart about distribution - mailing something to residents that looks like junk mail (most letters I get from the city look like this) means it will probably be thrown away without being read. Updates (and notices of meetings) should be sent to all neighborhood community council leadership for inclusion in newsletters and on websites, distributed at community council meetings and in conjunction with other Dept. of Neighborhood programs (i.e. in the P-Patch newspaper).

The status report should actually focus on the ways in which the neighborhood plan has not been accomplished.

Properly maintaining & improving the landscape of existing SHA properties, providing adequate transportation means to support the rapid increase in the number of people inhabiting our neighborhoods. "new residents to occupy in more sustainable ways" seems like the opposite is happening

More focus on business and business opportunities

housing affordability, development patterns

Safety, commercial nodes, clear neighborhood centers/ focus areas, and traffic calming in the neighborhood streets.

crime (vandalism, drug abusers in Judkins Park)

Crime, making places walkable, removing graffiti - giving them a place to put up there "art" - but not on businesses and personal property.

Retaining existing housing and creating more density.

Safe streets

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Clean streets and adjacent areas

Rehab abandoned buildings and lots

Gang activity

housing affordability and intergenerational programming

Bringing community together and having Central Area get as much attention as other more established neighborhoods.

public safety - and also on how building heights and density interact with neighboring buildings. We can increase density without lowering the quality of life for folks already here.

I'd also like to see more emphasis on housing opportunities for families with children as apartments and condos and townhouses are developed.

Transportation may become an increasingly important focus as Metro reduces bus frequency. Buses are a very important form of transportation in the Central Area.

shops & restaurants

Cultural preservation

Recreation opportunities

Community spaces

Pedestrian and bicycle transportation

Small businesses

Schools and businesses. At least convenient transportation to these things to make it feel more like a community.

creating more housing, developing existing businesses, attracting more businesses

Transportation, economic development, work-force housing

transportation networks (need more frequent service) and development patterns

safety

new businesses

Planning and analysis of 23rd Avenue as it affects the liveability of the entire Central Area

Improving townhome regulations, continue to sweep the drug dealers off the street, work on youth violence, and then do whatever we can to get the buildings that are built occupied and the new ones on 23rd and Union online.

We need to then address the ageing 60's car-focus buildings (with the parking lots for drug deals) that make up 23rd and Union and 23rd and Jackson.

More focus on improving 23rd and making it safer.

More focus on getting a link from Light Rail/Street Car to downtown and Capitol Hill. We need to push the Jackson Streetcar up to 23rd and knock down that drug mini-mart for the turn around/barn.

Community-based solutions for addressing crime (as opposed to police-based "solutions"). Preserving affordable housing for long-time residents of neighborhood.

Safety, drugs and gangs as well as revitalizing Jackson

safety, truly affordable housing (not just lip-service), helping small businesses thrive along the 23rd Ave corridor.

Walkable neighborhoods. Jackson street "urban village" would be amazing if the streets were walkable. I LOVE the idea of turning 23rd ave into a 2 lane road with a turn lane in the middle and parking on the sides. I think this would allow enough buffer between the busy streets and the sidewalk to make people actually feel comfortable walking in the neighborhood. Walking on 23rd now is NOT enjoyable as the traffic is whizzing by only inches away.

facility maintenance, like street repair and maintenance. More focus on automobile issues. Like parking and availability of parking for business areas.

youth violence, graffiti

Livability. For example, MLK between Union and Cherry is a hideous thoroughfare. No trees and a wide street make it a speedway. It's one of the ugliest stretches of road in a 'residential' area.

Trees. Many trees are randomly cut down. There needs to be education about what trees do for us, as well as planting more trees.

Actually getting something progressive built on the SW corner of 23rd and Union. That whole intersection is a blight.

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

safety first! transportation! better distribution of housing to retail businesses

Creating thriving business districts through public infrastructure investments and small business assistance programs

Transportation! Trolley down 12th ave!

Core business district and really developing non-strip mall businesses.
Crime and safety.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

12th ave street car and retail development

Walkability of neighborhoods. It is important what kind of transportation the population is using in determining the amenities a neighborhood needs. And crime rates. Is the plan making our neighborhoods safer? Oh, and... is our children learning?

Transportation and Parks

More focus on retail, transportation, safety and zoning. I think some areas need to move from single family to multi-family.

Street safety

Education

Transportation

Teaching people to not throw trash in the streets. And take a moment to notice that boarded up schools is bad and reflects poorly on our society. If you want to give such a lofty word to this mess.

It is all relevant!

- previous goals and their progress/status
- successes & shortcomings

Traffic, transportation, zoning, enforcing zoning and forcing large institutions be good neighbors. SU has changed in the last 10 years and is now a very good neighbor.

1. Infrastructure- roadways are very bad and cable service is poor
2. Encouraging business development that will further support the redevelopment of the community

Transportation

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

Accommodating automobiles.

N/A, all focus is good

Pumped up rosy views of planning successes so far... SHOW me! I asked that of the CANP Stewardship for a year, and nothing (o, zilch) was offered nor were any criticisms of the process allowed...

exhibiting projects that have been accomplished with little or no help from the City (ex. Powell Barnett Park improvements)

Village concepts. True neighborhoods come from a sense of belonging and are not imposed, rather more organic in nature. The current village concepts are only good on paper and in public presentation but do not at all reflect the true nature of our neighborhoods. I would trade a full community concept over that of village convergences. These ""villages"" have served to truly segment this community and have given power to those who practice privilege over communal engagement.

everything, this is mostly over-planning busybodies pretending to plan areas that can't or shouldn't be planned

Bicycles. I am sick to death of hearing about them. We are foster parents and have five kids. Three have bicycles. My husband and I can't afford bicycles. My husband had a bike, but gave it to one of our kids. Our neighborhood is not safe to ride bikes in for kids due to high crime. Bicycles are a white middle class and upper class luxury, by and large. Bicycle Sundays prevent low-income families of color from accessing Lake Washington while obnoxious bike racers and well groomed white families from nearby lakeside communities enjoy the luxury of riding up and down the lake. Swell.

public amenities - just for now since it seems that there has been some progress in this area so far. Though I think having some green space around 23rd and Union would be a positive change.

roads

increasing development for the sake of development

increasing diversity

housing development

density

Bike lanes and traffic circles!!!!

keeping big business out and restricting traffic

Zoning revisions

Increasing density where it is not naturally occurring when the basic goals have been achieved. When this has occurred obviously some areas were more appropriate for increased density than others were. The goals have been met, don't chop down any more trees or take away high quality older homes.

housing affordability

Ok for what it is. Doesn't lead one to say whether the plan is in urgent need of update or not -- I think not urgent at all, but within a few years.

23rd and S Jackson

bringing in large, corporate retailers

new housing

building condominiums and policing the neighborhood.

New housing

seas of multi-colored pie-charts that are already out-of-date, due to economic downturn

worrying about leaving people behind in the ""rising economic tide."" I think we all know that that's an outdated phrase.

density we seemed to have achieved it here

parks in wealthy neighborhoods

Keeping the ""African American"" image.

the internet/electronic communication to the exclusion of other methods. Not everyone has the internet - esp. older citizens. It really bothers me when info. is only available on a website or via email.

noise ordinances in the entertainment districts

Increasing density (we don't need it)

Q4: Status reports should focus less on...

Race. Crime is about poverty and lack of good education.

retaining single-family zoning that is no longer workable in an urban environment, where density must be increased.

General development

I would say wringing our hands on diversity, but it is important that people can live and work in the neighborhood so affordable/public housing is very much needed.

demographics

Upzoning which is not in scale and character with the surrounding community

whatever the tradeoffs are

expensive townhouse, condo and large home developments

Bicycle and pedestrian projects. The new bike lanes should have been installed on non main arterial's in this city. The main streets were designed for automobile movement thru the city and not non motorized traffic, we need to keep a perspective on this matter.

The cop kiosk on 23rd and Union. Rarely occupied, it is a joke in the neighborhood.

Parks. We have many great parks now. Lets focus on making the main streets more attractive.

12th Avenue has Seattle U to help it out, focus less on that. 23rd and Jackson and 23rd and Union should be the focus.

Giving beautiful houses to developers to tear out and leave open holes in the ground.

neighborhood demographics

Low income housing - it is a nice idea, but it sucks up a lot of time and money and goes nowhere.

The negative impacts of redevelopment of the community. Yes, it should be a part of the plan but it should not be the main focus nor should newcomers to the neighborhood be cast in a light that they are a problem because it has the effect of splitting the neighborhood between those who belong to the historical population base and those who are new homeowners in the neighborhood.

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

How to get FLEXIBLE, OPEN governance of the planning process and (CRUCIALLY) its later administration by DON/DPD as well as supposedly appropriately elected community leaders/ship....

I found the data hard to interpret. Will there be employment data this time around? This would help define status of working for more equal access to opportunity.

Improving 23rd Avenue. Enforcing sanitation and waste disposal regulations at existing businesses.

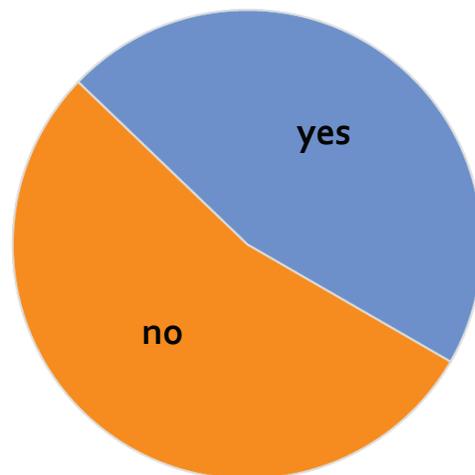
the change in zoning in the Central District has led to a large number of townhouse developments over the last several years. This has really changed the look and demographics of the area, and currently there are many unsold townhouses that sit empty. Other empty properties that have been recently created through economic downturn (carwash at 23rd & Union, etc) have become graffiti magnets.

Other empty properties created through school closures (TT Minor and Mann) are now boarded up and not contributing to 'eyes on the street.' There needs to be some discussion of how these changes are impacting the neighborhood, and how we can work to make it better.

I'm also surprised at the rosy language surrounding the 23rd and Union hub. The entire time I've lived here, it's been either mostly vacant lots/stores, and increasingly a hangout for dealers and prostitutes. There needs to be some more honest language about the current state of that corner, and stronger policies about how to encourage community friendly development here (commercial development near the street, improved sidewalk development, community gathering places that encourage safety through design, etc).

Business and neighbor agreements. Business should not be allowed to operate in neighborhoods and act as though they are not a part of the community. Employee ratios must be taken into consideration as well as the fact that most businesses do not necessarily employ those who reside in the immediate community. There is a disconnect which leads to a breakdown in business/resident relations. This should be articulated in the plan. Also, this community needs to have a much better common overview of how urban design, business and density is applied. What are the standard parameters and where are they called out? Who makes these decisions? With community councils bumping up against one another (more of the Balkan way of doing things) there are dramatic changes that occur from one side of the street to the next. A more seamless continuous flow of design, open space, traffic patterns, etc., would be much more pleasing.

The Draft Status Report is little more than a recycling of language from the original plan and some census data; substantive material is largely missing. Moreover, the Census data is significantly outdated because it culled from the 2000 Census, which excludes the vast changes in the demographics of the neighborhood since 2000, which creates a false impression of the neighborhood make-up.



There's a question about safety, but the draft status report doesn't seem to address any safety issues.

I don't know what lessons the average person can reasonably draw from broad demographic charts like those presented in the draft.

Well it's nice to describe and define all the wonderful things that have occurred in the neighborhood the last 10 years, and attribute them to the community plan. I have my doubts whether they were all driven specifically from the plan, or implemented only because of the plan.

all of the controversy about the Goodwill property on Dearborn and Rainier - it has been slowed down because of the downturn of the economy, but I believe that the current plan will be a disaster. It is too big, there is not enough planned to deal with traffic, and we don't need more mall/box stores in the neighborhood. I'm also very concerned about it pushing out small businesses and totally obliterating the character of the International District.

not enough attention paid to the lack of business in the area

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

If as a general area density has been achieved, but some areas designated for multi-family have remained single family there should be a mechanism to perhaps rezone back to single-family.

Again ignoring the need for good schools is a mistake.

guns, gangs, crime, drugs

I'd like to see what is still underbuilt. I want to understand capacity for housing and jobs.

Also, a gateway as I understand is at Union-Madison-12th-14th. I like the convergence at the south west corner, but the northwest corner is also important.

The Central Area plan is in reality at least 4 areas (Madison-Miller, 12th Avenue, 23rd & Union, 23rd & Jackson) which are very different, are at different stages of redevelopment and have very different needs and desires. Each needs an individual draft status report: the single paragraph for each area barely captures this.

Safety and retail.

Include project maps with the report so things are in one place. Include plans for street improvements, etc.

Garfield High School. How does the existence of such a large high school affect the community? What are its benefits, what lessons can the community learn from the school? How can the school and its neighbors develop synergistic relationships?

I'm not in a neighborhood. Though I live in an area I consider on the border of the Central District/ ID, my street (Davis & Dearborn) is within the borders of either neighborhood's plan. I view this as a serious gap. Every part of the city should be within a neighborhood's boundaries, and they should mirror the boundaries for other city programs (i.e. police sectors, garbage pick-up, economic growth areas, city park divisions, etc). I also don't see in anything in the plan about area (public) schools and this has obviously become a hot-button issue over the last several years.

In general, the draft status report emphasizes the apparent accomplishments. There was not enough focus on the work that has not been done.

Additional bus service must be planned to serve this area. New mass transit plans in the city and county do not reach this area.

Need gathering place (clean and safe) at 23rd and E. Union

opportunities for the generations to mix; less segregation of old from young; more investment in community gathering places, for example Central Area Senior Center, which is owned by the City of Seattle, but not maintained as well as it should

only what I've already stated -- public safety and housing affordability are problems

Public transportation! We do not have a streetcar or a light rail stop in the CD.

No discussion of 23rd Avenue

Not sure what you are speaking of, where can i obtain a copy?

Community involvement ie- getting folks to come to meetings is always difficult. I would suggest going back to something as basic as a huge sign on 23rd and Union that lets people know when meetings are being held and where. This plan is known about by the few of us that attend meetings. We need to gather more peoples opinions somehow.

better north-south transit connections including bus and possibly street car.

12th Ave Trolley!

Crime -- not really mentioned all that much

We have come to realize that we were so focused on the economic situation in the early 90's esp. along 12th Avenue that we overlooked Parks.

We still need continued economic focus on 12th Avenue regarding under developed uses along this vital corridor.

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

Transportation improvements are unclear. It is hard to get from the eastern edge of the area to other neighborhoods without going through downtown on the bus. The revisions to the Number 8 will help. Safety is another thing that is not addressed well. Especially along the streets to the east of MLK. People speed etc where there are no stop signs or circles. Still a lot of drugs and the like. And 23rd and Union is just getting worse. Retail is not addressed well either. The area is huge and to get to the Madison Miller area from where I live, I need to drive for the most part. Even with the changes to the 8 that are coming it is not somewhere I consider close to my neighborhood.

Social Engineering isn't working. This would be alot better if everyone would take some personal responsibility so we don't have to exist in a filthy run down pot hole filled crack den. i see house after house after house neglected and melting in the rain. Seattle has something special with all the arts and craft houses, but this mad dash to look like Portland will kill it. I voted 5 times for THE MONORAIL. Where the fuck is it?

The draft status report does not accurately reflect the demographics of the neighborhood because the report uses outdated census data. To accurately update the neighborhood plan, that data must either be updated or if that is too expensive because the city is relying on census data, then this information should be removed because it creates an inaccurate view of the community.

Address transit service
