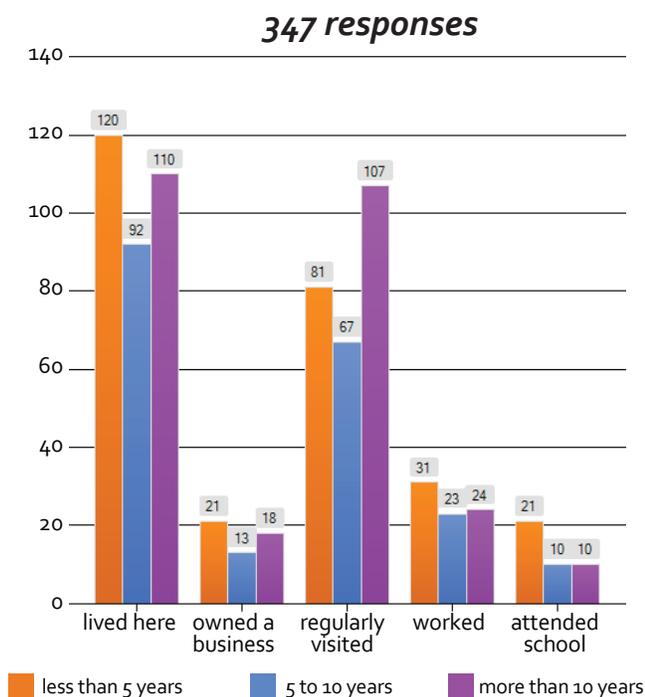
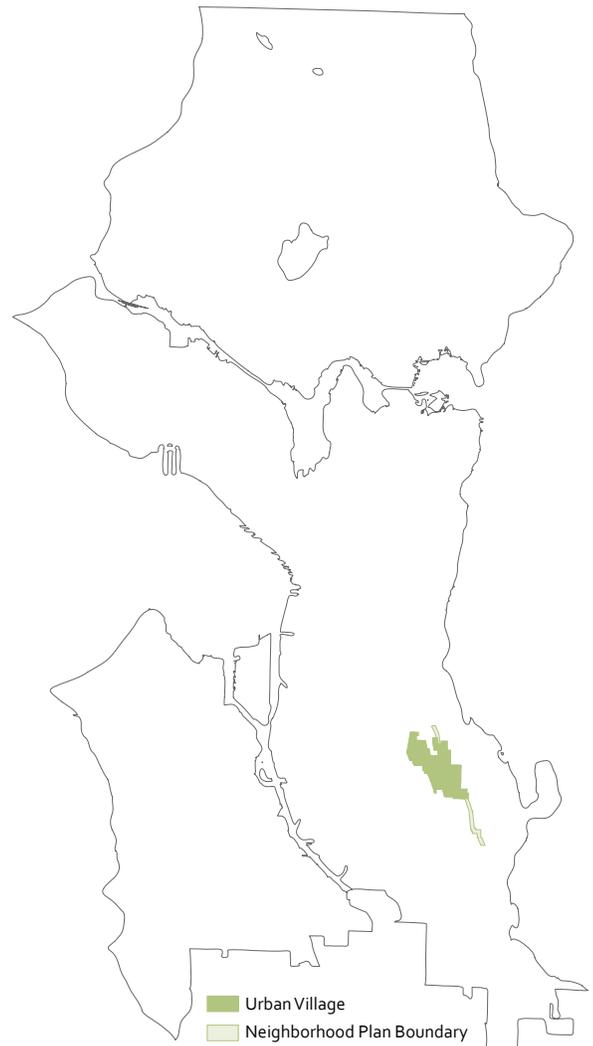


Status Check

Transcript of Columbia City/Hillman City/Genesee Questionnaire Responses

The Columbia City / Hillman City / Genesee Neighborhood Plan was adopted in 1999 and includes the Columbia City Residential Urban Village. 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)?

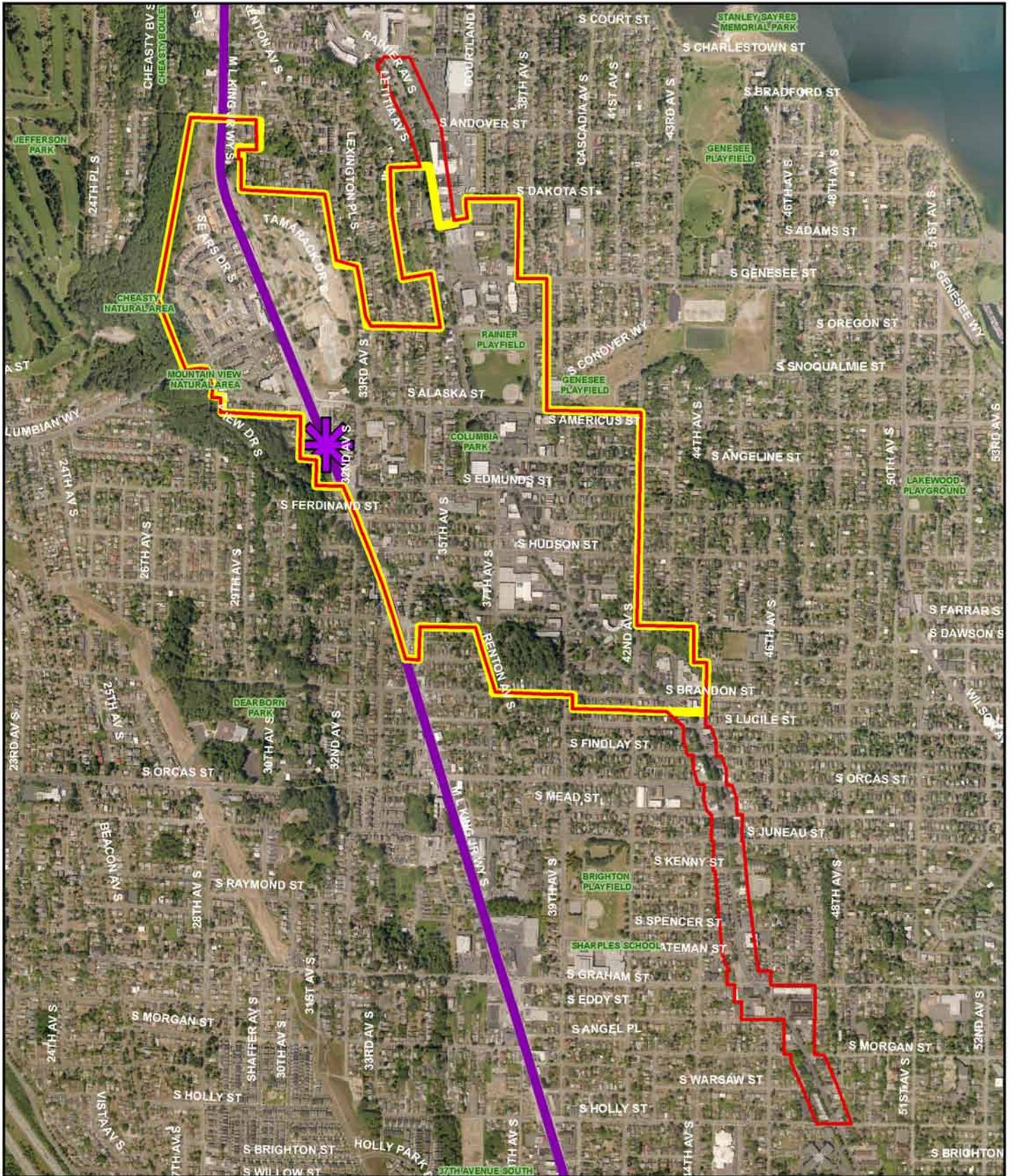
*Question 2: What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you...
most pleased about?
most dissatisfied about?*

*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.

COLUMBIA CITY / HILLMAN CITY / GENESEE AERIAL MAP



Urban Village



Neighborhood Plan Area



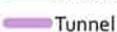
Aerial Photo: 2007

LINK Light Rail

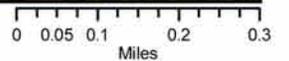


Stations

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)?

Amazing change! So much growth yet retaining color and culture.

In our immediate neighborhood the city has made bad choices in the placement of cellphone towers not ever bothering to see how the okay at city hall may impact the areas around them. The city has a rubber stamp go ahead for these towers and are not interested if the criteria for placing these towers places them at the same level as some of the homes next to them. No one at the city is interested in coming out to see how this effects my neighborhood in the interest of progress. There are several new families with small children being directly bombarded by these towers and I don't think they are going to be very forgiving if down the road being directly subjected to the towers causes health problems. Other changes are the traffic delays because of the MLK train and the lack of bus routes that can allow us to take advantage of the new train.

Improved, with more restaurants/shopping in the area and the new light rail station.

The neighborhood has really developed in many positive ways!

light rail, housing expanded

Many new businesses. Community is thriving. Police response times have improved although there are still far too many incidents of crime.

The commercial district has seen considerable growth, there are more businesses. Home values have increased. Population and density have increased. Parking is become more difficult, especially closer to light rail. Traffic on Rainier has increased since light rail construction started. MLK is no longer an efficient transportation corridor.

Increased development, significant changes, most positively the addition of light rail and vastly improved streetscapes.

Dramatic business and community growth and development. Much more family and neighborhood friendly.

Safer, Cleaner, Higher Home Value

Yes. It has gotten cleaner and more liveable.

Columbia City has grown, with increased businesses, more diversity in businesses, an increase in safety. The number of kids in the area seems to have increased, and the overall population seems more white, younger than before. The Genesee and Hillman business districts have seen little change overall, though have benefited from a very active community. There seems to pride and will, but little cash or development.

Columbia City business district has changed dramatically. We have a theater, restaurants, bakery, and coffee shops. In my neighborhood, Hillman City, there are fewer renters and more owners. Neighborhood is still very diverse but fewer low income folks. Several lots have been subdivided to increase density. The business district is much more vibrant. Seward Park seems more heavily used.

More restaurants and businesses; more vibrant - more people out and about; some nice new buildings in commercial core; redevelopment of Rainier Vista - big improvement; light rail; feels safer

improving, except for soem very strange traffic revisions.

The Hillman City and Genesee neighborhoods do not reflect the neighborhood plan of 10 years ago. Columbia City, however, has had a revitalization from non-profits such as SEED, Columbia City Business Association and Homesight.

more businesses, more traffic, more families w/children, more energy

This neighborhood has changed drastically in the last ten years. Just 5 years ago the downtown Columbia City area was not half as vibrant and diverse in businesses as it is today. MLK used to be a pothole ridden street that was terrible to drive on. Now with light rail it is a well paved easy corridor to travel.

Columbia City has become more gentrified, but also a safer-feeling place to live. Certainly more attractive.

Light rail has arrived. Demographics have changed.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

MLK Jr St is a wasteland. There's very little retail, and it's not a fast car travel street either. Too many lights. I can go much faster on Rainier. Rainier Ave S needs more lights to make it safer for people to cross the street. Too many people have to cross in the middle of traffic, and it feels really dangerous. There's a lot of drug deals on Rainier Ave S even as far north as Genesee. That's pretty bad.

Significant neighborhood revitalization has taken place. I'd think the major impact is economics/economy more than any city policy or action.

The light rail and some of the surround houses/apartments have been upgraded, which is always nice. The racial diversity has increased, which I love.

Increased building (ie new housing). Lots of lots being sub-divided in order to build new housing, all of it close together to encourage "Densification" which lowers the appeal of the neighborhood. Maintenance of essential services has deteriorated (ie road maintenance). Much of the neighborhood I'm in has no sidewalks while other areas are having existing sidewalks replaced (where the previous sidewalks were fine). Addition of light rail has increased traffic and added high power lines into the neighborhood, increasing risk for residents.

There have been a lot of positive changes - the light rail, the Farmer's market, and new businesses coming in. There's also been the horrible skinny condo development, with fences that lock whole blocks from interacting with the street. Next to us, a house was built that is a gigantic box that takes up the entire lot, with a tiny strip of grass for a back yard. These monstrosities will kill the neighborhood.

It has become cleaner and more attractive.

there is much much much more crime in my neighborhood. more traffic. more crappy housing development. public transportation is no easier and seems to be getting less available. there is no reasonable or safe way for me to get to the light rail, so driving my car is still a necessity.

At first it was getting better with less crime and the property values were going up. However, since the recession, there has been much more crime, including shootings, burglaries and the likes. I do think that it is still a much more popular neighborhood to move to simply because the property values are less than many other neighborhoods.

There is much more traffic on the streets around our house. Many other aspects have improved due to money put into the light rail corridor. The center of Columbia City continues to be a draw for us and others and I hope it continues to be walker/biker friendly and any new buildings match the historic nature of this special downtown area.

gentrified

within the last three years I have seen: introduction of light rail; major new mixed-use developments planned, but put on hold due to the economy; a revitalizing business district with both successes and failures; a struggle to avoid gentrification and to find a balance between maintaining socio-economic-cultural diversity and increased population growth. Also, development of Hitt's Hill Park, Rainer Boys & Girls Club, and Rainier Vista housing.

The lightrail was being built and is now finished. Some businesses are closing and we are all awaiting news as to what will be coming in as the new businesses.

Commercial growth/new businesses in Columbia City. Housing prices have increased, other than last 18 months, sometimes limiting access to lower income. Diversity in our immediate neighborhood seems less than 10 years ago. Overall crime has dropped, but in the last year it has trended back up - robberies, shootings seem more common now than 2-3 years ago.

some fix up of homes has occurred . Still has a ways to go.

We live in New Holly - Phase II - the neighborhood - Rainier Beach to Columbia City is in a constant state of flux - most recently - the Link opening in July - which makes Columbia City very accessible.

Light rail has opened, RPZs were created, big tree next to Columbia City Library fell down, not as much business development along MLK as expected in the Rainier Vista commercial spaces.

More shops, less crime, it has become a nice place to be -- don't need to go outside the neighborhood for restaurants, clothes, etc

Yes

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Yes - the African American community has left, replaced primarily by Caucasians. Some increase in Asians. Crime is still a problem, violent crime has increased. Traffic is much worse. Street noise is greater due in part to the LINK. Business community is doing much better in Columbia City, but not a lot better north of the Columbia City. It would be nice if the City actually used the plans.

Crime seems to have increased in the last 12 months. The Link Light Rail is a great improvement in the area of public transportation.

Less gun violence and drug activity More local businesses and foot traffic More community events

New to neighborhood

I've only lived in the neighborhood for a year.

Lots of great new businesses, more walkable and more to do, stronger sense of community, some nice infill development (along with some not-so-nice)

dsf

Difficult to say since I've only visited and lived in the neighborhood for less than two years. During that time, I've noticed modest changes, with the arrival and departure of commercial establishments and the development (or aborted development) of multi-family dwellings.

The neighborhood has improved significantly. The one thing that needs to be worked on is affordable housing. A strong business association has developed and needs to keep up the good work.

I live farther south than Columbia city, but I've seen the changes the light rail has already pushed into action. For instance, the Safeway at Othello is going to be remodeled, as well as the plan of adding more housing.

Happily, many new businesses have been added, as well as the Farmer's Market

We have more cafes and restaurants, more small businesses, more new housing, more neighborhood activities, and a real sense of community and pride. Property values grew and many homes were rehabilitated. When we moved here 18 years ago crime was a problem, but, as the area developed, crime decreased. Over the last few years, though, crime has been increasing, including many violent attacks and break-ins.

New business coming in, some density increase, the light rail, certain areas getting cleaned up and our neighborhood park(Brighton Playfield) getting some needed attention. I feel like the neighborhood just keeps getting better and better.

For the most part changes have been positive. Empty lots now have new housing, graffiti has diminished, public transportation availability has expanded and the number of locally owned businesses has increased. There is still a security issue in the neighborhood from both a personal safety and property perspective. Neighbors looking out for each other is still the best defense. Street maintenance off of arterials is inadequate and the pedestrian friendly mission of the neighborhood plan has yet to be comprehensively applied to streets where pedestrians and cars must come together due to the absence of sidewalks.

Columbia City has attracted one great restaurant and shop after another. We love walking down there. The construction of the light rail was challenging to maneuver around, but now that it is functioning, we are so happy to have it here.

I can see a change since the light rail opened up. People are coming here from around the city for the first time. Home prices have increased, making it harder for mixed incomes to own.

Things have certainly improved - on the surface. Columbia City now has a nice mainstreet with shops and restaurants that bring people in from all over the city. However, there are still not enough police in this area. People of color are being pushed out of the neighborhood because they cannot afford to live here. Rainier Avenue is still one of the most dangerous arterials in the city. Roads are still full of potholes.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I am talking about the Mt Baker community which is not on any of your plans - the closest is Columbia City. Our community has changed quite a bit - housing has gone up and thus it is forcing some of the older folks to move on - this is creating an environment where housing has improved - lots of work to update and upkeep the homes - this is very good. However, the crime rate appears to have gone up in the last few years and the police support has not been there to support the increase. We do not have the number of police needed to support this area. And the city council does not pay attention at all to this community - evidence of this was during the snow storms late last year (2008) - Rainier Ave was not one of the first roads plowed and in fact when it was it was crushed down to ice and only one lane - and this is a major road north and south through the community.

More restaurants and great places to shop in Columbia City and surrounding area. Remodeled homes and new projects have made this a beautiful area.

Col. City has become a place of destination with businesses and higher rents and houses to buy. Our house has increased in price. But the beauty of CC has not come south yet. There needs to work on this to increase the attractiveness of the businessse along rainier

I believe the businesses and services in the neighborhood are improving, though safety and crime continue to be issues that need improvement.

It has become much safer. There are now restaurants and stores to patronize that were not here when we moved in. We can walk to have dinner and a movie. The majority of the houses are now in pretty good shape. We know our neighbors.

I lived in Columbia City for three years. The only notable changes are the obvious: light rail, MLK improvements and non-profit agencies moving into the area.

More crime

The Columbia City business district seems to have become more vibrant. New condos have popped up.

light rail, better business district with more services, better arts community

Businesses continue to be attracted to the burgeoning downtown columbia city area. Hillman city is a bit closer to us and we seen 4 businesses start and fail. We hope hillman city can become another piece of columbia city's prosperity.

Our neighborhood has changed dramatically with new restaurants and shops opening up.

Not sure. Only been here 8 months

Better transportation options and many improvements made to local parks.

Increase in commercial opportunities, infastructur

A lot of gentrification has taken place along the MLK-light rail corridor. Entire communities have been displaced. I don't know anyone in those communities, so I don't know what the impact on them has been. It hasn't made a huge difference in my life. There are a whole lot more McMansions (oversized luxury homes that are totally out of proportion with the other homes in the neighborhood) than their used to be. These monsters are eyesores and a waste of space. Other than that, things in the neighborhoods themselves (i.e., off of the MLK corridor) seem pretty similar in terms of demographics, crime, and quality of life. We still have terrible bus service and we badly need bike lanes on Lake Washington Blvd. Apparently it will take someone getting killed before the city addresses this problem.

We like the development of Columbia City as a retail area. We like the light rail. We need easy and regular bus service to the light rail from our home near 50th and Alaska.

I see a lot of drug addicts and prostitutes in my neighborhood, and not much of an established police presence other than driving up and down Rainier ave. My neighbors and I have made several attempts to contact our Community Officer, but have never received a reply. Rent has gone up, condos are coming soon, but not a good place for apartment dwellers. Good for families and those who can afford a house. Still, it is exciting to see new businesses flourishing in Columbia City, and it is a very friendly place to live. We love the light rail.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

It seems to be getting worse. The streets are more congested, the traffic patterns have been disrupted by light rail, burglaries and crime is up and there are more transients on the streets. Earlier this year a man was urinating in front of our car on a Sunday morning in the Wahlgreens Parking Lot.....the police wouldn't even come and my children saw everything.

empty lots have been infilled by poorly designed townhomes. single family dwellings have been demolished to build multiple townhomes overshadowing existing homes. DADUs have sprung up. People are fighting about parking. Light rail has started and so MLK has been redesigned (which I like). More people on the street and cars on the road. Bulk of new business activity has occurred in Columbia City with a strong business group. A number of large residential projects in the works. In Columbia City, residents have transitioned from older Caucasian and mixed ethnic families to young families with young children. Hillman City flounders with empty storefronts and poorly utilized buildings. Genesee has had some improvements in the business community.

More business development- great to see!
Redevelopment of condos. A plan set for future positive growth in the area.

Crime is up, housing prices are down. The city seems to have little interest in this section town.

cleaner, safer, prettier, less diverse, gentrified

The Columbia City business district has improved tremendously, it has become a vital small neighborhood and seems safe in the evenings.

I have seen more condo units/apartment conversions, more foot traffic in the urban village, and light rail opening. Generally, changes have been an improvement, but 'gentrification' is still an ongoing issue.

Traffic has increased. Changes in the signal at Rainier and Alaska has increased traffic east on Alaska. This is a point of congestion with the post office and people attending sport activities at Rainier Playfield. Alaska east of 38th is basically unimproved and has seen an increase in traffic. Due to a tight turn before reaching 42nd S safety is reduced.

More vibrant shops, but some of the new housing does not fit the existing character of the neighborhood.

Only within the last couple years have things changed. The historic district is great but not many improvements elsewhere.

since i've been here: gentrification speeding up - housing prices and rents up, more visitors from other neighborhoods, light rail opened.

Increased activity in business district. Light rail has opened up without any activity at the station.

I like the 'downtown' Columbia City area. There are a variety of businesses that we frequent now and it feels more safe. The Link Light Rail is a great addition to the area. I was excited for it to go in because I work downtown and it would be very convenient, however, the problem I face is that I am too far to walk to the station and there is no parking so it makes it difficult for the people in the area to take advantage of this great new transportation system.

Less crime in our immediate neighborhood and overall. More businesses and pedestrian activity, particularly towards core Columbia City. Roadway, pedestrian, bicycle and bus transportation infrastructure has degraded in our immediate neighborhood. Parks in our immediate neighborhood have not changed and remain insufficient.

More density. More townhouses in the Columbia City area

Columbia City has become more stable and less crime. There is still a lot of crime in my area and Hillman City has not gotten much better as far as walkability (few sidewalks) and still a lot of drug activity that impacts the business area.

More new businesses, restaurants, preschools have opened.

Significant urbanization, incl. high density townhouses; major development of restaurant/shopping corridor in Columbia City; light rail station

The biggest change is that the Light Rail started running last month. Also, more businesses have moved in (and out of) the business district. Several large apartment buildings have been proposed. The School District vacated the Columbia School.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I've lived in Seattle for 21 years, been in 98118 zip code for 17 of those years. Significant growth and breadth of type of small businesses in Columbia City proper; improvements to the library and parks; farmers market; light rail (!); new multi-family housing, etc. Schools have been closed or moved and there is a lot of concern over creating high quality schools within the cluster. Houses on my block have seen a fair amount of turn-over in ownership. My sense is that crime has been about the same but concern about resources for a healthy law enforcement presence has grown (i.e., not sure if crime has gone up but presence seems down because of strapped resources.)

The Columbia City neighborhood has greatly improved. When I first moved here nearly 9 years ago, I would not ever have thought of spending time in the heart of Columbia City after dark. Now, with all the amazing restaurants, live music, entertainment, and specifically the Beat Walk, going out at night is very enjoyable. The area seems much cleaner, and our sense of community here is very strong. We have an active block watch and lots of social clubs and neighborhood online chat boards that keep us all connected.

There are fewer hookers on Rainier Ave

New businesses. New development although mostly from the public sector. Light rail opened. Dramatic street changes along MLK. New sidewalks and lighting throughout neighborhood.

- trains finally, yeah! - but much harder to get across MLK
- MLK corridor as a whole much prettier/safer-feeling - still missing sidewalks in substantial areas, especially just North/East of the Rainier Vista complexes. Feels unsafe for kids and adults alike to walk, our fence has been crashed into several times

My neighborhood and become more and more vibrant with community activities. There is a huge baby-boom which has changed the feel of the neighborhood in a very positive way.

I think it has changed for the better: gotten more lively, more livable, less scrappy.

I've lived in the neighborhood just over 3 years. Overall I like the improvements in the neighborhood - new business, street improvements. What I don't like is the increase in property crimes, namely car and house breakins.

Slow to change, finally developed businesses and restaurants within the last 3 years in Columbia City. Concerns about disproportionately high city social services in Hillman City.

Crime is up. Schools are not as good here as other parts of the city. Low income housing and services are disproportionately being placed in the south end.

Lots of new people moved in, new businesses, Light Rail opened and we survived construction

The city is targeting low income housing/development into the south end of the city disproportionately to the total population of the total city. Crime is going up in the south end. There is lying and misrepresentation happening. Police presence has been reduced. Public transportation (e.g. light rail) poorly serves the south end. Things such as lack of park and rides, secure places to leave bicycles, lack of a bus route along Lake Washington Boulevard, long walks and infrequent service really discourage the use of public transportation. Light rail stops are too few. There really should be at least one stop in the valley below Tuckwilla and South Center should be connected if you really want to get cars off the roads.

Launch of light rail, completion of Rainier Vista Phase I and demolition of Phase II. Downtown Columbia City growing with more businesses and improved housing projects nearby.

It has improved. Less crime. More diversity. Better mix of services that make it more livable.

Most areas have improved

We've lived in our house 5 years now. I've seen some good changes, as far as Light Rail and some new business in the heart of Columbia City. My main concern is crime and safety. It seems like things are getting much worse in S. Seattle. I don't feel comfortable walking at night, the streetlights aren't bright enough and some of them don't even work. I've talked with Seattle Light about them fixing the streetlights and they said they would look into it, some still don't work. Residential burglaries are at a high and it seems like the gang situation is getting out of control. We are about to have our first child and I want to be proud of my neighborhood and feel safe and secure, I don't feel that way very much. We always have our doors locked, even if at home, we second guess everyone we see on the streets. I just wish there was more police presence in our area.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I've only lived here just over 3 years, but it seems like there are even more community activities, the farmer's market is even more bustling, new coffee shops have opened, and the light rail started up... but this is pretty consistent with the plan.

The CC business district is much more vital, and there are people there after dark. Real estate adds mention CC proximity as a plus. Traffic is worse. Bus service is worse. Crime is about the same.

Columbia City shopping district has developed and there is a nice neighborhood feel. The neighborhood feels safer though there is still a high number of home burglaries reported. The street activity that happens at night on the corner of Rainier and Hudson and the bar that is right there still feels like the old Columbia City where there were lots of problems with drugs and prostitution.

Light rail station has opened. Many new businesses have opened and some have closed. The houses that were derelict/foreclosed near mine are now owned by younger couples who are improving them and care about the future of the neighborhood.

I have lived in Columbia City for one year. The recent change has been the starting of the Light Rail. This has been primarily a positive change. However, it will require the buses to serve the station and additional security for people walking home from the station. My family uses the Light Rail frequently. One change that is coming is the relocation of the Farmers Market. The Farmer's market is a very positive aspect of life in Columbia City. It is very important that the Farmer's Market find another central location here. It is also important that the Columbia City Plaza area be used to benefit the area and designed to match the historical feel of the neighborhood.

The neighborhood has definitely gentrified house prices have risen even with the economic downturn. The diversity of the neighborhood has lessened it has become substantially more caucasian. As someone who bought a house in this neighborhood specifically because this neighborhood was a diverse community to see this being lost is highly disappointing. The Light Rail is a HUGE improvement.

Many more businesses have opened. It feels safer and cleaner. More people walking in the downtown area - both night and day.

I have only lived in Seattle for 3 years but consider the Columbia City area to be a hidden gem that most Seattlites are unaware of.

Light rail access; big developments of high density housing; destructive replacement of historic residences with low-cost, maximum profit McMansions or subdivisions with town homes; some revitalization of CCity center with new businesses opening, but other businesses could not sustain themselves and it remains a very difficult situation. The area is home to many of Seattle's marginalized and struggling populations. I have not seen much improvement. The incidence of drug-related crime and property crime remains consistently high; violent crimes also spike regularly, as gangs clash for territory. CCity neighborhood has tremendous potential, but while crime and poverty remain high it will not be able to live up to it.

Lot's more foot traffic due to the Columbia City business corridor. I like the increased productivity from the all the businesses and organizations. The congestion is growing though because of the residential development moving in. Where once one home stood, now multi housing units are crowding the neighborhood. Parking is becoming much more difficult on the weekends when most entertainment happens, i.e. Beatwalk!

More commercial development on Rainier in the Columbia City core. More redevelopment of homes.

yes tremendously. I'm not sure the demographic summary is at all accurate anymore. there has been a great deal of growth in retail and restaurants in the neighborhood also.

The neighborhood has gentrified.

I've only lived here for one year (in Seattle for one additional year prior), so I don't have much to say. It does seem like crime has dramatically increased in the last 6 months. My neighbors who have lived in the neighborhood for years also agree.

We still don't have sidewalks in our neighborhood (48th Ave South between S. Graham and S. Orcas) despite initiatives to create safer, more walkable streets. This is a real need since are the main walking corridor for school children to get to Graham Hill Elementary and Aki Kurose Middle School. We are also the only through street to/ from I-5 to Hillman City and Seward Park.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Columbia City definitely has gained a "safer" feeling over the past ten years. The impact of the newly open light rail will be interesting to watch.

*more community involvement (i.e. helping neighbors, Farmers Market, volunteer opportunities, etc.) *more diverse *more lively and a destination for visitors (cafes, markets, etc.)

More businesses opening up along Rainier. Light rail and all the development along MLK.

I have lived in Seattle for 20 years, and in Columbia City for the 8 years. I live within a few blocks of the center of Columbia City. One of the changes I have noticed on my block is four homes that were occupied by single elderly individuals, are now owned by families with children. When I bought my house eight years ago there were only two houses on the street with children. At present there are eight houses on the street with children. This has led to much greater vibrancy and sense of community on my block alone as these families interact, use and better maintain their yards, and take a vital interest in the direction of the neighborhood. There is quite a bit of discussion regarding schools in this area. I volunteer weekly at Van Asselt on Beacon Hill, and am amazed by the disparity of the schools in the south end as compared to the north end. It is truly embarrassing given the average high level of education in Seattle. As is well documented the number of businesses in Columbia City has boomed. I can complete many tasks by walking (post office, library, coffee, food, small gifts). This area still lacks easy access to a store such as Target or Fred Meyer as well as a hardware or garden store. For these shopping needs I travel to Renton, at times find things at the Super Safeway on Rainier or go to Lowe's. I was sorry the development at Goodwill was put on hold. The Light Rail has and will of course change this corridor. As is shown on the "Columbia City - Existing Bike Facilities" map in the Neighborhood Packet you provided before this survey, there is very little to no accommodation for biking along the Rainier and MLK routes. To allow people to bike to work or with their children to school more protected bike lanes are needed. To truly connect cyclists to the Light Rail - BIKE LOCKERS AT THE STATIONS ARE NEEDED!!! In the past two-three years there has been an increase in violence crimes, house burglaries, and gunshots heard at night in the area. The average home price has gone up, and the number of Section 8 apartments has gone down. Rainier Vista West is largely done, but East sits there all torn up.

Rapid high density growth. I don't know who is "managing the store" but new construction is not compatible with Seward Park neighborhood

Definitely cleaned up the neighborhood since we moved in a little over five years ago. Still have a fair bit of crime along Alaska Way that at times can make us nervous to walk down to Columbia City. My biggest gripe though is that they still have the fences up in our backyard - despite the fact that the playfield and community center are open along MLK. Makes it difficult to enjoy this green space when you have to walk out to MLK and around to enjoy any of it. Curious when that will be done. Love all the small businesses and restaurants in Columbia City - hope it continues to grow with time.

Yes. More businesses have opened and the physical buildings have improved.

I've only lived here 1 year. I've seen a few new businesses open up at Rainier & Orcas.

1) the business district has become a better environment for sustainable businesses and as a result there is a more vibrant collection of shops, restaurants etc. 2) housing density has increased around the core business district 3) traffic has gotten steadily heavier 4) housing has become more expensive 5) it *seems* like more families with children are moving in.

Higher prices; less ethnic diversity; more retail/restaurants/bars

Net loss of low-income housing at Rainier Vista via Hope VI project. Original residents evicted and no housing replaced on the east side of MLK Jr Way S. Bus service cuts. Tree canopy continues to disappear. Six years of construction noise, traffic disruption and now a very noisy light rail train. Gang unit was all but disbanded and youth violence out of control.

Hillman City is less safe now than in 2002, when we first moved to the area. And as a family with two working parents and two very young children we really wish the retail situation would move forward so that to get a pair of children's socks we don't have to go to Renton or Tukwila.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Since the late 80's and early nineties Columbia City as well as the Rainier Valley in general has made significant improvements. Beginning in the late 1990's there seemed to be a point where the successes started to slow down and the risks started increasing. SE Seattle has become a dumping ground for social services programs and they are adversely impacting the community. An example relevant to Columbia City would be the addition of the Downtown Emergency Service Center. Since it opened there have been multiple incidents with residents of the facility including one woman who disrobed in a local business. Crime has also significantly increased - in some cases the jump between 2007 to 2008 the increases ranged from 50% - 155% in major categories.

When U moved here in 1990 many business fronts were empty. Not the place to hang out. More pedestrians and definitely more businesses.

There are more small businesses in the Columbia City business district - more restaurants, primarily, but also small shops. There is more traffic on the streets, particularly Genessee Ave. - it has become very difficult to cross Genessee during rush hour. There are fewer residents of color, and more white residents. Incoming residents appear to be higher-income. Many homes have been renovated substantially (including my own). Light rail has (finally!) materialized. There is a neighborhood blog, the Rainier Valley Post. Neighborhood business boosterism - the Chamber of Commerce, etc. - has really taken off. There is a movie theater, and a summer neighborhood festival.

Changing businesses in Columbia City. Light rail opened. Apparent uptick in crime when precinct area was expanded without correlated increase in staffing.

It has improved for the better in terms of becoming a cleaner, safer, more welcoming place.

Positives: more neighborhood amenities, shops, events and lightrail! Love the sense of identity and community in the neighborhood. Concerns: decreasing diversity, gentrification, growth in multifamily units has made streets less friendly and neighborly.

The Columbia City business core has thrived while surrounding communities have not. Hopefully Link will positively impact economic development in the neighborhood.

Improved.

light rail has opened

More white people, more gay and lesbian couples, more young white families, more home ownership, retail/business growth in Columbia City (e.g. new restaurants, movie theatre, retail), higher home prices

My wife and I are new to the neighborhood as of 2009.

much more activity on the business strip, more young white families moving in. Columbia school closing down, library remodeled.

In the last 3 years that I have worked in this neighborhood, I have seen a huge amount of development. The opening of the light rail spurred new interest in the community and an uprising of neighborhoods groups and businesses that were organizing around the light rail.

I see more care taken to make the community a "livable" and inviting one (especially the Columbia City downtown area). I am seeing an increase in the area becoming more inviting to others who visit by the addition of light rail service (more focus on this area) and the great restaurants and theaters now here. The CC Farmer's Market is also a great draw for others to enjoy this area and support our young families.

I have lived in the area for 3 years, and have seen Columbia City improve its services and vibrancy. I live slightly farther south than Columbia City (Orcas and Rainier), and I'm hoping the positive changes will spread my direction!

LIGHT RAIL -- is the newest change We have had tremendous life added to the downtown of Columbia City -- many vibrant businesses & restaurants are now in operation. MLK is still a bit of a mess living through years & years of construction & light rail stops being so far away from each other the pedestrian traffic on MLK I think has been negatively impacted by light rail. There is construction everywhere -- the first phase of Rainier Vista is complete & the 2nd phase is starting. The neighborhood looks very different from 1999.

Link light rail started, more upscale businesses in Columbia City, Rainier Vista redeveloped, more infill housing/lots of townhouses, old houses being fixed up

Some redone housing and street clean up

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

More people walking on our street, more businesses, seems safer. Rainier Vista is being worked on which is going rather roughly-funding changes. Light rail opening has increased foot traffic.

The business district in Columbia City along Rainier Ave. has continued to thrive. When we moved to the area 22 years ago, we were told not to even drive down Rainier south of the library and bank because drive-by shootings were occurring. So, a big change since 1987 and a continued success in last 10 years. (Remember, it all started with people walking their dogs.)

More construction sites and the influx of large machinery on our roads to build townhouses has degraded the quality of the non-arterial roads and introduced a lot of infrastructure problems (recurring potholes, sinkholes, degraded shoulders where there is no curb.) Light rail has brought more pedestrians to the neighborhood. Lots of little houses in my neighborhood have been torn down and replaced by expensive townhouses crowded onto the lots. We are losing contact with people who live in these places because we don't really see them hanging out on their doorsteps or yards. They don't really have space to do that, so it seems like there is a whole big population that just stays inside and watches tv. Parts of the neighborhood that need sidewalks desperately aren't included in the plan. It seems to have been drawn around these blocks. It is disappointing, because pedestrian/ bike safety is a huge problem. Our traffic has increased dramatically, but walking around is still challenging at the perimeter of the map for this plan. Most of the Latino/ African American people moved off our block, now it is predominantly white. Our neighbors don't know the history of the block anymore, with the exception of a couple people.

The light rail has opened. More business are moving into the area (particularly small ones). More people are buying homes and taking the bars off of their windows (including us). There are a TON of people with babies here (including us), but I am also seeing more of the Black (non-African) population leaving, as the area is being gentrified. The area still retains many diverse populations, which is one of the biggest draws we had to the area. We moved down here from Wallingford which is decidedly not diverse to this area which is wildly diverse. And we loved the Columbia City downtown area.

There's obviously been some positive development along with rampant gentrification. But while some have benefited, many have been displaced. The MLK corridor is much improved with Light Rail, but many local businesses paid the price of years of construction. Lack of affordable housing is still an issue. The 2010 census should be very insightful about the last decade's transition.

Only been here 2 years. The Rainier corridor has seen some new business open which is good. Crime, especially home burglary seems to be going up. Concerned how the light rail opening will effect crime in the neighborhood. The number 7 bus was the most dangerous line in Seattle last year, whats being done to improve it. And how can we ensure that the light rail doesn't become another 7 line.

Increased activity in business district, more engaged community of families with young children

Much more businesses/services available in Columbia City business district, a new light rail system, and some park improvements.

Since I have only been here a year the light rail is the biggest change and my feeling about it is 100% positive.

good

The ability to access our property and business with trucks has been reduced by the installation of traffic circles, and the light rail. The light rail terminal is too far away from the core of Columbia City, and it is at grade. The Edmunds station should have been elevated to reduce interference with traffic. Also there are no foot traffic businesses surrounding the station. If some do grow up there they will detract from the Columbia city core. Additionally elevating would have given passengers a chance to see how far away the Columbia City business district is. However I am supporting the installed rail system, as I believe it will assist in improving the economic situation in the Columbia City area. The development of new business in the downtown Columbia City area is great. Having been associated with the area since 1965 the current improvements to this area are fantastic. New condos and town homes East & West of downtown Columbia City are replacing worn out houses and creating greater density. This is good for the area.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

My business has been on Rainier Ave. for the last 3 years. I have had the opportunity to see this neighborhood up close, and from various points of view. While there have been many improvements as noted such as sidewalks, library renovation and park enhancements, there is still much to be done in terms of pedestrian safety-- ie. getting across Rainier Ave safely esp. where there are bus stops with the elderly and handicapped trying to cross. Also, drug traffic is still very prevalent.

Link Light Rail, of course. The loss of stops on the Route 7 bus. I see business closing and opening and closing in Hillman City. It's sad. I have seen businesses thriving or getting close to thriving in Columbia City. I have seen a few businesses close but not like in Hillman City. Brighton Science Park is great! Hitt's Hill looks wonderful! Crime continues to be a problem: theft in residences, drug deals on streets, theft in retail shops.

More retail options, light rail has become active, housing prices have increased, crime has increased in the last couple of years.

The businesses in Columbia City seem to be more stable and more choices of restaurants and retail. The Light Rail should make a difference but I'm concerned about Rainier Ave Businesses not in the C. City core.

More housing density and business development in some areas but also some closing of businesses in other areas. Rainier Avenue has become much more congested in the last 6 years. Crime rate seems to be about the same.

Many "fill-in" homes have been built along my alley-way between Letitia and 34th. Folks from the "gold-coast" (between Rainier and the Lake) have taken over the Columbia Business District.

Lots of great business development, while still maintaining its unique small-town character.

The streets and sidewalks appear to stay clear of trash. The rat population has gone down. There is more pride with the owners and with the new type of businesses that has moved in, the area has also become very diverse.

Great re-development in the Columbia City core - it is a vital, interesting neighborhood destination community.

Most noticeably, the light rail has started to run. We've gotten RPZ designation along our streets and had more signage erected to provide safer streets. The Boys and Girls club opened, our housing development is nearly completed, the Asian Referral Center was upgraded - lots of improvements.

Positive: There has been a revival of the Columbia City business district, making neighborhood shopping possible. Light rail has provided a wonderful alternative to often unreliable and frequently unsafe buses. An active neighborhood group on my street is working to improve our area. Negative: When I arrived here, the neighborhood was tranquil. Over the last two years, my street has seen a big jump in robberies, car prowls and drug activity. A car rancher plagues our street making it look like a dump. We neighbors have been working on these problems which the city seems intent on ignoring.

The neighborhood has become more dense with the changes in zoning. Obviously the opening of light rail has provided an important public transportation option. Although purely anecdotal, it does appear that foot traffic has increased noticeably within the neighborhood since it's opening. There also appear to be more retail options in the area than there were when we first moved here. It does seem like racial diversity has decreased somewhat over the past five years.

While development has been good, and the area is more palatable to the public, the neighborhood has lost much of its diversity.

I moved into the neighborhood about 8 months ago, and after the initial euphoria of buying a house here died off (well, mostly), I've been mostly pleased with the area. I still don't feel completely safe walking by myself at night between my house and Columbia City, and I feel rather uncomfortable in Hillman City (which is closer), but I can see the changes in just the short time that I've been here. It feels like the neighborhoods are really working hard to improve their appearance and feel. I'm proud to be here and hope to be a part of what makes this area so great.

More retailers/choices to visit. Increased feeling of safety during the day. More traffic, especially along Lk. WA Blvd. Needs a bike lane. Farmers market is a great hit and resource for building community. Columbia City itself is starting to feel more like a small town all the time. Keep it up!

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

More traffic congestion. Higher house prices. Less parking available.

Crime is way up, poverty has increased, businesses have come and gone. There are 30 vacant storefronts along the Rainier Avenue corridor. Columbia City is a narrow sliver of success just six blocks long, surrounded by challenged neighborhoods with crumbling infrastructure, the most dangerous arterial in the city (Rainier Avenue S), and an expanding social services and non-profit presence. Columbia City is a community that is out of balance and struggling to advance under the weight of many city-driven agendas.

WAY better

Columbia City has changed dramatically, from boarded up buildings to thriving businesses, from streets owned by people doing criminal businesses to streets where people feel safe. Unfortunately, the same is not true for Genessee area or Hillman City. Columbia City has maintained its character by valuing the history and historic buildings. The trend towards higher density helps to maintain the rich diversity and livability while limiting the takeover of the area by people with higher income that takes place with gentrification. I think it has been a thoughtful process, considering the mistakes that you see made in other areas.

More housing has been developed -- some single lots now have two houses. The light rail line under construction has now been completed and is carrying passengers. Columbia City proper has a variety of restaurants that have opened. The cinema has been restored.

Many more businesses along the Rainier corridor, Witworth School closed, Orca moved in and the New School is in the Columbia School building (short term), the Farmer's Market started, a movie theater opened, light rail was built and started running, the buses increased service (and likely now will decrease it in light of the light rail), Safeway opened, and then moved, we gained a dog park, lost it for a year or two while the ground was capped and graded, and gained it again, the library was expanded (but we very sadly lost some long-term employees while it was closed down), traffic circles and "one lane" sections of roads were added to help slow traffic down on residential streets.

Yes, the plan has improved the overall character of Columbia City. The Wednesday market and Beat Walk are great activities that bring people to Columbia City. The safe feeling has to be extended throughout the neighborhood not just on Rainier.

Rainier Avenue continues to have more business, which is great. The light rail is also a great addition. The closing of the building that was Orca School is a big disappointment. Lots of houses being replaced by Condos. Some of them are nice and some are sitting empty.... I'd hate to see a lot more houses get demolished. Rainier Vista is really nice.

There are many more shops, services and restaurants in Columbia City than there were. Things are cleaner and more well maintained. I feel safe in Columbia City. The farmers market has brought many people in from other neighborhoods, also. The light rail is in and that appears to have added even more interest and more people.

Columbia City has become a vibrant community center and great source of pride for SE Seattle. Restaurants, galleries, shops, movie theatre, performance spaces, community activities, the farmers market, library improvements, park improvements, Rainier Community Center have all been added since we've lived in Seward Park neighborhood, 17 years. It feels safer and positive and entertaining.

Increase in businesses in the downtown area. Increased property values and more interest by residence in the upkeep of the neighborhood.

The commercial area has built itself up very positively. there has been an increase in density in the Columbia City core, with the surrounding neighborhood fairly static.

Columbia City seems to have a slow growth rate for business as well as residential, which is a very good quality. Stability of residents is a good thing. Lends itself to more friendly neighbors and good, solid businesses. The biggest issue regarding "urban planning for villages" is that it is for the most part, non-residents of Columbia City trying to impose their values and their perspectives on how the real residents live. Less government is better government.

I have only lived here 4 years but the continual improvement within the neighborhood is wonderful! I love the diversity.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

We have many more services in the neighborhood than we did in 1998 when I arrived. The increase in restaurants, cafes, and bars has been a very welcome change.

There is more foot traffic in the Columbia City business district with far more services available such as cafes stores and restaurants. I appreciate the changes that are taking place. My one concern is that the city not allow new construction that exceeds 3 stories in the landmark district of Columbia City. I think this would do irreparable damage to the character of the commercial core and deplete a major element of what has made this area so successful, namely it's intimate "small town" feel.

It has changed from many renters to more home owners. However, we are NOT part of the plan area. Hence, we don't get consideration for things like sidewalks or even chip sealing of our streets.

The 'gentrification' continues - it seems to have started 15+ years ago and had a real burst 5-10 years ago and is slowly continuing. Rainier Ave in Columbia City just gets better and better - great stores and amenities - but I am worried about the two large developments proposed at Edmunds and Rainier and Hudson and Rainier that will bookend the historic commercial strip. I think they will overpower the smaller character of the existing fabric and will look like everything else in Seattle. Generally, I think smaller developments are more successful, but I also know they are harder to make work financially for the owner.

Columbia City business district has seen change-- not necessarily improvement but change-- I'd like to see more businesses that stay/are sustainable like C. City Bakery, Tutta Bella, Ale House, Starbucks, Bank, Geraldines, etc.-- and fewer businesses that change too frequently-- Gather/ the former Wellington/ the florist, etc. Neighborhood involvement seems to be up More Bicycle Sundays

Significantly in some ways; not enough in others. We have a great "butcher, baker, and candlestick maker" kind of community, with the butcher, bakery, movie theater, library, cafes, restaurants, etc. Safety is still an issue; it's still too car-oriented; there are still too many blocks w/o sidewalks and curbs. Also, I'm looking forward to more mixed-use development around the Columbia City light rail station.

In the last five years, Columbia City has grown tremendously! It's much more of a pleasant place to live.

Columbia City has really gained traction in this time. We used to joke that every time a 2nd restaurant opened, the first would have to close, but now we're a little restaurant hub. We've gone from a lot of empty store fronts (especially about 15 years ago) to only a few. We moved our own business from our home studio into a new commercial space in Columbia City. A lot of civic enthusiasm and activities (Beatwalk, Farmer's Market, revived Rotary) have sprung up since then. Light rail has started and is great for us. We still have property crime in the neighborhood. We could use better east-west bus connections and routes for bikes to get from the Lake to Columbia City, the light rail and Beacon Hill.

less open space, the big trees in many of the lots have been cut down for construction of poor quality ugly skinnys on my street, less birds. ridiculous number of condos, and new development considering the traffic is already a problem on the streets so i dont think it is a viable option from many people, (w/ kids and groceries and all) to leave their cars. still no plan for getting people to and from the light rail stops from the neighborhoods. bis district more vibrant, active, feels safer to walk in the eves. Great entertainment and eating out options, more community spirit. fabolous farmers market, hope it can stay still no small grocery in the hub area seems to be less gang action, although it moves about. its a mix

Less and less people of color and more white folks. Even the photo used for the neighborhood plan reflects that.

gentrification

perceived increase in property crime spreading throughout the area

Light rail, and buildout of Rainier Vista. The Business district continues to get better.

I have been in the neighborhood for one year, and am concened about the increase in violence.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

In general, the neighborhood has improved; the development of Columbia City (core businesses=bakery, butcher shop, consignment, restaurants) has made it a lot more livable. I continue to be concerned about the crime rate, especially gang-related violence. Although there are several quality elementary schools, middle and high schools are sub-par. My middle schooler attends private school (although she attended public elementary school) and will attend private high school as well, God willing.

Seen businesses come and go in Columbia City. See more people working on their homes.

It got better.

Columbia City specific: Business district is more stable and there's a great mixture of long-standing businesses and newer businesses (more variety of types of businesses). More people due to condo projects that have gone in. Light rail has arrived. Carnegie Library remodel was fantastic. Farmers Market is thriving. The construction on MLK has made traffic along Rainier much, much worse - people speed, run lights. Still drug-dealing in front of Angie's Tavern, and the corner of Hudson and Rainier becomes pretty sketchy at night. DESC facility has gone in, and I've noticed panhandling along Rainier a couple times since then, but otherwise it doesn't seem to have impacted the core of Columbia City much. Rainier Chamber is now in the neighborhood, and the Rainier Rotary meets in Columbia City now. Hitts Hill Park was established, and provides a wonderful greenbelt, connector between 37th and 39th.

Light rail has been fantastic! I noticed that the heritage summer festival parade has greatly expanded. Lots of new businesses in the heart of Columbia City that we frequent.

I love the positive development. I don't want to see any more subsidized housing projects "dumped" in the southend. This should be part of the plan. The rest of the city needs to absorb some of these programs. Our police/fire continue to be under staffed. PARKING! I used to love to come to Columbia City because it was easy to get in and out of for parking. The lack of parking is amazing to me these days... especially with light rail. There is a HUGE need for more parking both in Col. city and along the route.

There's been a big change in diversity, with more medium income families displacing lower income families within the neighborhood. Within the last month or so, noticed quite a few more non-Columbia City residents visiting the shopping area on Rainier; coming in via Light rail.

The light rail development has had a major impact in both actual change and expectations for the neighborhood. The commercial strip has continued to run out of business the older established businesses and put in newer swankier stores and galleries. That said, the newer stores do have more general appeal and have added to the neighborhood ambiance. Beat walk and the farmers market continue to be popular venues and give a positive "vibe" to the neighborhood. Housing prices skyrocketed (400% in my case) with only the national depression bringing some prices slightly down. Now that the light rail is completed and operating, the next 6 months will tell a lot about its real impact. I still do not see easy links between the rail (or Rainier Vista) and "downtown" Columbia City. It is a hike. There needs to be short "feeder routes" to the rail that go east-west. This would not only enable more commuters to take the rail, it would feed folks to the commercial district. The other "ah-ha" realization about the light rail is that the limited on-off access along MLK turns out to really only benefit the businesses and residences right around the 3 light rail stops. I am skeptical about the high density housing plans helping to build "community." The jury is still out on whether the light rail will become a slum run or truly urban access. (The airport stop may be the critical save.) Many more changes, including safety and schools.

More and more young families. More and more white people. Somewhat less litter.

I've only been here for 2 years. I haven't seen significant change in that time other than the Light Rail opening, which is a huge positive.

Improved greatly but still room for improvement

We moved to a house on Rainier and Hudson in 1999 and there was really only two good places to eat - the Columbia City Ale House and La Medusa. Now, the neighborhood is choke full of great places to eat! It is very easy to spend an afternoon just walking and shopping.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I like that Columbia City's business area has improved. There are great shops and restaurants here.

Our neighborhood has been much improved since we moved in 6 years ago. There are many more great restaurants, the neighborhood seems cleaner, safer and now we have our own light rail stop! The additions of Tutta Bella, El Sombrero, Geraldine's Counter, Retroactive Kids and now Full Tilt makes it easy to not leave the neighborhood! Now if we could just get someone to bring good sushi.....

A great deal more density surrounding the Columbia City main street.

Light Rail has made traveling downtown faster, easier and cheaper than car. The Columbia City business district provides a great variety of services so that I don't have to leave the neighborhood as much. There are children everywhere! The farmers' market gets busier and better every year. The neighborhood has an active, committed, and tight-knit community.

light rail complete, business strip in Columbia City revitalized, farmers market, "gentrification",

My neighborhood has improved in almost every respect in the ten years we've lived here. It has become the pedestrian neighborhood I always hoped to live in. Businesses I use often have moved in, and I have fewer reasons all the time to leave. With the light rail, much more of the city has become convenient to us for shopping, entertainment, work, etc. I really didn't expect to live in such a great neighborhood when we moved here. On the downside, if we had not bought our house here ten years ago, we would not be here. It has grown less diverse, as prices on houses have climbed, and many black people who used to be able to live in this neighborhood have moved to Kent, Tukwila, Renton, and points south.

Over the past thirty years, our little neighborhood has slowly improved. The yuppies have either mellowed out or moved to Samamish (spelling?). The business district has cleaned up and the police have forced out prostitutes and drug dealers, for the most part. The rail system? People have gotten used to going around MLK and have increased the traffic on Rainier avenue, Beacon Avenue, and 50th/Seward/Wilson. Can we use the Greg's toy train?? NO! Neither my wife nor I are going to walk over a mile at our ages to ride a train that does not go near any place we regularly travel. Park and ride lots would be nice - - bikes seem to have them at the local "stations". But, Greg thinks they are only for other small towns like Bellevue, Renton, Kent, etc. The people who live here must drive to work at Boeing, Microsoft, South Center, etc. as the lionel does not seem to go to those places. Only from the parking garage on Pac Hiway to the most expensive shopping district in downtown Seattle.

more younger people moving into the neighborhood and fixing up older houses

Denser housing is being built. Sound Transit improvements to MLK. Crime has increased - especially gang violence and home burglaries. More businesses have moved to the Columbia City area, seem to be more stable.

There is much more development and gentrification. Columbia City has become "yuppified" for the best description I can come up with. It has become more expensive to live here (taxes, housing values) and the traffic has increased. I no longer feel this is the secret gem of Seattle and I do not want to lose the multiracial, ethnic, class diversity that has been so important to me since moving here in 1992. I fear this area is becoming another Wallingford which absolutely displeases me. I really, really believe Seattle must maintain affordable housing for all...and it is not doing this - it is pushing the working poor out further and further and those with money want for this to occur which is absolute not ok with me. Do not treat the southend as a second class citizen and do not push the working poor out of the city either.

Columbia City now has a tangible sense of community with regular events such as Beatwalk and Farmer's market and many restaurants and shops that the neighborhood enjoys frequenting. It feels safer than it did when we moved to Seward Park 10 years ago. We visit Columbia City's restaurants, the butcher, bakery, toy store, book store and other shops often with our children.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The neighborhood has changed a great deal for the better, and I hope to see it continue to improve. The implementation of the light-rail will hopefully bring more business and visitors to Columbia City.

This is my second response the first was more positive. What I see on the negative side in Rainier Valley is more gangs, drugs, prostitution. We do not feel safe driving on Rainier Avenue or MLK. Hillman City needs cleaning up the store fronts are dirty. We need more businesses that give services the community can use, in Hillman City. I would like to see a ban on left turns through Columbia City during rush hours.

Vibrancy of Columbia City stores along Rainier Ave S. is better and will hopefully continue to grow with the addition of Light Rail. There are more people shopping/eating/spending money in their neighborhood which is great. Crime however has been a big factor in the neighborhood and has only gotten worse since we moved here 5 years ago. When we first moved here it was petty crime - cars being broken into, graffiti, but has escalated into home invasions, muggings, and arson. This has made residents very uneasy and has caused some to even move away. The lack of a police presence and response has also become problematic. People are so discouraged by the lack of police response when something happens, that they don't even bother calling the police anymore because they are frustrated they can't get an officer to come to the scene to take a report. This is absolutely unacceptable and something needs to be done about it.

Gentrification.

it seemed to be getting better before the economic crash. i think it had some backslide, but seems to be recovering slowly. my evidence - businesses are beginning to move back in. there are still a lot of middle-class families living here. however, the numerous development plans (Columbia Plaza, Plasics factory, etc) are in limbo as far as i know.

Growing commerical district. Better public transportation. More multi-family units in our immediate neighborhood. More modern architecture in our immediate neighborhood. More traffic on our street.

Changes have been mostly positive. I remember when most of the store fronts in CC were boarded up with murals of the businesses we would like to have. My favorite mural was the ice cream parlor - one opened a few weeks ago. Density has increased. The old farmhouse I lived in 20 years ago is now two houses, there are many condos, and more multi-unit buildings. The light rail is lovely. Costs have gone up, and this has affected lower income families negatively. I wish the city worked more closely with the school district to make the area more family friendly.

As far as I can tell the biggest change can be found in the opening of more businesses in Columbia City and surrounding arterials. I think the most important question is whether these businesses are servicing the pre-gentrification population of this neighborhood or more so the people and families who have chosen to move to the south end of Seattle since the tech boom of the late 1990's, early 2000's. Are people of color being forced out of C. City and Genesee? Forced to find more affordable rent in Rainier Beach, Renton, Kent, etc. Can this gentrification process be partly to blame for an increase in youth violence? Move it out of Columbia City some say, out of sight and out of mind. Seattleites, for all of our righteousness have always been on the positive end of carpet-bagging, but if there are not enough plans in place to maintain neighborhoods and not drive up property values this city will be one big Ballard. A formerly thriving distinct community, now almost unrecognizable after its condoization and yuppiefication. While some of this process is unavoidable let's stop and think about what will be losing.

Yes. Light rail and road improvements are the most noticeable.

My neighborhood is Hillman City. I happened to have lived here for 10 years. While I see wonderful changes in the Columbia City neighborhood I have not seen any changes (with the exception of the money and time donated by UPS to the Brighton Park). In fact, I felt safer in this neighborhood when I purchased my home than I do now. There does not seem to be any city focus on this neighborhood and this became really apparent when a light rail stop was not provided at MLK and Orcas (a street directly into the Hillman City Neighborhood). This neighborhood has a great community and is actively involved but for some reason does not seem to get the attention of this city nor from our Mayor.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

light rail, other than that I haven't lived here long enough to comment

My husband and I moved to Columbia City in late 1998. In that time Columbia City has definitely become more of a "destination neighborhood"--people come from other parts of the city to check it out, visit the businesses, etc. It is the most attractive business district for dinner and entertainment (movie/theater show/music) south of I-90, to the city limits and beyond--people are definitely drawn to this--it's much easier to park here than Capitol Hill or Downtown, too. Other changes include LOTS of infill housing development. Not just townhouses (though there are too many of those), but also new houses shoehorned into subdivided yards of older houses. And, last but not least, Light Rail--a long time in coming, but my goodness, does it change the game for the neighborhood completely. Access to downtown is MUCH easier, and even points beyond. Getting to Seattle Center (via train, then monorail) is actually easy now, for the first time ever.

more business activity more noise and trash

In Hillman City not much has changed.

Columbia City has become a yet more vibrant, diverse, and fun place to live. Unfortunately, the Hillman City business district continues to struggle and have a rag-tag feel about it.

Downtown CC has changed from a stagnant business district with several decrepit churches to a thriving retail/restaurant area. I am friends with several business owners from the retail core (past and present) and I can say that running a successful business down there has gotten infinitely easier. I don't hear about anyone chasing dealers away from the front of the shop with a knife anymore.

More businesses have opened up, more pedestrians out-and-about, Farmer's Market draws people in, light rail increases walking traffic. There has been an increase in ugly townhouses/condos being built right across the street from my little 1.5 story house.

It's safer and there are many more businesses to patronize...it's become a destination for residents of other Seattle neighborhoods.

Crime rates are terrible. We need traffic calming since it is too easy for criminals to have access to the neighborhoods. People are speeding! The graffiti we report is not cleared up on public spaces. The city ignores us. Here are some examples: We are losing Amazon in Beacon Hill and this affects small businesses in Columbia City. There is no city focus to bring in a major employer into this area. A retail job does not compete with high tech jobs in Fremont or South Lake Union.

Improved transportation, improved restaurant scene, still high in crime.

For the worse, I feel less safe now than I did 8 years ago and I see increased drug activity and prostitution in Hillman City specifically

I've seen quite a bit of new housing, most notably the housing that went in on MLK Way by the Columbia City light rail station, and continuing south on MLK past the Othello station. MLK has become a preferred route instead of a street to be avoided at all costs. Rainier Ave has some new housing, and a new fire station is being built on Rainier and Kenny.

Lots of young families who are not immigrants have moved in. Vacant lots have new buildings. MLK has light rail.

Hillman City has improved from the work of the community with no help from the City. All implementation from our neighborhood plan has occurred in Columbia City only. We'd like new sidewalks, appropriate and adequate pedestrian lighting, and to be favored over all other neighborhoods in SE as Columbia City has been for the last 15 years. We'd like our welcome to Hillman City sign to have the most prominent placement on S Orcas street too, but instead the sign directing folks to Columbia City has the best placement. The inequity is insulting, rude, and discriminatory.

Yes, but I'm not sure what is attributable to plan, what to the community development group's good work and boosterism (beat walk and the like) which pre-dates plan and what to the rush of infill and development that raised nearly all residential and commercial areas in neighborhoods of Seattle.

tree plantings, park improvement, light rail, neighborhood activities, gang activity, police, MLK cleaned up considerably,

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I have only been there 3 months but now we have light rail!

increase in traffic, gang related crime

Since we moved to Columbia City, the first negative thing we noticed was the volume of traffic and the inattentive motorist who travel through our neighborhood.

We've noticed that more people are moving into the neighborhood and dense housing is being constructed, we welcome more people moving into the area but not more cars; cars take away our happiness due to their nosies, pollution and thier apparent entitlement to own the roadway's space. Motorists take over the neighborhood and make it much less enjoyable to be outside.

I haven't been here long enough to respond.

It's changed a lot.

Too many businesses have closed, leaving vacant/for lease spaces; there has been too little development of market rate housing.

More gentrification, more families with children, less ethnically diverse

Light rail, with the station at a location different than anticipated in the plan. Expanded library. Revitalized business district. Major mixed-use developments planned. Neighborhood school on the closure list.

The neighborhood is gradually improving with new restaurants and shops that I visit. The environment has improved with more efforts that remodel, beautify, and clean things up. The light rail is bringing more visitors to Columbia City who support the businesses here. There has also been a noticeable increase in crime as a result of the weak economy.

New light rail, many more & different bussinesses, safer, more expensive to buy a home, retail space is more expensive, civic engagement has decreased, diverse mix of housing options (townhomes for example), farmers market, vacant public school building, expanded library, more daycare options, change in economic mix of people, more interest from developers,

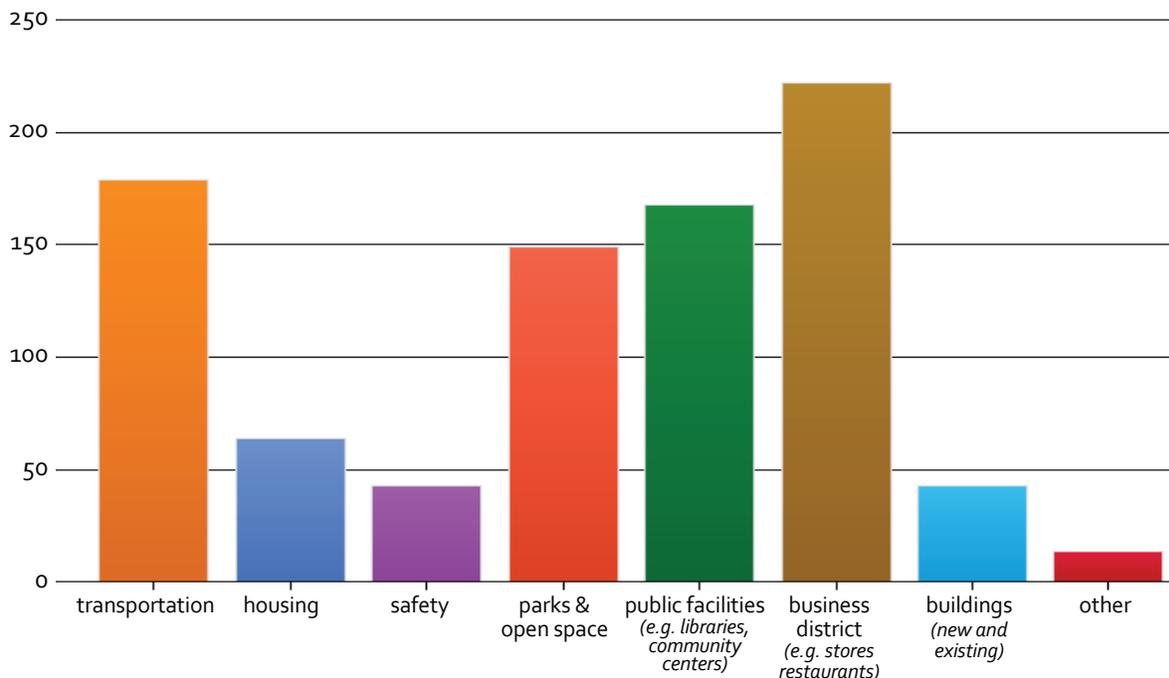
Columbia City has grown into a vibrant interesting place that is known throughout the city. There are shops, restaurants, a movie theater. It is safer, cleaner, more welcoming.

The light rail has started service, which has significantly increased foot traffic along S Edmunds between the station and the retail core. Housing density between mlk and rainier has increased. Well designed townhomes have sold much faster than poorly designed townhomes - some of which have stood vacant for over a year. The Columbia school no longer houses an elementary school, leaving a critical site along Edmunds lightrail-retail core to an opaque repurposing process. Lightrail station got situated in a location not figured into the plan, places a great new emphasis on the edmunds corridor. Colimbia Plaza and St Gobain properties slated for redevelopment. And potential redevelopment of Zion School ought to be all guided by an updated neighborhood plan. Changes in the economy with a renewed esteem for small business, crafts, and light manufacturing ought to be reconsidered in the planning and rezoning of a neighborhood that has found it's renewed vitality in small businesses. Developments like the Mohn work//live Lofts have drawn businesses to the neighborhood and ought to be considered within the S Edmunds lightrail-retail corridor.

Light rail has opened, several commercial buildings have been slated for development or put up for sale and these projects have stalled (Chubby & Tubby, etc.) New RPZ instituted New medium-density residential redevelopment, townhomes

It has improved greatly. Crime is down, stores have opened, homes are being fixed up. On the other hand, the impacts of traffic through the neighborhood, especially on Rainier, have gotten much worse.

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



Other things respondents are pleased about:

- general civic enthusiasm
- Farmers market
- maintenance of the historic district
- Sound Transit - yay!
- Farmer's Market
- Farmer's Market, Light Rail
- civically active community, diverse community
- the diversity of the neighborhood is still intact, despite rising home values
- diversity in neighborhood
- the train is the best thing to happen in Seattle
- trees given out about 5 years ago now growing well.
- New Rainier Vista
- DESC's opening of the Rainier Supportive Housing Program.
- improvements to K-5 public schools

I'll note that the rebuild of the park in Col City, right next to the library, seems futile. For losing access most of last summer, we just got more cement paths. Comes out losing on my cost/benefit calculation.

*please keep historical homes/buildings in Columbia City

The Genesee Meadow, playfield, and dog park are great resources.

I love the new Link Light Rail.

love the walkability and low-density feel of the neighborhood

Light rail stop @ C. City Love Genessee Park and the Olmstead parks along the Lake Like many restaurants in business district

For the most part we are very pleased with the things that are happening in our neighborhood. We love it here.

Columbia City is looking lovely.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

I am happy that the renewal has been thoughtful and that they have valued the character of the area.

The light rail nearby is a plus. The business district has improved. Having a movie theater and good restaurants is great. The library is wonderful. It's great that diversity has remained a key element of the neighborhood.

I like the variety of housing types that are appearing lately in the area, including live/work lofts and newer multi-family. The redevelopment of the library was fabulous and the new stores and restaurants have overall been positive additions.

The library addition was brilliant. New developments have been great, the light rail is going to be wonderful for us.

CC now has a true business core visited by the community.

Repeating my prior comments, slow growth is better quality growth. The libraries and parks in this area, including Genesee and the park adjacent to the Columbia City Library, are excellent facilities.

Love the library, hate the community center. The center is ugly, uninviting, and expensive to rent. Seems grossly underutilized.

I'm pleased to see the Columbia City business district hanging on during the recession. I'm much less pleased with the derelict appearance and neglect of Hillman City. I'm pleased to see new homeowners moving in, fixing up their homes, and building a community of people that care.

Think we are making great strides to continue to clean up and invite new businesses. Love being able to easily get downtown and then go into my own neighborhood. :)

I enjoy what businesses are available in my neighborhood. I only wish there were more of them, and that the now-vacant retail spaces were occupied with businesses I enjoy. I appreciate very much the recreational spaces available at Genesee Playfield and Meadow, the Rainier Community Center, and the Columbia Branch of the Library. I am large supporter of the light rail.

There are more people on the street and the area is attracting shoppers from other neighborhoods/cities

I am pleased with Hitts Hill Park and other open areas. I am pleased our library got remodeled and hope it can be funded properly to provide services to residents. The Columbia City business district is filling out nicely.

The Columbia City/Hillman City/Genessee neighborhood has a great local community feel to it that has come about organically because of its (previously) affordable housing, ethnic diversity and small scale development. It is truly a neighborhood within the city. It is unique from other neighborhoods in Seattle and should be recognized as one of the last places in the city representative of what a multi-ethnic, economically diverse and urban community should be like.

I wish that there would be more bike lanes one on Rainier going north and one on MLK going south then change it when they meet.

Columbia City core is thriving, energetic, hip destination

These changes are not related to any help from the City, but only to the hard work of those of us involved with the Hillman City Business Association.

The business district improvements seem concentrated in Columbia City -- which is great to see -- but there does not seem to be a halo effect up and down the Rainier Valley Corridor.

I appreciate the buses and Light Rail. Our local businesses are excellent. I hope that new businesses will enter the few empty storefronts. Beat Walk night is community building evening every month.

Excited about Light Rail, but I hope it will become easier for more people to access as bus routes change slightly to connect us better with the rail line. I like the frequency of bus service (#7). I love that almost everything I need is in Columbia City, which is about 1 mile away... park, library, post office, restaurants, clinic, stores.

Great community building with the farmer's market and new restaurants. Increase in property value with more improvements.

I have a family with children so we use the parks all the time and appreciate the choices around us. The business district has so many new great tenants that we enjoy visiting.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

The center of Columbia City is great, I love going there and shopping locally. I'd like to see it spread south a bit more, or just expand in general.

This neighborhood is not nearly as dangerous as places I have lived in other cities. The City of Seattle should do more to improve the reputation of the Rainier Valley.

I am excited about the light rail's beginning; I am excited to use it for commuting starting tomorrow. I also really enjoy Columbia City's business district; I would love it if Hillman City was half as vibrant.

LOVE the light rail LOVE the businesses Love the diversity Love the library and parks, beautiful

neighborhood involvement

Love being able to walk/bike to parks, library, restaurants, movie theater, etc.

Light rail is great - and it only took 15 years! The "toddler gym" programs at the rec centers in the area are a life saver for families with small children in the Winter. As I said before, the Columbia City business district contributes significantly to the liveability of the area.

The Community Center in Columbia City is great! I only wish there was something a little closer to my house in Hillman City.

Library remodel was excellent. Has been important to have schools revitalized, school presence in downtown Columbia city feels important

New parks have been added to the neighborhood thanks to community involvement and activism (no thanks to the city).

Parks are nice, but they are often used too late into the night. I live right on the edge of a park and the noise is very noticeable well after dark.

The light rail is a great addition to the neighborhood. Restaurants and businesses are thriving in Columbia City.

We have a great central business district with some great new developments going in: if anything, we could use more development and more compact mixed-use buildings along Rainier and MLK.

Light rail is a huge asset.

love light rail, love full tilt that moved in, love that brighton is getting a new playground! also, love that rainier beach is getting a new pool.

Seward Park is one park that is being taken care of and improved upon.

Light rail is great. Columbia Library is beautiful! Columbia City business district is wonderful--the focus on small businesses and no overwhelming buildings/edifices are all great. It's a walkable neighborhood and one I'm proud to be a member of.

Light Rail is wonderful.

Can we encourage a sushi and an Indian restaurant to open already??

I really like living walking distance to Genesee Park, the Lake, Columbia City and the grocery store at PCC. Walking is very important to me and I chose to move to this location b/c of the ability to walk to many places (albeit long walks)

I love the parks, restaurants, stores. I love the walkability of the neighborhood.

The light rail and accompanying housing and road improvements are especially nice.

Applies to Columbia City core only, not to my immediate neighborhood (Hillman City), where businesses have decreased and vacancies in the business district are up.

pleased about hits hill, especially with so much open space being built on.

Light rail is exciting -- but we really don't know the impact yet. Our historic buildings are wonderful. We have some vibrant businesses in DT Columbia City.

Lovely Seward Park and Lake Washington lake frontage. Great restaurants in CC

I don't need to drive my car because I have access to my needs in walking distance.

I enjoy using the light rail to get downtown and to get to the airport, it is the reason we decided to buy in this neighborhood. We have a good library and I like the parks that are nearby (genesee and seward)

Q2: What are you pleased about?

Light rail opening has been a fabulous thing for Columbia City! The offerings at the Rainier Community Center are good, although its strange to me that the Toddler gym hours were eliminated for the summer -- considering that Toddler gym is well attended by local parents year-round. It would be nice to have more parent/child classes offer there for young ones and toddlers. The Farmer's Market and the picnic-ing in the park by families during the Market hours is a wonderful weekly community-building event. I hope that when the parking lot where the Farmer's Market is redeveloped into housing that the market will not relocate far from its current location, as people would not be as likely to picnic and use the Columbia Park in this way.

The Mt Baker light rail station is a welcome arrival, I love the green spaces along Mt Baker Blvd, Hunter Blvd, and Mt Baker/Colman parks. Housing can be affordable

I'm very happy with the light rail in the neighborhood. And we've got great parks all around.

Density is good. I want to see more mixed commercial/residential housing in the area, especially around the light rail and the Columbia City Historic district.

Love the new businesses in Columbia City, love Light Rail

It's always so exciting to see a business open. And I am proud to shop locally.

We LOVE being near the lake and parks, and really appreciate bike Sunday. New libraries are terrific. And the light rail is awesome!

Most of Columbia City and Hillman were boarded up when I moved here, now we have some new businesses. Not enough, but a start.

Its only going to get better as the transportation continues to improve.

Love the light rail, the library, the shops and restaurants on Rainier Ave.

I love the improvements to the library

I'm satisfied with the safety of my neighborhood (everything east of Cascadia Blvd)

we love that we are so close to the light rail station. The bus took ages to get downtown.

Love all the new restaurants in Columbia City. The existing housing is improving with some homeowners taking more pride in their homes.

businesses are really trying to make a go of it, although a lot of them fail after a bit, I think due to inflated rents in the business district of Columbia City. Lots of creative entrepreneurs. Light rail is super loud (I'm several blocks away from station and tracks and hear bells and whining metal), but it is great to have the service.

Columbia City restaurants and new business.

There have been some nice housing developments (condos) in the Columbia City area. Perhaps more could be developed between Rainier and MLK Jr. Way.

I enjoy the parks and green space and the variety of restaurants.

Feels active and energized Link is great

Light rail is awesome, as is the newly renovated library and the diverse selection of restaurants and other retail establishments.

Love that we have a QFC and a PCC. Love that we now have Ross and several coffee shops.

Many new businesses

Great strides have been made by some of the business associations while some neighborhoods are still very much struggling like Hillman City and need more support from the city.

Library expansion is great and was much needed.

Transportation is very easy for us. I would like to see Metro work on feeding people from outside walking distance to the rail stations. Some small buses, etc.

We love the improvements that have been made to our parks and libraries, the new community centers, and housing developments. The Columbia City neighborhood has attracted so many great restaurants and shops. It also seems that more and more families with children move into our area every year.

Lightrail has great promise. The best thing about the neighborhood is the people.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

All the improvements we've seen we're pretty happy about.

I love the train, the local library and the vibrant business district.

The parks continue to be our neighborhood jewel. Responsiveness by police and fire

Happy to see light rail opening. Look forward to extensions to airport and UW opening in the future.

Great business district, great parks, great library, and light rail!

Light Rail is fantastic, I use it every day. The library and adjacent park is lovely and of course the farmers market is great for the neighborhood.

In Columbia City private investors and community advocates tried very hard to develop responsibly and maintain the integrity of the neighborhood as compared to other areas of MLK and Rainier Avenue that have been taken over by cheap, tall, skinny buildings with increased density as the main focus.

please build more mass transit and a street car to columbia city from downtown would be nice. you can turn rainier ave south into a boulevard or cycle track would be best where bicycles have their own path on the roadway.

Good support for pocket parks. Starbuck donates some to that. And lots of volunteer community members pitch in tons of hrs. that is good

The light rail is great. Genessee Park, the Green, and the area playgrounds are great.

Light rail! NRV has made it possible for low and middle income people to live in the same community.

The refurbished library is great although parking is still not adequate. The Ranier Community Center is a good resource and has a very useable playground. There are some wonderful new businesses and restaurants that have opened that contribute to the vibrant, eclectic, small town feel of Columbia City.

Glad to see the light rail completed. Community policing has been improved. Done great outreach. Library renovation nice. DESC building also worked out well. Business district improving, going upscale.

See previous comments

The addition of light rail makes other parts of the city more accessible. In addition, I like the increased foot traffic that I see on my street. I think seeing more people walk would encourage others to do so as well.

The Light Rail is terrific

More work needs to be done connecting the area to the light rail.

love the light rail! good walking! great businesses

There have been many parks in the neighborhood for a long time; now they seem more accessible and better maintained.

The library renovation has been great. Light rail is terrific (but better feeder bus service from Lakewood/Seward Park to the C. City station would be welcome). The business district as a whole is terrific

The parks are well maintained, the businesses are locally owned and diverse, yay for light rail.

I am very happy with the opening of the DESC supportive housing program on 42nd and Rainer. We need to be open to this type of housing for our poor, our weak and those who are homeless.

i love my neighbors, and i like the house where i have been lucky enough to be a renter for the past 13 years. i love being so near the park and the pcc.

Light rail seems to have brought in a lot more business and visitors to the neighborhood; - lots of work has been done on creating public facilities for the community and its showing

Its great to see a busy "main street" area in Columbia City. Beatwalk is wonderful! The library remodel has been a real asset and the Genessee park area is well utilized. The Farmers market is great.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

Light rail has put a nice face on the MLK corridor there is much remodeling and new residential construction going on.

No

I am pleased; that the Columbia library will be expanded, the parks are improving but we can use more of them especially small neighborhood parks,

Business district is great! I'd like to see the commercial "node" on Wilson Ave S. develop as well.

Brighton Playfield (which is the green space closest to us) has received improvements in the last few years

Love the lightrail, the beautiful library, and the commercial areas.

I absolutely love our new library and the commercial district in Columbia City! However, it is very dangerous for us to walk there from our neighborhood without any sidewalks. I would walk much more (and I think my neighbors would too) if they were installed. It is just too unsafe for walking.

I'm very happy that more restaurants are opening and giving residents of Columbia City more options.

Light rail is awesome....finally.

Downtown Columbia City is better for businesses.

love love love being nearby a great biz district, Seward Park, Light Rail, and in a neighborhood with other families. also love being walking distance from school

This has been a pretty fabulous decade for Columbia City, topped by light rail opening.

New houseing in the area is designed well and fits into the fabric of the urban density.

all library branches should be funded to be open 7 days a week, 9am to 8pm everyday.

Hurray for light rail! Hurray for art and science projects at Brighton Playfield! Hurray for all of the great new restaurants, cafes, and bars!

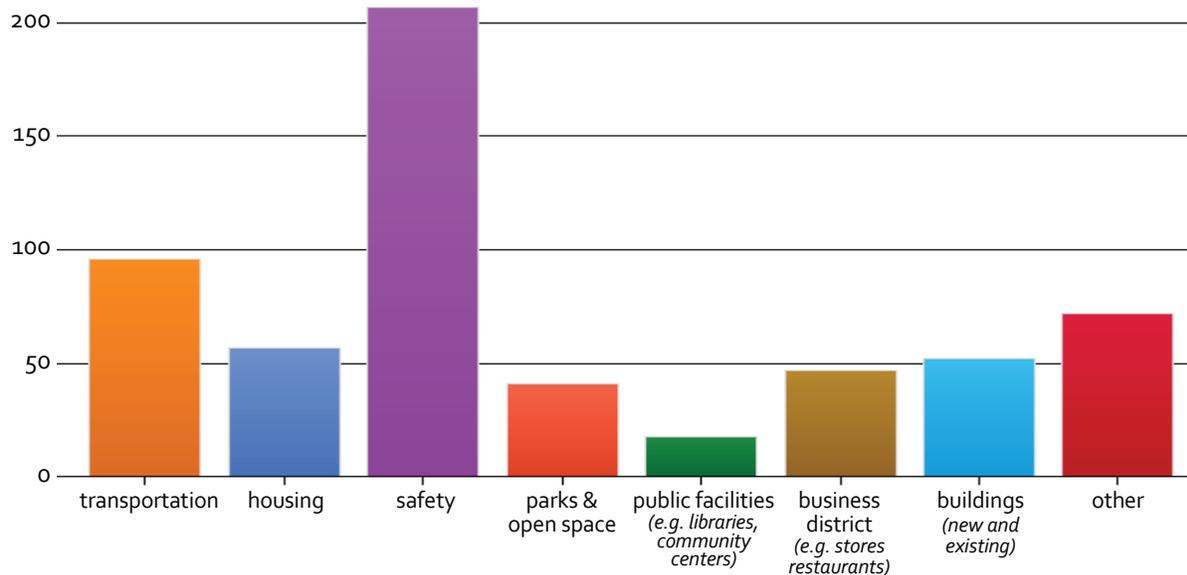
Love the new light rail. Great neighbors and great open green spaces (and other parks facilities). Columbia City is thriving community.

Great neighborhood, love the Fire Dept here.

I love the vibrancy of the CC area. I moved here so that I could be within walking distance to restaurants, business, the library, etc.

We are thrilled to use the Sound Transit. It would be great to have more to do in the parks, for example a skate park at Genesee or in Columbia City. It is a drag the neighborhood kids need to drive to other neighborhoods to enjoy a current sport.

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



Other things respondents are dissatisfied about:

- Again, lots of missing sidewalks
- Continue to address the gang issue please.
- no more condos
- crazy drivers
- disappearing bike lanes
- I hope that the Link will encourage more business on MLK.
- middle and high schools are inadequate and dangerous.
- Hillman City is neglected by the city and really looks it!
- Cleanliness
- more affordable housing needed
- too much condo development
- Neglect from the City
- cleanliness/pride in the place where we live
- Police response
- I don't like businesses putting bars on their windows, it makes it feel that crime is a concern and is not inviting! Columbia City has few bars on windows and it is much more pleasant.
- some blight, litter, graffiti
- gathering spaces
- Buildings of disrepair on MLK
- Parking
- general loitering in certain areas. litter.
- Traffic thru the neighborhood, especially on Rainier Ave.
- low density
- see comments below
- gentrification
- focus on core Columbia City
- lack of retail and employment opportunities
- Newly formed neighborhood organization is dominated by NIMBY-ist loudmouths who seem to be opposed to everything
- crime
- many streets still without curbs
- bike paths, schools
- quality of public schools is still low.
- traffic and pedestrian safety a primary concern
- Need police to target the prostitution/drug scene.
- Huge, ugly, towering townhouses crowded onto a lot where there used to be small one story homes.
- Repaving Rainier Avenue without any bike lanes
- urban density housing choices
- Lake WA Blvd.
- need more lower income housing
- drug traffic
- Department of licensing
- school closures
- warning bells for light rail
- Lack of sidewalks
- the lack of parking in and around the Columbia City core. My wife has two replaced knees, and getting to and from local stores is a real chore.
- schools
- Rainier Traffic
- home ownership becoming unaffordable for those over poverty line but under 6 figure income.
- roadways devoted to cars
- zoning
- Education
- Rainier ave, street lighting and curbing for pedestrian safety between station and rainier
- city streets are poorly maintained
- Traffic
- I hate the nimbism in this community.
- neighborhood cleanliness
- public schools!
- Sidewalks, please?
- police presence
- Lack of Rainier Vista development.
- public schools at middle and high school level, places for teens
- general loitering
- Crime and loitering. See below
- Garbage on the streets and bike safety
- litter and lack of fixes sidewalks on renton ave south
- property taxes
- schools; too many non-profits and social services agencies; not enough support for business development to help with crime and all other related issues

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

While having the train is good, we still can't get anywhere but downtown easily. Need better access to the U Dist and S Lake Union - for what my family would use.

*safety - in spite of active block watches, burglaries and nuisance soliciters still rise transportation - too bad there is not easy access to light rail (no parking area) housing - take care not to knock down wonderful cottages to build new condo's and change the nature of the area

I attend the University of Washington, and for me to take public transport from my house would require two buses and well over an hour in transport (compared to 20-25 minutes by car). That's abysmal.

I am not certain that the low income housing developments are helping out with crime. They should be more careful with building styles when permitting to keep some of the character of the neighborhood and it's history.

We need a pool.

in one of the crime hotspots of the city (southeast seattle in general), it made no sense to increase the area to cover and not increase the patrol force concurrently. especially when it was already acknowledged to be an understaffed precinct.

I wish the businesses on Rainier would be forced to clean up in front of the stores, all the litter, all along Rainier from RB to Dearborn, it is filthy. Also do some work with Hillman to fix up the storefronts, paint them, don't allow landlords to ignore the facade. Put up awnings, plant trees, make it a boulevard. Fix up the brighton area too.

Wish library felt safer, more spacious for small children
Wish we had better retailers in business district Wish we didn't have any shuttered storefronts in business district

1. Parking near the light rail would encourage usability for those of us that are not near enough to walk. 2. I am still concerned about South Seattle being used as a dumping ground for the city's unwanted (ie: mentally unstable and half-way houses).

My memory might be foggy, but I seem to recall bike lanes on MLK. I wonder if they had to go for space issues when the light rail went in... Also there have been a number of break-ins, our house and close friends and neighbors included, and the police response is incredibly slow, but an hour or 2 after the incidents, we seem to have an extraordinary amount of police hanging about the scene, especially with the home invasion that happened to our neighbor a couple years ago.

Again, the Hillman City business district needs some love. Small investments by the City in lighting and sidewalk/ped amenities would make a huge difference. I'm a big fan of implementing changes in Rainier's lane configuration (first priority) and other improvements outlined in Southeast Transportation Study. King County Metro has failed the neighborhood not only by failing to provide good access to the light rail line but by actually cutting back east-west service (#39 route in particular). Their plan to "spread the pain" is a bad joke - further reducing the highest ridership bus routes at same rate as routes in far flung and low density places like Fife, North Bend, and Enumclaw. It would be funny if it weren't so sad.

A neighborhood grocery other than the Viet Wah would really help make this an urban village.

Light rail is too far for me to walk to, and the bus I would need to take to connect with it (39) only runs every 30 minutes. Crime is still a big problem. Lots of burglaries and drug use in this neighborhood.

I wish the improvements would extend further to Genessee and Hillman City neighborhoods.

New housing is mixed from attractive buildings to crammed apartment complexes.

Vast portions of Rainier look like Aurora--and that's not a good thing. Rainier still operates much like Aurora as well, and as long as traffic is allowed to use Rainier in this way the business districts clustered around Rainier will suffer. I won't park my car on the street in Columbia City--an otherwise walkable business district--for fear of having my door taken off. East-west development off Rainier and traffic-calming seems key. I'm also dissatisfied with the east-west connections to the light-rail stations, and feel that they will be underutilized because so many on the east side of Rainier lack quick connection to the stations.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

We are glad some of the proposed projects for the area have gone belly up or are on hold. We do want more development, especially housing, in the area, but would like to see it at a reasonable scale. We've got a 1-3 story neighborhood now--6 stories seems too big a jump and would obliterate the sense we have of the local topography. There is still a lot of property crime in the neighborhood. Would like to see some defined bike connections to the busy Lake Washington corridor.

While the neighborhood feels safer than 10-15 years ago, there is still open drug dealing and prostitution at times which is shocking and of major concern. We almost always hear sirens screaming down Rainier when we visit CC. Also, it can be downright dangerous to cross CC Rainier crosswalks. I wish traffic could be slowed down through the business district.

Amaturish public art on the trash cans and lack of parking for individuals wanting to use the light rail. Poor planning on the part of the government officials who run the light rail program. They fail to understand the American culture when it comes to public transportation.

See previous comment.

I'm very displeased with the city's continuing efforts to force more subsidized housing into southeast Seattle. I'm very unhappy with city efforts to implement Community Renewal, eminent domain, HB 1495, and other Transit Oriented Development initiatives. There are dozens and dozens of un-sold TOD housing units at Rainier Vista and New Holly. TOD is too costly. Rainier Vista & New Holly TOD units average close to \$500,000 each. You can purchase a charming older home just blocks away for under \$350,000. Why proposed to demolish affordable older homes and replace them with many, denser, and more expensive units? "Preservation is the ultimate form of sustainability."

Too much low income housing is making the Columbia City area junky. This needs to be spread out among all of Seattle. Residents of low income housing do not have choices to live in all of Seattle.

So for my husband and I - the transportation is great - but for the elderly or friends that live in Hillman city - it is really tough to get the light rail. Need another stop between Columbia City and Holly Park. Must be a cultural thing but there is trash everywhere - we see people dump stuff everywhere - kids/adults alike. Also do not feel safe at times - still hear a lot of gunfire at night and someone was mugged right in front of the library not too long ago. Made us nervous about wandering down to the market on Wed once it is darker out.

My neighborhood is experiencing a wave of crime, most notably burglaries. The majority of homes on my street alone have been burglarized within the past several months, some of them several times over. I would like to have improved, very frequent bus service that connects Seward Park, and Genesee St. with the light rail.

The existing buildings are fine, but the glut of tacky high-density townhouses (such as the ones being built on the former 'Wittenberg Field of Dreams' behind Zion) and the monstrous 5-6(!!!!) story buildings planned to tower over the retail core make my stomach turn. Way to ruin a good thing with greedy planning, guys.

Continued improvements could be made to expand the urban business area and provide more walkable connections across Rainier Ave. Crosswalks are timed very short and there are no opportunities to cross between Hudson and 42nd S.

This area is not a safe place, particularly at night, for walking or sometimes even for driving or riding a bike. the Hillman City business district is dysfunctional for the most part I think partly b/c the link between it and Columbia City has not been established (some folks don't want this I know). More functioning businesses would provide employment for local residents. Some of the new buildings are not aesthetically pleasing. I think some of the bus service cuts to SE Seattle are detrimental.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Regarding transportation, the light rail is here, but bus funding is about to be slashed. From a safety perspective, the community has yet to reach a point where individuals feel safe walking alone at night from transportation hubs due to inadequate street lighting and poorly maintained pedestrian routes. The business district of Columbia City is thriving, but Hillman City is years behind. A street beautification and business tax incentive plan should be implemented immediately to draw more pedestrian activity to the Rainier & Orcas intersection to counteract the current state of neglect so visible today. The new fire station could tie in nicely with this plan, as well as the proposed Juneau street park proposal.

We need more parks and open space there old columbia plaza should be a large park w/ just the Library in the park. What a great connection to the lake and if we also used the old school yard that would make the park even better.

How did light rail get built w/o parking at the stations?? I for one would have used it countless times, if I could drive/park at the station...you can't expect high use if you don't make it easy to use!

people who have lived in this neighborhood for generations have been pushed out because of a lack of affordable housing

Yes. We would like to have some implementation of our plan specifically in Hillman City.

What I hear constantly from small business owners is that the rents are crushingly high.

When I can not walk to the bus stop by Safeway on Rainier Ave and the police tell me to take a different route - walking down on McCellan - which is a longer route - that has me concerned about my safety. Also, there is lots of activity around the boat house and not very much police presence thus later at night you do not feel safe walking along the lake without additional folks with you - this use to not be the case.

Safety -- specifically house casings and burglaries and car prowls are still at an unacceptably high level.

I am concerned that there will be too many multi-family housing units added to the Columbia city area in the near future. I believe this will cause over crowding and congestion in the area. I also believe that there is a need for on foot or bicycle police officers in the area. The Light Rail station neighborhoods need supervision in order for people to walk safely home. I think that the speed limit for traffic going down Rainier through Columbia City business district should be lowered. This is a high pedestrian area.

Unfortunately, it takes about an hour by bus to get to most places in Seattle besides downtown. More transportation connections with other neighborhoods would be helpful. Crimes like drug dealing and breaking/entering are relatively common in my neighborhood. There are also many houses that are not well taken care of in my neighborhood (most of them being rental properties).

I just wish there were more businesses

Would like to see continual fight against drug dealing on the stretch of rainier that houses Tutta bella etc.

Crime in our area is rampant and reported daily in the Rainier Valley Post. City officials are completely oblivious.

There are relatively few neighborhood parks for families and individuals to use. A baby boom in the area really shows the need for pocket parks, and busy arterials (Rainier, MLK) and topography act as barriers to the parks that may be relatively close.

I am not happy about the light rail situation. Why can we not have park and ride type parking areas? We don't live within walking distance of light rail stations, and I checked, it will take us two bus rides to get to the stations - just not worth it with my two young kids. I want to take the train, but it seems like you've made it very difficult. It would have been great to put in some handy parking places so that people can drive the short distance to the train, and go from there. Also, there were a LOT of burglaries in our neighborhood this spring. (We live near Graham Hill elementary school.) I have never before felt so unsafe in my own home - we were afraid to keep windows open, etc! Every day when I'd pick up my kids from school, I'd hear moms talk about who'd been broken into over night. My son was so afraid he had to sleep in our bed at night. Two of his friends were burgled, so this was very real to him.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I am dissatisfied with the Link Light Rail parking situation. I live in the neighborhood but because I am too far to walk to the station I cannot utilize this new transportation. There is no easy bus from my house to the station either. Also, my street does not have sidewalks and so it is not safe for the kids to walk down our street. This concerns me, especially with my son getting ready to attend a school that would be walking distance from the house.

1) 48th Ave S. between S. Graham and S. Orcas is a main walkway for children to get to Graham Hill Elementary and Aki Kurose Middle School; and 2) We are also the only through street without obstacles to/from I-5 and Seward Park and Hillman City.

gangs are pretty bad, violence is high and burglary is also high.

Lots of buildings need to go... there is a state of decay that would be nice to eradicate. The housing projects are overwhelming down here. Again, would like to see the rest of the city absorb some of these facilities. I understand that the city wants to get people out of their cars, but for people who live in mount baker, seward park, lakewood, we want park and rides. Columbia city is becoming harder and harder to utilize. Too many 1 hr spaces and permit only spaces.

I don't feel very safe at night when I am walking by myself, and I live pretty close to the Columbia City core and would like to feel secure there.

Transportation: Loathe the Metro, it's the absolute worst I've experienced in Seattle to date. Very unreliable. Safety: I watch drug dealers and hookers do business in front of my house almost daily. Police: Very little response from the police.

I would love to see Hillman City's business district take on the wonderful air that Columbia City has. More unique businesses moving in and really creating that flow of caring and extend it along Rainier Ave S. I am also concerned about the crimes in the area including home invasion, burglaries, theft, etc.

We could use more street cleaning, more maintenance of city owned property and more public safety from the Police Dept. Specifically, the hillside on Americus between 39th Ave S and 42nd Ave South is overgrown with the bushes coming out into the street, the gutter needs care.

Still high level of crime, break ins, car prowling. Lots of townhouses developments.

We need more retail in this area, especially general-purpose clothing and houseware stores. Hate the Ross Dress for Less store!!!

Particularly worried about the Rainier Valley homicides and burglaries.

Housing continues to be too expensive. I'm really concerned about the crime rate in this area; especially gang-related violence. We had several mid-day home invasions in our neighborhood this summer.

The new train is and has suffocated the businesses along MLK and have made it difficult to shop in that area.

Aside from the parks that exist near this area, there are very few opportunities for people to gather or meet in public places. These spaces are critical for community development and create opportunities for art & tourism.

The Billard/Mattress store complex on MLK and S. Hudson is crime ridden (and supposedly the Billard houses the local Vietnamese Mafia).

Yes, I love the light rail we just need a park and ride so neighborhood parking is not such the problem it is now.

Especially concerning along bus routes and with new link light rail station Not much attention to neighborhood parks

Need better access between different types of transportation. Better connection between Station and business district and the Lake. More housing is needed near the station.

Densification of housing lowers the appeal of the neighborhood. Many of the new housing is bland and over crowded. Unfinished and stalled construction of Rainier Vista project make the neighborhood appear derelict and unappealing.

Our neighborhood has a tremendous amount of foot traffic between Rainier and MLK. Even more now and in the future with Link running. However, we have NO sidewalks or even trails to walk on safely to get to transportation options.

Safety continues to be a very serious issue.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Though crime has improved, it is still worse in SE Seattle than other parts of the city. Traffic on Rainier is horrible: speeding, reckless drivers; commuters racing to get to Renton and other suburbs to the South; trucks and so on. There are far too few traffic calming measures, stop lights, crosswalks, curb bulbs, and so on to make people slow down to a reasonable speed. It is very dangerous and extremely unpleasant. The heavy and fast traffic through Columbia City is the worst problem we face -- we need measures taken to reduce speeds and numbers of cars.

Lack of curbs means that cars travel too fast and endanger pedestrians. We need to complete curbs in the urban village to accommodate and encourage pedestrians!

there are a lot of run down houses here still. there is a lot of crime - burglary, shootings, etc. i wish more restaurants would come - need thai and sushi. i wish the plastics plant would go and a retail area like redmond town centers would come. i wish col plaza would be redeveloped - and could include space for farmers market. i wish tire place on rainier would be developed into mixed use retail.

The building structures in SE Seattle do not fit in with the character of the community we're trying to maintain. It seems like there is a large push to build dense housing at a low cost. Why can't nicer structures with parking garages and wider sidewalks and plantings be built? The police department is also stretched way too thin.....they basically tell us they don't have the resources to keep us safe or respond to non-priority calls. The cities response to The Jungle is was also pathetic. IT should be cleaned up and fixed.

I've lived near the playfields for 7+ years. The violent crime and drug dealing in the area are regular and I'd like to see more presence of police officers/community officers. Traffic thru Columbia City is either clogged or riddled with cars moving way too fast--not as pedestrian friendly as it could be, esp in a neighborhood that has the number of young children and elderly (slow-moving) adults. Need better safety for all.

Too many property crimes.

There are a lot of empty storefronts along Rainier, and I'm worried that will stall future investment in the area. The city seems to be concentrating new low income and transitional housing in the Rainier Valley, which is a further drag on the community's efforts to build a vibrant neighborhood. It feels like we're barely keeping forward momentum, and can't afford any additional downward pressure.

our bus service is under the knife! And, it;s impossible to ride a bike on Rainier without playing "chicken" with the cars. Rainier Ave. is a relatively flat, multi-access road - it would be a biker's paradise if we could make it safer.

I would like the area to have greater density and less parking lots. The intersection of Ranier and Genesee could make for a great neighborhood center- but the multiple large lots make it unrealistic and not a pleasant place to walk.

Too many break-ins to houses in the neighborhood. Street lighting is too dim. I am very worried about what will happen to the Farmer's Market once the apartment building goes in in that space. The Farmer's Market is such an important part of the community, and the greenspace that is adjacent to the market is ideal for gathering with friends and meeting new neighbors.

There is room for improvement on safety. There are some older buildings that need a face lift or need to replace with a more presentable building.

I would not walk in my neighborhood at night. There are a number of abandoned and dilapidated buildings along Rainier, however it has been nice to see new housing going in where some of those buidings were.

The safety of the neighborhood has taken a turn for the worse with recent gang related activity in the neighborhood and violent crimes against pedestrians.

Safety is still lacking though it has improved. I'd like to see the focus of improvements shift a bit from Columbia City core out to other neighborhoods covered by the plan such as Hillman City and Genesee, which in my opinion have been fairly neglected relative to CC.

more and more high density housing with less attention to traffic patterns and parking. High rise condos don't really jive with this neighborhood.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

disappointments noted about getting to and from light rail from neighborhoods as yet i dont hear of a plan to make it usefull for people that dont like right near it. we need small busses going east west to the line.

SE Seattle in general is absolutely a neglected part of the city in regards to safety. We do not have the involvement with the police we should have. While crime on a city wide level is going down, it is not in SE Seattle & the city & the police try to hide these statistics. The city as a whole ignores SE Seattle regularly and only has responded with GREAT citizen pressure. Isolating this part of the city is detrimental to the city as a whole.

No safe bike routes along the Rainier corridor. Destruction of the neighborhood feeling by real estate speculators. No improvement in drug or property crime rate. High incidence of youth and gang crime. No longterm plan to address youth delinquency and gang crime.

Outside of Columbia City's business district, the retail and shopping experiences are very niche. Also, employment and jobs here are low-wage. We need industry and med-large size businesses to be attracted to here. Finally, the public safety problem is huge. SE Seattle needs to stop being a dumping ground of social services and Section 8 housing!@!!!!

There is still a lot of drug dealing going on right down the street. The green space behind the Rainier Community Center still becomes a swamp in the winter months b/c the paths are uneven. I also feel like the grasses in Genessee Meadow are being mowed further and further back each year.

Rainier Ave is still a dangerous place to be a pedestrian or driver -- too fast for a commercial district.

I hate how old and crappy a lot of the buildings are, people litter and dump trash around, not a lot of grocery stores within walking distance and almost no services along the light rail corridor, where can you get a cup of coffee or paper on your way to the rail? I hate hearing gunshots at night when I am trying to fall asleep. All the social services get dumped here in SE Seattle where no one cares about the people who live here every day.

Very few restaurants are open on Sunday nights. Sketchy characters roaming the business district - I would not walk from Rainier to MLK along Alaska or Edmunds (or really any side street) at night by myself.

Gang activity

Bus system is still a relatively inconvenient way to travel. There is no connectivity for bikes to get to downtown from the neighborhood. Rainier Ave is unsafe and unpleasant for bikes and pedestrians. I would advocate for a mixed ped/bike trail along Rainier Ave between Genessee and I-90. Create nice bus stations that connect to light rail, shelter people from the elements and create positive land-use changes

I'd like more business along MLK.

Too much crime. I hear gunshots at night. It doesn't seem to be alot being done about the gang activity. It is a quality of life issue. People getting mugged, strong arm robberies, etc.

Too much traffic on the main street (Rainier); unsafe pedestrian conditions; lousy bike routes. In other words, lack of a "complete street" through the business district.

Opposed Rainier Vista redevelopment -- not enough low-income housing. Crime is up -- there have been break-ins and cars stolen on my street.

Bus routes could use some improvements: the 7, 34 and 39 especially. I have no comment yet on Link Light rail: it's too new. Time will tell if it was worth all the investment.

We need much better bike routes to downtown for bike commuters, better south end schools, a lot more choice of schools and day care. Also more housing choices including really nice courtyard housing and townhomes. And the business districts are growing but still not robust.

crime is up, way up in the neighborhood. Really wish Light Rail had neighborhood feeder buses like we asked for from the very first community meeting.

Something needs to be done to make the youth without means feel like they have a positive future worth pursuing. Its ridiculous to not feel safe after dark because a bunch of teenagers are running around with guns. Until then, many locals are not going to benefit from the train, and are going to be resentful.

business district landlords are not very discriminating about who they rent to.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Wish they would add a "loop" bus route to bring riders to the light rail--picking people up from Hillman City and north and south of the stop. Wish there would be more enforcement of speeding laws on residential streets. Wish we could get some speed bumps on 46th Ave. S. (I know, it's outside the technical boundaries of Columbia City) to stop the people speeding down our street.

Safety - I read reports almost every day about burglaries or assaults in Columbia City. I feel frightened when I walk home from the bus or light rail. Public Schools - One of the goals of the plan is to create a healthy community where people want to live and stay. A factor for me will be a quality school for my young child. Our schools constantly rate low and we have a baby boom in our area.

Terrible pedestrian/car interactions around Rainier Ave. in Columbia City. Would really like to see a revision to traffic signals at Rainier and Edmunds, Ferdinand and Hudson that would allow pedestrians a short walk signal before traffic starts to move. Also a 4 way stop at Genesee and 42nd.

I'm dissatisfied with the safety of my neighborhood west of Cascadia Blvd to Rainier Ave. Even walking along Genesee to Walgreens at the corner of Genesee and Rainier feels scary to me because of the hoodlums hanging out on the corners doing drug deals.

There is nowhere to walk to to get groceries. Safeway on Rainier and Charlestown is the closest and it is an unsafe walk after dark and in general because there are few crosswalks and a lot of traffic.

Do not let zoning get even more out of hand. Do not let developers raze single family homes to build monstrous condos/townhomes. We don't need more density in Columbia City. I am also disappointed in the lack of bike lanes in Columbia City.

Some of the new buildings and developments look so cheap. I wish they would be designed and built so that they looked like they are going to be there for awhile and contribute positively to the neighborhood.

A specific concern is pedestrian access to the light rail station. I live on the west side of MLK, just on the edge of the planning area shown on the map, and our neighborhood's access to the light rail station is via a hill climb at Ferdinand st. between 30th Ave S and 32nd Ave S. In addition to needing functional hand rails and improved surfacing, this hill climb needs, more than anything else, better lighting. There is a broken streetlamp at the top of the long stair leading down from 30th ave that has not worked for a long time, and so the entire upper portion of the hill climb is in the dark after sunset. If the city and Sound transit want residents within walking distance to use the light rail, improvements need to be made to this access, particularly before the fall, when rain and darkness will prevent anyone from using this. My other concern is about the chip and seal work that was done last summer -- it was very shoddy work, and the roads are in worse condition now than before the "improvements" were done. I would love for someone from the city to walk my neighborhood and justify the expense of work that diminished the ability for bicycle and pedestrian travel thru the neighborhood.

Safety is still an enormous concern. I will not take light rail because I am concerned about safety of walking home from the light rail station especially in the dark. I am afraid to walk after dark in our neighborhood.

Light rail is louder than expected. It wakes me up when I'm sleeping, even though I live well away from it. The new buildings, especially townhouses, seem designed for assault. There are some scary environments being built for people to rent/live in. Lots of vacant housing still, nice older single family houses. Really sad. Some of the parking lots are a bit scary in the evening, like the library/COI. City plaza lot. and Pho Hoa lot after hours. They seem to attract some unwanted attention. Lots of historic housing has been lost, replaced with some TRULY UGLY stuff. I wish there were a little more control over this. The new housing is going to look pretty shabby in 10-15 years. Pedestrian and bike safety is a big problem. Lots of the peripheral neighborhoods don't have good lighting and sidewalks. Walking to the bus/train or riding your bike is really challenging. And sometimes muddy & wet.

Hillman City area is in bad shape. Very rundown. Dumping ground for low income and criminal persons.

Riding a bike on Rainier is not a safe option at any time. Traffic circles are dangerous due to confusion on who has right of way and how to use them.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I am concerned about the ability of local transit to connect with the new light rail. During my last few transit trips downtown, I choose to ride the bus rather than get stranded at the Columbia City light rail station.

We need a better community center in Columbia City. How about using the old Orca school building? The Ravenna Phinney Community center would be a great model to use.

Cutting bus service harms getting into/out of neighborhood. The density with no yards and UGLY housing is depressing.

Way to many robberies and burglaries.

Wish there was a full-service grocery store in the Columbia City retail core. Lots of prostitution and drug activity around 39th and Rainier and Rainier and Hudson and Hitts Hill park which don't seem to attract much police attention. Too high of a concentration of DSHS-type facilities.

The blvd. despartly needs a bike lane or ban bikes from using it. It is an accident waiting to happen with oncoming cars crossing the center line to avoid bikes. I dislike very much how often the Blvd is closed to care traffic. It is my street to get in and out of my home. I don't mind sharing but lets be more realistic as to how often you would like your own steet closed to you so everyone else can use it. Pick some other spots around the city to use that are under utilized.

Gang activity seems to be on the rise - don't see boots on the street police presence

Slow response time with the Police Department. Car prowls seem to be on the uprise particularly along Rainier/Hudson/Dawson

would like more businesses within walking distance that provide for essentials (grocery store, drug store, coffee shop); would also like the Cheasty greenspace developed into trails and a park

burglary is still a problem in the neighborhood; and recently some strong-armed robberies as well

Propery and violent crime seem to be creeping up again. For years, SE neighbors have been asking for MORE POLICE COVERAGE of the area. We need it!

Disappointed a light rail stop was not provided at MLK and Orcas. The business district lacks what it needs to get people out and about walking and shopping (the businesses are not inviting nor are the buildings they are in). Brighton Park is great but due to bad lighting and lack of use it tends to bring gangs, drug users and dealers, prostitution etc. The Department of Liscensing does absolutely nothing for the neighborhood. The building is an eyesore and there is no community involvement by this city building.

Prostitutes and drug dealers seem to feel comfortable working both at night and in daylight hours on Rainier just outside of main "business district" area

There have been a number of break-ins/home invasions in our neighborhood. Our family's house and close friends and neighbors have all been affected. I feel like police response has been slow to these calls, even when their immediate attention could have caught some of these perpetrators. I have also been baffled by the 6+ police vehicles in front of these scenes between an hour and 3 hours after the crime... Perhaps it is safer to detect than to actually catch these crooks red-handed? With the increase of density and growing number of families in our neighborhood, and the doubling of housing prices/property taxes, I am dumbfounded by the school closures in our area. We live near Aki Kurose Middle School and I am not convinced that shoving more kids in already overcrowded, out of control situations is really a good thing for our kids or our community.

Constant bell ringing from trains makes living along the MLK corridor in Columbia City unattractive. This should be key area for TOD in order to fill in empty lots and provide ridership for light rail. However, noise pollution from bells is limiting this area's potential use. I have lived in other cities which have light rail running at grade-- Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, Amsterdam, Brussels. In none of these cities do they ring bells at each intersection. I don't understand why Sound Transit feels that they need to.

There is a lack of sidewalks between Renton Ave S and 42nd Ave S near S Orcas. There is also a lot of trash/litter in the neighborhood. And there are a lot of shoes hanging from power/cable lines in this area.

Need more and better maintained sidewalks; need to do something productive with land now vacant along MLK after lightrail construction, need more parks and better maintained open space (get rid of ivy and clematis!)

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The only thing I'd say is that I'd prefer fewer townhomes. I'd like this neighborhood to remain unique and not start looking like Ballard. There are lots of new town homes that tend to make our diverse neighborhood look homogenous and we're certainly NOT!

There are numerous home break-ins (including "casing" of homes) and violent crime occurring in Columbia City.

The arrogance in City Hall about what "WE" need, and what Greg thinks looks best; ie no parking areas around his Lionel train. The only thing that looks "GOOD" are the many already dated looking condo developments. They will forever say 2001, even when the garish paint schemes have been replaced.

Because of recent muggings in our area and a near mugging that I experienced, I no longer feel safe walking alone in the neighborhood at any hour. I worry about burglary and car theft, because there has been a spike in these crimes on our street and people I know have been affected. I would not want to walk home from the light rail station at night. I am hoping the city will do something about this.

Design review seems to be lacking for new projects. There are some horrible multifamily projects going up. I love the idea of density, but needs to be done with good design, esp. bordering on the historic district.

No link to the light rail,

Still dealing with theft, littering/dumping and prostitutes/johns on our block.

I'd like to see momentum to date continue into the future.

Residential crime and street crime (esp. youth violence) significant problems, with major uptick in past nine months.

Traffic on Rainier Ave in the business district is way too fast. I'm talking about the main business area between Ferdinand and Edmunds. I have only been in the neighborhood for one year and I have seen two people hit by cars. It should be a reduced speed zone. There are a lot of people walking around.

The city continues to push what they think we need in SE Seattle rather than listening to the citizens. Park and Rides, sidewalks, less subsidized housing, and other areas should be considered based on consistent feedback from the community.

the perceived notion that we must invest in roadways for cars to support business or whatever is backwards thinking at best. We need more emphasis and development placed on bike ways, pedestrian paths, etc, not car roadways. Please, invest in bike paths and complete streets not car only roadways. cars take over the roadway despite sharrows and other signage or roadway painting, its not safe until we get separated bike paths.

Not many businesses seem to make it here. Too bad required parking lots and spaces are in front of the stores..better to have in back so as to invite pedestrians (those are people who walk...) feel near to the store fronts and may come in. This is not suburbia.

Many streets have no sidewalks or curbs so cars park where they please and it leads to dirty streets with trash, etc.

The ability to access our property and business with trucks has been reduced by the installation of traffic circles, and the light rail. The light rail terminal is too far away from the core of Columbia City, and it is at grade. The Edmunds station should have been elevated to reduce interference with traffic. Also there are no foot traffic businesses surrounding the station. If some do grow up there they will detract from the Columbia city core. Additionally elevating would have given passengers a chance to see how far away the Columbia City business district is. However I am supporting the installed rail system, as I believe it will assist in improving the economic situation in the Columbia City area.

The traffic continues to be too busy and aggressive along Rainier. The zoning doesn't always support the community's goals.

The city doesn't seem to enforce zoning/safety/planning for Rainier Ave business. Some of the buildings are just gross.

I do not personally feel unsafe or have ever been personally challenged, other than having found a bullet in my roof. It's more of a sense for me; I find the occasional gunshots in the distance disturbing.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The crime rate is still a concern as is the lack of police presence/response time to non-life threatening calls.

The commute from the Seward park area is about to take longer, with the mandatory transfer to Light rail, but no increase in feeder line buses.

The new construction is boringly similar - townhomes, townhomes and more townhomes. The plans for larger developments inspire little hope - mixed use boxes that cannot fail to take away the "small town" feel of the neighborhood. For those of us that have to drive the traffic on MLK and Rainier has worsened since Light Rail was built and opened.

this survey is difficult to respond to because in my opinion, there are 3 distinct neighborhoods lumped into one. Hillman City is in the condition Columbia City was in 20 years ago where commercial buildings were vacant, loitering/crime at the bus stops, iron bars on existing buildings. I grew up in Rainier Valley and experienced the down turn in Columbia City in the eighties and nineties.

I live on Alaska and cars fly down the street all the time. I have a small child and my driveway is right by the street so it is a bit scary as to what could possibly happen if a driver lost control, became distracted, etc. Police should run radar on Alaska, near MLK, to let people know that the Police Department is aware of speeders and concerned about the safety of the community.

Want to see better feeder routes to the rail. Concerned about large number of high density housing units planned. Housing prices still highly inflated. How about more truly affordable lower density housing? Courtyard clusters, etc. (Seems those are being torn down in favor of zero lot crammed in lux townhouses.)

Educating people to not litter and have respect for their neighborhood. MLK got cleaned up a TON since we moved here now we need to cut down on litter and keep it looking nice. This requires education and community involvement.

The light rail is much louder than expected. There are not enough sidewalks in our neighborhood. Well, we love our library but we need more parking there. It is always full!

In addition to my own personal experience with being a victim of an assault in the neighborhood, I have heard more people talking about others in the neighborhood being victims of crime. It does seem like the frequency of crime has increased in the neighborhood

I still feel very unsafe many times during the day and night in this neighborhood. There continues to be many gang related activities at all hours of the day.

I very upset about the recent uptick in property crime in the neighborhood and even more upset by the lack of response to this trend by the SPD and Mayor's Office.

We still lack amenities that other neighborhoods take for granted. Businesses that are not here. Our schools do not compare to other areas of the city.

still want bus to West seattle #50 want a crosswalk at 39th and Rainier

I would like to have better shopping opportunities close to where I live - currently I spend much of my income in other towns that have more to offer.

Instead of repaving the streets with asphalt, the city uses some sort of low-grade gravel that compacts as people drive on it. It is a very inferior product that results in bits of loose gravel all over. The city has yet to curb our streets also. We are also losing bus service due to light rail. The buses we are losing go to the U district, which light rail does not, so those of us taking the 48 are seeing a degradation of service.

We live nearer the lake and will either need to have parking near Light Rail or frequent circulating bus service. I think parking would be preferable.

South end crime has risen during the last year, and the conventional wisdom is that city government is not devoting attention to this.

The Genessee to 50th Ave. S. is being used as an alternate to Rainier, complete with semi trucks and speeding rush hour traffic ignoring the blinking lights. Speed bumps and traffic circles could really help on the 50th / Wilson stretch.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

1. Light Rail costs to the consumer...if this system is not accessible due to cost to everyone then it is a total failure. Metro needs to allow people to get transfers. Without easy ~ frequent links b/w rainer and MLK the light rail is inaccessible to many. 2. I do NOT want to lose the diversity I moved here in 1992 to have...and it is becoming lost minute by minute. 3. I love that there is a citizen effort to rid Steward Park of the noxious weeds and I hate that there are more and more trails being made through the woods. It is good that people feel safer being there than 20 years ago...

if not for my community i would feel very unsafe though. i hate the idea of moving, but i definitely consider it every time i get a blockwatch e.mail. i have been broken into more than once and mugged walking home from dinner at a nearby restaurant. i don't walk alone at night anymore.

- while it's much safer than ten years ago; there's still work to be done by the citizens of Columbia City to make it safer

Affordability is the main issue. I'm a homeowner in Rainier Vista where many units for sale were income restricted, but because the prices were artificially inflated, qualifying families (calculations were based on median area incomes) could still not afford to buy. It was basically an unfortunate catch-22.

The bus system is a travesty! The city needs to have more buses serving SE Seattle given the high usership in the area. It often takes me an hour on the bus for what should be a 15 minute trip. There is simply not enough affordable housing in the area. Columbia City in particular is being gentrified to the extent that we are losing economic diversity. A vibrant and dynamic community needs all levels of diversity. The numbers in the status report reflect the 2000 census and since then, more poor people of color have left the neighborhood. Additionally, we do not have enough police officers in SE Seattle. Our neighborhood has a high incidence of burglaries and car prowls and while the police assigned to our area try to be helpful, they simply do not have the capacity to serve this area as thoroughly as needed

see opening response to problems

There are many buildings that are still eyesores on the Rainier and MLK corridors. For instance, the mattress store next to where Jones BBQ used to be located looks like a dumping ground for trash. Litter is also an issue in the neighborhood. The largest issue however is crime. The gang war is getting out of hand and it seems like there is more crime than ever.

No

gangs are are growing problem and need to be dealt with. I feel that there are not enough large grocery stores in our area to cause competition. many of the new businesses are restaurants we do not have stores that keep us in the valley but have to leave to buy the things we need, Loewes causes unfair competition to anyone wanting to open a hardware store. there is to much low income housing planned in my area low cost housing needs to be spread all through the city. Rainier avenue is pretty dirty

Public safety is an issue in our area and needs to be addressed. People need to 1) feel safe in their homes and 2) trust the police to respond to emergencies and address criminal activity in the neighborhood. The police officers I've talked to all seem very capable, but extremely under staffed and are working with resources stretched very thin.

There should be a "feeder" bus from CC to Light rail to make light rail part of a transportation SYSTEM.

We still hear gunfire on a regular basis (although that's gotten better in the last decade). The worst thing about our neighborhood is the state of our public schools. We don't have any children, but we do worry about our friends' and neighbors' children not getting the quality education they would if they lived in the north end.

We need more police, more youth activities and gang prevention.

I wish we had a really fabulous play area for kids - like the "Starbucks" park on Martin Luther King. There is nothing really great in walking distance for kids to play on and we regularly get in our car and drive to the park on MLK. Also, some property owners do not take care of the strip of land between the curb and the sidewalk and it can make walking difficult. It also makes the neighborhood look bad. A lot of it made be the fault of landlords, not the people who live there, but there needs to be more responsibility.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I commute on Sound Transit almost daily. However, there is no easy way for me to get from the LINK station to my neighborhood. Walking? There aren't any sidewalks! Please consider sidewalks and other feeder routes.

I don't feel safe in my neighborhood, we hear gunshots, find shell casings in the street, see drug deals going on outside our window

New townhomes are not attractive, no room for off street parking and no character to design.

I am concerned about the 6-story height limit around the Columbia City Historic District. I think 4-stories would be much more appropriate, and would improve the density while maintaining character & scale. I am also concerned about the development of "6-pack" townhouses, particularly at the expense of single family fabric. Live-work seems a viable parti for this area.

No parking to use light rail

Public safety is still a problem Not enough parking, traffic on Rainier is too fast. LINK is not of any value and makes east-west travel much more difficult. Too many new houses and apartments/condos.

the amount of burglaries in our neighborhood is appalling. something must be done about it, it feels lawless here. the criminals should not be allowed to win. take a stand like what is being done in the CD! I have also new structures to be a bit ugly, lacking charm.

The metro service, as much as I want to love it, is dangerous. Would you ride the #7 after dark? The boarded up Columbia School is going to become a real hazard to continued safety and development.

The above ground light rail is a hazard to the neighborhood. No parking has been provided with no park and rides. Two hour limits have been installed everywhere. the neighborhood is large and the feeling of safety only existing along Rainier Ave. S. Solutions: provide a park and ride, create a safer neighborhood with commercial districts that connect Rainier Ave. S. to Martin Luther King Jr. Way S.

The parks are nice, but they are not monitored adequately, and are used far too late into the night. We live right on a park, and despite the fact that it is unlit, there are people (loudly) loitering often until past 11PM.

The amount of crime and loitering around businesses. Especially around MLK and Rainier at the car wash, the corner of 23rd and Union and in front of the post office on 23rd. I also believe a lot of minor crime is overlooked around here compared to other neighborhoods in this city.

Parking related to light rail is a problem.

graffiti

there should be some way that people are not forced out of their houses that they've lived in a long time, due to rising property taxes, that, through no fault of their own, they cannot afford

We still hear gun fire, but definitely less often than when we first moved to the neighborhood. The biggest drawback to our neighborhood is the state of our local schools. We don't have children, but worry that our friends' and neighbors' kids don't have the same advantages and opportunities as the kids that attend wealthy PTA-funded public schools in the north end. It's a shame.

Parks are amazing but we don;t get the care that other areas of the city get - for example are paths around genessee park (from the community center to soccer fields to lake washington) are covered in water much of the time. Also the paths cross busy streets and the signs are not adequate and there often are no established cross-walks. Safety is big issue in this neighborhood. Drugs are being dealt daily out of the back parking lot of the Rainer Community Center. There are are many homes broken into. Schools are not reflective of the diverse make-up of the neighborhood and are doing poorly on test scores and overall academic achievement. I know many young parents (including us) who will likely leave the neighborhood when our kids reach school age due to poor school options (at all levels - though middle and high school are the worst).

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Who pays the taxes to support schools if only social services agencies are greenlighted? How are kids to find employment if developers are frustrated (such as the Goodwill project) while social services agencies get expedited approvals to dump all on the south-end? This has a ripple effect on schools, crime, poverty and all these other issues that flow from the fundamental flaw in allowing one area of the city to become the dumping ground for non-profits who pay no taxes and as a result can often outbid locals who are interested in developing their neighborhoods.

We have seen more and more crime. I now have several neighbors on my street, 51st Ave. S that have been broken into and robbed. I feel unsafe.

There needs to be space provided for folks to park or bus access for folks in nearby neighborhoods to utilize the sound transit easily. Rainier Ave feels very busy and dangerous; slowing cars down and putting in trees in the middle of the street would be a lovely benefit to the community. Currently we do not use the business district because we do not feel safe as a result of Rainier ave traffic.

Appearance and condition of streets and many buildings in the area is poor.

High density living (high rise condo plans) Some aspects of safety are better (no gunshots in my neighborhood anymore) but car prowls, home break ins and muggings are worse than ever. Also the light rail is great but need better integrated service with buses and well-lit safe walking routes. I only live a 15 minute walk from the light rail station but would not walk that at night as there have been muggings along the 43 and 48 bus routes in broad daylight. If people are going to use the light rail as a major form of transportation we need to make it safe and accessible. Housing - traffic along Rainier is already horrible and will only get worse as high rise condos are built.

I wish there was more regulation around this micro townhome communities. They completely change the feel of the neighborhood and are designed to maximize units on a very small space.

Safety in all areas are a concern - especially having young children. The parks in our neighborhood do not always feel safe - We have seen drug deals taking place during the daytime - this has been a regular occurrence.

The Link Light Rail is great, but unless you live within 4-6 blocks there is no buses connecting the rest of the neighborhood with the light rail stations making it difficult to access. I would love to ride it to work and back but I live 12-15 blocks away and it anything except warm sunny weather it's very inconvenient to use.

There are many buildings that look like they are falling down. And, we barely have side walks.

This is an addendum to my previous questionnaire. When the plan was adopted, I think we had NO idea what the proposed housing densities would look like. I'm sure I didn't. The area had been so depressed we were thinking, sure, more people, that would be great. But now that it's started to fill in, it's already too crowded (in terms of traffic, parking) and the major developments haven't even broken ground yet.

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

Again, we need better measures put in to calm traffic through the neighborhood, especially on Rainier.

And more bike lanes -- weren't we promised bike lanes as part of light rail?

I'd like to qualify this by expressing how impressed I am with the local business association and it's leaders for their efforts in achieving the vision and key strategies.

More focus on the Rainier corridor. More focus on enhancing parks and green spaces.

The vision remains relevant but the strategies should be updates to address changes to community

Crime is the issue that needs the most improvement.

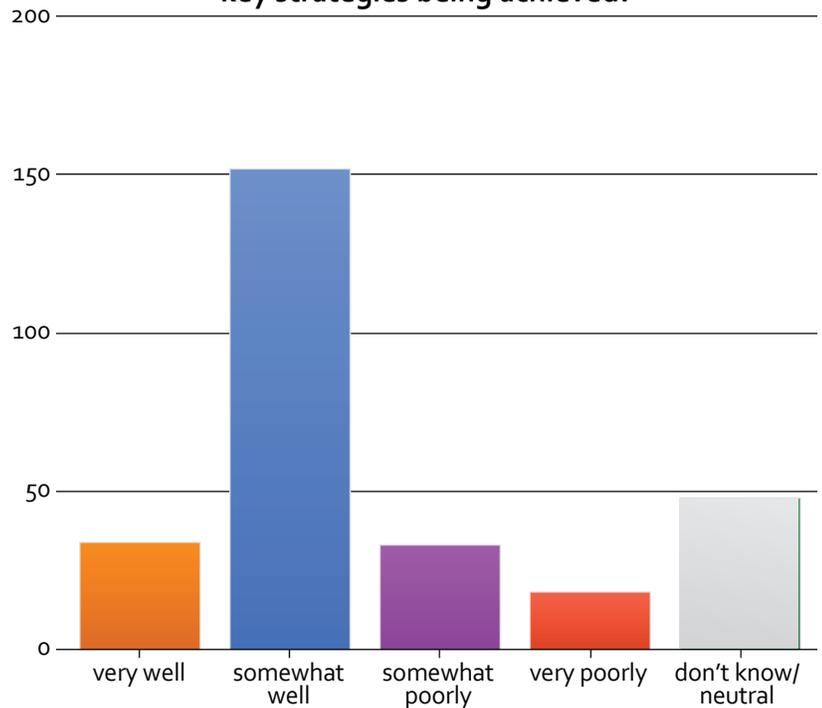
Very well in Columbia City; less well in Hillman and Genesee.

Rainier Ave is a highway where people travel 40+ mph all the time - smart planners and city leaders would not build a highway through a neighborhood and/or historic downtown district today would they? No. But one currently exists in Rainier Valley. The Rainier corridor has not been enhanced or I haven't seen much enhancing since we've moved into the neighborhood. Rainier is ugly, litter infested, dirty, dangerous for cars, cyclists and peds, and it impedes business because it is not walkable. rainier ave is a complete failure.

parks, and library services

Some are doing very well -- when you consider we said that a strategy was development of Boys and Girls Club, Rainier Vista and light rail. Not aiming high given those were in the works and all heavily public dollars. Private sector improvements in housing stock are wonderful for neighborhood but were not identified as a specific strategy. But will Rainier Vista be all it can be, beyond development and into forming a neighborhood? What about east side now that so little public dollars are going to this sort of development?

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



Not at all -- no implementation has occurred in Hillman City; all has been completed in Columbia City.

When everything is focused around a 4 block area, its easy to achieve the goals. Living in Hillman City area though, I feel like we always get the short end of the stick. For example, why should Columbia City get their decent sidewalks replaced before the crappy ones in Hillman City get upgraded? How do you expect the businesses and residents to feel part of the plan when they're always 2nd fiddle?

The rainier corridor is junky. There needs to be standards on businesses picking up their trash, dealing with grafitti right away. The place looks like a mismatch of ghetto housing. Cars speed thru Rainier Avenue and the neighborhoods. This place is getting dumpy, unsafe and I will move to north Seattle if it does not get better.

""Small Town"" feel does not include building ugly 3-story townhomes across the street from 1 story single family homes.

As noted previously, I'm not seeing the love in Hillman City area. Columbia City is doing fine now, thank you. Time to spread the goodies to areas (within the plan) that need 'em.

Columbia City seems to be improving by leaps and bounds, but a few blocks south in Hillman City we are not really seeing change.

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

The neighborhood plan vision and strategy tends to be more focused on Columbia City than Hillman City. Nothing happens south of Hudson.

Transportation has been a big focus down here, but public safety should really be the focus. Businesses can't grow and thrive in an environment where people are afraid.

There still needs to be a focus on community safety and youth violence prevention.

Need more focus on safety from/exposure to crime and pedestrian safety.

Housing and diversity are naturally suffering with the popularity of the neighborhood. The best thing I can see for this is to increase the available stock of rental units, focusing on smaller square footage units that will tend to have a lower market value. I am very much in favor of increased population density in my neighborhood, and am believe that is the path to diversity.

I found the Neighborhood Plan to be more of a mission statement combined with statistical data concerning current conditions--in other words, to be vague concerning an actual vision for the neighborhood.

My gripe is that the new light rail is not very helpful to me. With two small kids, our house is too far to walk to the train, and my kids don't bike yet. We'd have to take two busses to get to a train station, which seems too much. I want to do the right thing and use public transportation, but you have to make it reasonably easy for me. I wish you'd have put in park and ride spots so that we can drive the short distance to a light rail station, and then use the train from there.

I don't know much about the specific goals of the Plan.

Columbia City is a very pedestrian friendly place, but it is the only business district along Rainier that has achieved that. Also, there needs to be a better bike path to travel north/south through the Rainier Valley. I like the increased housing density that I'm seeing.

I am unsure if I am commenting on the right thing but... the rainier corridor is still unattractive and has zero to offer. once you leave the columbia city area and get into hillman city it is full of closed boarded up business ad it gets worse the farther south you go. between C.City and rento there is virtually nothing to bring in visitors, consumers or tourists.

MLK has come a long way, but it's still pretty trashy in places. It could either continue to improve or it could become like Oakland, CA: i.e., a place the BART runs through on its way to somewhere better and safer.

Columbia City has become a great success over the last 12 years I've lived in the 'hood. It's too bad that the Light Rail couldn't have been routed down Rainier Ave S., right through Columbia City. Now THAT would have made sense.

I was honestly suprised to see ""attractive"" as one of the key goals. I like it; I just don't see much action there.

Increased appropriate-scale development and business activity in Columbia City makes everyone happy.

Worry about the gentrification and loss of diversity

Columbia City has continued to evolve in a good way despite misguided, outside-the-neighborhood visions by city officials. In other words, if the city officials who made the plan, actually lived in this neighborhood, their plans and goals would have been more practical, more realistic, and better quality for the residents of Columbia City.

transportation needs improvement

Even though there is a plan, there are not a lot of specifics as far as density is concerned. It's hard to understand exactly what the goals are around this. There is a lot of ""infilling"" in the nieghborhood--and larger construction projects along Rainier and MLK, but what exactly is the goal as far as handling traffic (which has increased) and parking (which is getting worse) and making it easier to use light rail? The station is great--but the hill east of Rainier is long and steep. I don't live that far off of Rainier, but it takes a while to walk to the station. It's great on those nice days, but the really hot days, and the cold wet ones, are less likely to make for a nice walk. It would be great, when the bus service is cut back (routes 7, 7 express, 39 and 34 express), if a loop route, similar to the one in West Seattle, could be started so that those who live a mile or more from the light rail station could ride a bus to and from the station.

Very well in Columbia City, but almost non existant in Hillman City and Genessee.

Light rail is great, but it won't be utilized well if people can't drive/park at the stations

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

The Mayor and City Council have repeatedly ignored the CC/HC/G Neighborhood Plan and voted against key plan elements such as more parking for the business district, less social services, and more parking for new construction. The Southeast Action Agenda, including CRA & HIA were forced upon the community and not part of our Neighborhood Plan.

The greatest successes of the CC/HC/G planning area are from private-sector development, including new mom & pop businesses, proposed new market-rate housing for the workforce, and the trend to fix up and restore the older housing stock.

I wonder if there are enough transportation options available to bring potential riders who live further from the stations to the train. In other cities, I have seen small feeder buses used for this purpose. I also think that people should feel safe in the areas around the station and they don't.

I see improvements being made in ownership and trash pickup

Improvements for pedestrians on Rainier between Edmunds and Hudson have been positive. I still don't feel entirely safe in this area. In the 20+ years I have lived in Seattle, I've had the only personal crime experiences (multiple) here in Columbia City in the past two years. So, I don't feel like the safety aspects of the plan are being particularly well addressed.

The Rainier Corridor is a mixed success. It's doing nicely enough in Columbia City but not in Hillman and Genesee. I have not ever wanted to shop in those latter two areas.

It's hard to generalize when areas such as Columbia City and Hillman and Genesee are so markedly different in terms of success and work that still needs to be done.

I have not been here long enough but from what people tell me there are many new businesses in Columbia City and most of the people I talk to enjoy coming down for dinner and other activities.

Parts of the plan seem to work at cross purposes. We have lost a lot of historic families and nice older structures due to the real-estate bubble, and the push to develop in the area. Density is okay, but we are losing the fabric of the community.

The neglect the city has for SE Seattle is tangible.

Since I haven't lived here long, I don't know what Columbia City was like before. It does seem like Columbia City is an 'urban village' and does seem to be thriving. It is interesting to me that the "'Urban Village'" boundary designated on the plan map seems pretty consistent with what has happened in the area... the development on Rainier just sort of peters out at about that same physical location.

I think more work needs to be done to make the whole Rainier Ave and MLK streets more attractive and inviting to businesses and customers. There still is a lot of clean up that needs to take place. The more we attract interesting businesses to the area, the more people will want to visit and shop and take advantage of what the area has to offer.

Integration of the transportation system is still in the beginning stages, but the intention seems consistent with the NP vision. Public safety is an ongoing concern.

The neighborhood strategies continue to get ignored or manipulated. Take the vision of healthy streets and the strategy of enhanced and connected Rainier Avenue Corridor.....statistics show, and the city is aware, that the Rainier Corridor continues to be one of the top 3 most dangerous streets in Seattle. Light Rail has made it worse by forcing traffic off of MLK and directing it to Rainier Avenue as the trains disrupt the flow patterns.

*a great urban village feel although the non-access for non-bike riders to light rail seems oddly planned.

*community meetings, opportunities for involvement are great

Please consider our requests for sidewalks to make our community more healthy. I don't think sidewalks are an outrageous request. We pay just as much taxes as everyone else. Why can't we have the same infrastructure?

I don't feel like I know enough about the plan. The vision laid out in the online document is very broad and does not get specific enough for me. I missed the planning meeting due to work requirements. I would like to see the plan mailed out to residents, so they are more aware of what is happening. The only reason I knew about the plan at all was b/c a neighborhood woman emailed me a link.

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

I think this is becoming a pedestrian friendly neighborhood, would like to see more condos and shops

Great progress with community centers - rainier vista boys & girls club, library, etc... Got that light rail in. The streets look better and have better lighting. Much more business in the area and tons of people out and about every day and night. A HUGE change from 10 years ago!

I read the plan and obviously can see the change with sound transit. I just wonder how the business district is improving for the community.

Again, I'm concerned about where the Farmer's Market will go and how that will change interactions among community members.

I don't really think the Plan is being followed through. We're still waiting on a kids playground at Seward park and there aren't many places for kids to play, besides the field behind the Library.

Well, the composition of the neighborhood has changed and the plan needs to be updated to account for global warming, light rail, and the current economic landscape.

The goal should be to accommodate many more people in Columbia City. There is plenty of land around MLK and the light rail station. The former industrial space and old retail strips along Rainier should be redeveloped into high density, pedestrian-oriented development.

Not achieving continuity of usage of MLK as before the light rail. Driving along it is fine - better than before - but getting across is very challenging. So the current structure of the timing of the lights is cutting the neighborhood in half, along MLK.

Transportation is inadequate, especially during snow and roads are poorly maintained.

From what I read, it appears we're on track with the Col City part of the plan. I'm less convinced of the efforts directed at the Rainier and MLK corridors and while I'm aware of the mixed-income housing, I'm not sure of what efforts have been made to ensure that non-native English speaking households are engaged and protected.

Strategies do not appear to be clearly articulated, so difficult to measure how they are being achieved.

The vision is good and many of the strategies help support that vision.

When it comes to CC they are being well implemented I think, but Hillman City and Genesee are being neglected.

Light Rail and ""healthy"" neighborhood plan overlooks needs of elderly and disabled. to encourage walking there are no park-and-ride facilities for light rail making it inaccessible for those who can't walk well or at all.

Our neighborhood always seems to have trash on the side of the road. We do not have sidewalks on our street so it is not safe for pedestrians. Transportation connection is not there yet, we cannot get to the light rail station by bus or car (no parking). Also, the appearance of MLK is still not good. 1) 48th Ave S. between S. Graham and S. Orcas is a main walkway for children to get to Graham Hill Elementary and Aki Kurose Middle School; and 2) We are also the only through street without obstacles to/from I-5 and Seward Park and Hillman City.

Safety continues to be a big issue. Number of guns being used in crimes seems to have increased. The number of home breakins in my area are ridiculously high. We need a portion of the police force patrolling our neighborhood on foot or motorcycles, not hanging out in their vehicles.

Local activism and interest and City resources have made significant advances towards the vision as stated in the plan, however, livability for families still needs to be addressed, particularly the need for pocket parks and year-round access to healthy foods/produce. New and improved bicycle/pedestrian facilities would also improve the livability of the neighborhood.

The retention of affordable housing has been a major issue in retaining the culture and character of the neighborhood - the big question is how to allow existing/historic residents to benefit from improvements when a majority are renters of lower income.

Need more for the teens, in the area and it was promised and never delivered.

If the area is not safe, I don't know how gains can really be made (i.e., pedestrian friendly...)

Things like the farmers market are cool, seems like there is a lot of community involvement and people who really care about this neighborhood.

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

Love Columbia City and the light rail. Need bus links to the light rail. Need to make area safer and really deal with the thugs.

The light rail has obviously gone in. I haven't ridden it yet, so I can't say how well it's doing. It does seem like the lack of parking around the stations is a pretty serious limitation. I'd have to take two buses to get to the station, one of which stops running at 6 PM on Saturdays and only comes every half-hour. That's pretty inconvenient.

I see construction happening and that is good, but an effort should be made to clean up the neighborhoods here starting with paved roads and sidewalks and access to more public trash cans. Shoes should also be cut down from power/cable lines before the signal is sent that we are alone here.

The document you provided as the neighborhood plan reflected only what the status of the neighborhood is. It contained nothing about goals, needs or desires of the community.

dont know enough about it

There appears to be no plan in place for the Mt Baker community and we should have one as well.

The Columbia City/Hillman City/Genessee vision/strategies sound great, but they ring hollow when you take a walk around the neighborhood and look at what has been achieved in the last ten years. The vision needs to be fine tuned to address specific concerns related to pedestrian safety, crime and economic development.

I have no idea what the neighborhood was like, but it looks like everything is improving according to plan.

It seems as more new building is done the more affordable housing gets ignored.

The Urban Village part seems to be doing well. The neighborhood Plan Area needs some work in the area's that don't include the Urban Village

Light rail has actually happened
Better mixed use business
But safety is an issue - the community police force used to be very helpful but now is underfunded.
Also high rise condos don't fit the "community" focus.

Safety is still an issue - lots of high school kids breaking into houses and stealing laptops, lawnmowers, etc, during the summer crime still an issue.

Commercial development, access to local businesses is very good. Transportation is good.

I fear that the neighborhood will no longer be a small community but a bunch of giant corporations taking over. It would kill the landmark district feel of the neighborhood. This is just speculation though.

see previous concern about development and zoning

"Stabilize and enhance the Columbia City area as a safe and clean neighborhood in which to live, work, and recreate."

Columbia City itself feels very safe but when you get out of the downtown core you see more crime.

safety and infrastructure -- have improved somewhat in the time I have lived here, but improvements are inconsistent and short lived. the city often seems to feel that sustained attention to our neighborhoods problems is not warranted, and instead opts for the short-term fix far too often

Again, writing on behalf of the 3 neighborhoods, the plan or Columbia City, whether that was the city's part or not, user friendly sidewalks and pull out curbs at the sidewalks have increased the ability for cars to park in town and pedestrians to feel safe crossing the streets. Hillman City and Genessee Street are in need of sidewalk pull outs to encourage safety in crossing the streets, sidewalks need cleaning up, businesses that are vacant need guidelines to keep clean as it affects neighboring businesses when a restaurant such as the Top Spot, closed now for 25 years, is a haven for graffiti and rats. Buildings such as this vacant building on Rainier and Genessee, gives the area a ghetto look you won't find anywhere else in the city.

The area continues to be a richly diverse community and some goals have been achieved. So much of the plan centers on CCity's light rail station being situated elsewhere, citing specific zoning changes, that it feels very outdated. As mentioned before, the non-Columbia City portions of the plan have suffered.

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

The community has certainly become cleaner and more vibrant. However, there are still quite a few old and deserted buildings. These are particularly noticeable as one rides the Link. The community as a whole is diverse, but many pockets are dominated by a single or a few ethnic groups.

Very pleased with transportation improvements and the light rail. Concerned about parking issues on the East side of Rainier Ave. where parking can be difficult and no restrictions are in place. This parking difficulty will only increase with increases in density.

There is still revitalization work to be done along the Rainier and MLK corridors between Ferdinand and Graham and along Rainier from Genesee to the Rainier and MLK junction. It's kind of a no-mans-land in those places.

Question 3: Please describe the priorities for your neighborhood.

The biggest new priority is, I think, to really grow the urban village centered around the historic district outwards, to encompass a wider area with lots of good new development, and to connect much more strongly with Hillman City to the South and Mount Baker to the North.

MLK corridor has perhaps been accomplished, the rainier-vista--columbiacity connection may need to take second place to a reconsideration of the connecting streets between rainier vista & columbia station and the retail core & the station.

the train has been given priority which is great and i am glad we have it but rainier valley needs lots of support from the city. i don't feel the small town feel in my neighborhood because we have 300+ cars traveling through our neighborhood to get to Rainier or MLK.

I think next plan needs to be visionary and deal with quality of life issues: gentrification, schools, environmental health and living wage jobs. Current plan is more opportunistic than visionary.

Smart growth has been the byline of past planning. What about smart shrinkage? Some parts of community need to be rehabbed down. We have some ghastly developments -- including SEED's development on Rainier. Density at what cost to human quality of life. Poor people shouldn't have to live in stuff like that anymore!!

Many, yes, are still priorities.

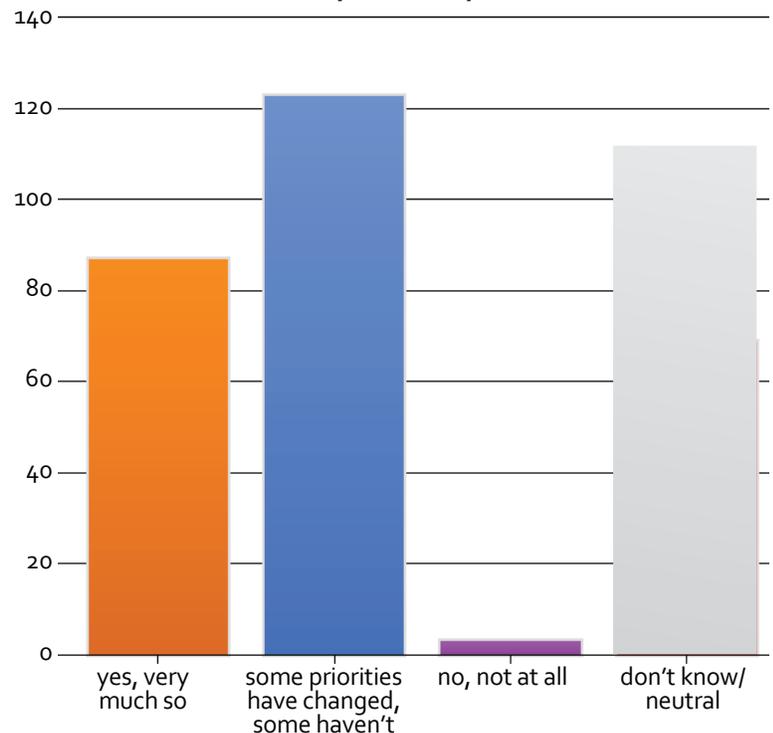
Like I said, I'd love to see some focus further south along Rainier Ave towards Hillman City.

It is not vibrant. It is sad since the businesses are moving out. The businesses that are going in have terrible signage. We lack police, and the city to enforce businesses to prevent or remove graffiti. Require anti graffiti signs - I think 3M makes a product for this.

Many of the goals of the previous NP have been achieved. There has been a real renaissance down here! We could still use help integrating with the Light Rail and bolstering crime prevention efforts

i think there needs to be more emphasis on safety - block watches, increase police patrols, gang unit participation, youth outreach, educational outreach, parenting outreach, more services for disabled/immigrants/poor

Are they still the priorities?



The addition of light rail is great, but existing bus service shouldn't be cut to neighborhoods like Seward Park (ie #39 bus that goes straight downtown with no transfers - who wants to stand in the rain for a transfer?!) The growth of the Rainier Ave S. corridor is great. A bigger emphasis on public safety should be focused on.

We're pleased with the enhanced sense of community provided by the improved business district but again, more needs to be done to combat crime and ensure pedestrian safety.

I think Rainier should be put on a street diet. Reduce it from four lanes to two lanes south of its intersection with MLK, and encourage vehicle traffic to use MLK. That would allow the business districts along Rainier to become pedestrian-friendly, and we could add bike lanes to Rainier.

The broad strategies sound good.

I would add public schools improvement as a high priority due to the large number of families in the neighborhood.

too much condos will create massive congestion and make it unlivable unless the transport issues gets worked out- people will still need to use cars.

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

Striving for better quality of life has always been a priority. The biggest elephant in the neighborhood at present is the new light rail system and the lack of parking for customers of light rail.

I think time will tell. Now that light rail is finished on MLK we need time to see how things will evolve after the economy picks up again.

It's hard to know which priorities have changed and which plan priorities remain important to residents. The community's opinions have not been solicited by the city. There has been zero outreach. The community, for the most part, doesn't know or understand the Neighborhood Plan. The city dropped the ball when Jim Diers was fired. The plans have not had the sincere support of the city since shortly after adoption in 2001. This is most true in southeast Seattle where the Mayor's Southeast Action Agenda was imposed on the Rainier Valley over the vigorous objections of community leaders. To solve this problem the city took control of the Southeast District Council (SEDC) by installing two dozen non-profit agencies to replace real residents. Voila! Objections to the city agenda vanished.

With the set up of the Business Improvement Association we have someone to help keep the area clean. While the Columbia City Business Association helps the owners understand the business plan, and the importance of sticking with it.

There are a lot of folks interested in creating a more environmentally sustainable neighborhood yet this is not reflected in any of the priorities. I would like to see priorities changed to reflect this issue. The use of sustainability indicators would be of great value (such as those created by Sustainable Seattle).

Attracting new market rate homeowners seems a little out of touch, I don't think it is a priority. Retaining affordable housing for those who already live here is more important. Also, integrating transportation systems is a bit of a joke. All I have seen since moving down here is the degradation of transit services to the places I need to go. (Try getting to UW from here...I spent a very frustrating 2 years dealing with transit to finish a degree. Or...try getting to Harborview for treatment or work. Huge numbers of First Hill health industry workers live down here...and getting from home to a shift on time early in the morning or getting off shift safely after dark is very difficult. The transit system doesn't work well for these folks.)

We are a changing community but we are not a city unto ourselves. We need positive constructive involvement from the city.

I think they are... they all still seem relevant, even though it appears that progress has been made since the previous plan. I can't think of other plans/visions that should be addressed.

There will be a continued need to focus on connecting Columbia City to light rail and vice versa. This is great for businesses/restaurants, but improving pedestrian access will be critical as well.

I would love our neighborhood to be ""attractive"" and ""safe""

The vision statements continue to articulate what I would consider community priorities.

I think more priority needs to be placed on feeder routes connecting our neighborhoods to LINK. I've been riding LINK for the 4 weeks since it opened and ridership seems very limited. Help us help the traffic congestion!

Is what a priority?
If I think developing Co City into a robust neighborhood center is a priority- then yes.

The priorities are still on target AND I would also add more police - for increased safety and greater ability to catch suspects and improve schools in SE Seattle.

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

Dealing with traffic on Rainier ave. Creating better public access for bordering neighborhoods to use sound transit.

I think that we should speak to the school situation . It is important to keep our schools stable and focus on quality of education that we offer in this neighborhood. We have a large number of young families in the Columbia City area. These young families expect a high standard of schools in order to stay here to raise their children. This will add stability and economic growth to the area.

there's so much work that needs to be done. I want to feel safe in my neighborhood and it seems like the Plan would have implemented some changes to make that happen, but crimes and safety are my main top priority.

We need to acknowledge the relationship between land use, livability, affordability and climate stabilization. We need to integrate bike/ped, bus and rail transit keeping all these things in mind. We need more neighbors, and planning process that focuses on the needs of our children and grandchildren, not just the people who show up to meetings.

We need to accommodate more of the region's newcomers in our wonderful urban village. We need infrastructure to make this possible. This includes street curbs to slow traffic, more housing stock within walking distance of light rail, etc.

Anything that can be done to reduce property crimes and make it safer to walk around after dark.

I think the safety/crime reduction issue is huge and the strategy is not clear to me. Also, I think that the neighborhood's interaction with its schools and the ongoing issues with the district over school closures is substantive to many residents of the hood.

The vision still works, but not all the strategies. I think the strategies need an updating.

nothing about schools in the plan. we need better schools; 25% of the population is school age children!

Againk, I'd like to see the plan change to reflect a priority on more outlying areas rather than just on the core.

City needs to focus on affordable housing for all as this area gentrifies. while survey claims average home value is under 200,000, even 1 bedroom condos are being sold for 250,000+ data is simply not accurate. focus on accessibility as part of diversity

Priorities have not changed - the vision laid out is still relevant

I don't really think there is truly a commitment to affordable housing.

The renovated apartments turned condo are affordable, if you qualify for a home loan. Not everyone fits that mold. I recently saw a 900 sq ft apartment rental going for 1400 bucks a month, how is that affordable??

The housing that is affordable is geared toward couples and families.

the apartments here are not safe, filthy and skeezy

I would like to see this neighborhood maintained better and eventually turn into a lively and vibrant area like Ballard and Wallingford. This area is ready for that and can be achieved with some effort from the city.

see above

I really wonder about the wisdom of making Rainier Avenue this pedestrian friendly avenue that is also a speedy thorough-fare. While there are kids from Franklin High School running out in traffic at 2:30 every afternoon when school lets out despite the pedestrian overpass, and other people wandering across the street where ever they please on one hand. There are also a lot of cars that still drive way too fast down Rainier through the Columbia City / Hillman City/Genessee areas. MLK should be the thoroughfare and we should do what we can to limit traffic on Rainier. Maybe that means lowering the speed limit even more? Or something. I just don't think you can have it both ways. It is either pedestrian friendly and we limit the cars, or it is a place where people drive way too fast and pedestrians beware!

Not sure.

While not all area's of MLK are great, they are much better than certain areas of Rainer Ave.

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

Columbia city retail core needs to be expanded north and south to better attract consumers and reduce general crime and vandalism. The light rail is great but needs to be more accessible and safer.

Seems like we need more appropriate density. The single family only bozos of yrs ago should now realize they messed up. The urban village with its density should be a priority. Mixed use even.

I would say that Public Safety and Community Livability and the Rainier corridor still need work.

the priorities are the same, I don't see anything done about the sidewalks and street parking for Hillman City and Genesee. You can't park your car along Rainier to stop in for a business because the street doesn't have the pull outs at sidewalks so people don't think they can park along Rainier. Businesses suffer and don't stay in Hillman City and Genesee because of the fast cars along Rainier. If you do stop to support a business, you end up parking your car on the sidewalk because it doesn't look like you can park along Rainier. Another key strategy in the neighborhood plan was to increase ridership for Light Rail from the Columbia City stop. I don't see anything done to increase ridership, no parking near the stop and no buses or shuttles drive east/west from Rainier Ave. to MLK. It appears that the Light Rail was built for people who live 3 blocks from the stations and not for the rest of the neighborhood.

I have some concern about creating too much density and having vacant housing that devalues the neighborhood. Hopeful that this will improve with economic recovery.

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

- 1) How bad a problem traffic speed and volume on Rainier is for the community;
- 2) The need to encourage more high-quality, dense, mixed-use buildings;
- 3) More bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure;
- 4) Connections to Hillman City and Mount Baker

How neighborhood status reports influence neighborhood planning. Status of businesses on neighborhood. How many, how many new registrations, sqft, sqft per employee, industries, financing sources, ownership structures, etc.

Parks, green spaces.
Enhancing Rainier corridor.
Crosswalks, road safety.

retaining/increasing affordable housing, maintain/increase affordable retail space, transit connectivity especially east-west, crime & safety, retaining the diverse fabric of the community

Transportation patterns, especially east/west.

Public Schools

Parking around light rail stations

safety in the residential areas, improving the business district on Rainier in Hillman City

alternatives to get to downtown like bike lanes or complete streets. it is dangerous to bike on rainier or MLK but those two streets are two of the only streets in the city that connect to downtown that are relatively flat - perfect for cyclists but no preference is given to them on those streets. its a shame and too dangerous so people are less likely to bike. we need to get people out of their cars and walk around the neighborhood and do business within walking distance which would help out small business in the area.

gangs, youth activities,

Looking at current status reports it was hard for me to gauge change or compare to rest of the City or other urban areas. I couldn't tell how healthy we are on any denominator, where we had changed over 10 years or met our goals or missed them. I think our environmental health should be in report card so we can identify new strategies and visions for it.

Hillman City and the Genesee area

Physical improvements that benefit everyone, like sidewalks, safety (lighting), bus/road improvements.

crime prevention and better parks/open spaces for families decreasing population density

Safety, lighting in parks

Safety, zoning, residential parking.

maintaining the feel of the retail core AND an increased police presence in the southend. I really don't want to have to testify in *another* murder trial.

transportation links

Limiting/sensible townhouse planning (12 units on 10,000 sf on Angeline St near 39th?!); preventing development on the large parcels to the north and south of the CC historic district from looming LARGE over the rest of the neighborhood.

crime, density, infrastructure (sidewalks!)

Comparison of schools. A huge weakness in this neighborhood.

Schools

Safety, crime prevention, youth outreach

public safety/bigger police presence, addressing youth violence and gang issues, affordable housing

safety, gangs

Youth violence/gang violence and safety

crime and pedestrian safety

Maintaining working poor housing, housing that is diversified with an emphasis on NOT gentrifying this neighborhood.

decreasing noise, crime, and litter.

increasing ability for non -drivers to get around. Say on Beacon Hill, or from the East side of Columbia City to anywhere else. Free parking stickers for those who live in the corridor around the train from nowhere to nowhere.

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Shaping development toward pedestrian traffic flow.
Keeping residents informed and included, so that a revolt against density in general is less likely.

promoting healthy lifestyle -- less fast food, more public garden spaces, walkable areas, access to farmers market, teaching gardens, food bank gardens

Development patterns
Housing affordability
Transportation networks

We need more focus on public safety. This recent bunch of burglaries and home invasions (some violent) this spring really was scary. We are raising our young kids here and want to feel safe in our home. I think it would be very important to look at whether SE Seattle has as much resources for police as other neighborhoods.

Also, I think that sprucing up our local parks and trying to make this neighborhood more pedestrian friendly would do a lot for families - both just to make it a nicer place to live, and also it would improve security if more people are out and about and making community connections.

Ensuring that landowners take care of their property and permitting property owners to build more densely (like so-called mother-in-law apartments). For the right to build more densely, property owners should have to commit to keeping up their landscaping.
Also, there should be more focus on a good play structure for kids.

Maintenance of public property and public safety

infrastructure to support all the new residents (ie grocery stores, parking,)

Impacts (pros and cons) of light rail. How to maximize it's potential for the commercial districts. Feeder routes to commercial districts and residential beyond the quarter mile easy walk access.

Conflict resolution. We've suffered greatly because of a few, vocal, strident, long-time residents. People are afraid of them, and don't know how to respond. The whole SEDC situation seemed unnecessary and very divisive. We need a dispute resolution center like Bellevue has, and models of how to co-exist with people who's opinions are different than our own. It's challenging in the Rainier Valley because we're so multicultural, but I believe it's possible with some guidance.

Aesthetics and neighborhood design. Public safety.

Dealing with home brake-ins and cleaning up streets

crime rates and sidewalks. Expanding the work that's been done in the Columbia City business district further south into the Rainier Valley.

Safety and reduced gang and drug violence

Getting more businesses along MLK

Jobs in the neighborhood

changing demographics of the area and what can be done to mitigate that.

transport to and from light rail. small grocery so that people don't have to go far far to food shop

light rail, light rail, light rail, and development therein. Also, safety and walkability. I'd love to see this neighborhood as a pilot project for city-sponsored sustainability initiatives.

Services and retail (besides restaurants and very boutique-y gift shops). Southeast Seattle is SO underserved--we have to go to Georgetown to make copies, Southcenter or Bellevue to buy sports equipment. Downtown or out of town to buy a pair of pants. When I see all the stuff available on north Aurora, I don't see why we can't have more stuff we need in our neighborhood.

pocket parks, safety/ upkeep of pedestrian staircases, vitality/sustainability of business district, crime

They are all important!

market rate housing

Very high density living units (multi-bedroom apartments, condominiums, townhouses) in the SODO area. The SODO area is vastly under built for residences. It should transition from industrial to residential to better serve the greater Seattle community.

improving bus connections to the light rail

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Community building -- bringing folks together. I also think that it isn't clear to me that it will be possible to continue development farther south on Rainier -- it would be great, but may need more than just restaurants and a few shops.

development patterns and transportation

Healthy and Safe: Bike corridors are not really evident. They simply ride on the roads or sidewalks. Still a lot of speeding on residential streets--the "one lane" bump outs and traffic circles don't really slow traffic down like speed bumps do.

bringing small businesses into the area that offer services things we need every day, (Pharmacy, food, cloths), rather than nail and hair places.

DOT working with light rail

public schools! Public schools in our neighborhood need more funding and more love.

Improvements to parking and crime reduction

Economic development, reducing crime, more open space, more parking, tougher building code, greater protection of the unique older housing stock.

crime reduction (i.e., arresting and incarcerating criminals)

safety

community building, safety during evening and night hours, increased patrol of Seward park.

"Linking" light rail with Rainier Avenue residents and businesses. Getting Rainier Vista built, with promises for low-income housing to remain the same as promised.

Increasing safety and housing affordability.

Amenities and transportation networks. Amenities and well-kept spaces discourage people from treating the neighborhood like a dump.

Parking for users of light rail

transportation safety,

Affordable housing and retailing to meet the needs of the working folks that still live here

Environmental sustainability indicators such as those developed by Sustainable Seattle

Appearance - the broken window theory. If the neighborhood looks like crap, people will treat the neighborhood likewise.

Public amenities and transportation networks.

Enhancing the Rainier Corridor

safety

Safety.

Continued access to bus transportation where access to Rail is too far or inaccessible for some.

Helping individual home owners repair and maintain their housing.

affordable housing, crime reduction, school improvement

Affordable Housing.

public safety

transportation networks

The impact of the high concentration of social services and populations with special needs.

crime prevention, safety, and transportation

EDUCATION in the South End

Decrease gang activity
retaining diversity and small businesses

Retaining existing families and businesses. Supporting the kids who live here and go to school in the area with services. ("Walking school buses", etc.) Safe environments and requirements that developers build safe environments. Lots of these townhouses look positively scary to live in. Are there any safe building guidelines in place in Seattle? It doesn't seem like it...

public safety

cross walks on Alaska (none between MLK and 34th)

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

transportation networks and development patterns

Safety & housing, also safety of bicycling from Col City to downtown/Capitol Hill -- Rainier is hard to travel.

Safety in SE Seattle

Access for all constituents in our community.

Safety! And upscaling the business districts and revitalizing MLK and Rainier Ave S. I also think more thought needs to go into a park&ride for use of the light rail.

Pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes, gathering spaces, public art opportunities

Crime statistics

Housing, education, safety, household incomes

safety, cleanliness, write tickets to people who are storing a boat on the public parkway. People should not be allowed to let their yard look like a garbage dump

Maintaining diversity.

Safety, pedestrian and bike friendly infrastructure

Safety and crime.

Development patterns, demographics

safety issues, and gang-related activities. Also, there should be more than on interracial and intercultural connections.

All these topics should be discussed honestly and openly.

Crime and safety... stop cocaine coming into the community via organized international gangs with local branch offices.

crime prevention/mitigation

Safety

Public Safety, Responsible Development, Economic Development, Job creation, and Park n Rides.

Safety

making sure that light rail is accessible by as many people as possible. with parking restrictions and no shuttles it is hard for people that live 1+ miles away to use as is.

bike safety

Enticing businesses - safety - making sure that we are providing housing opportunities for lower income families that were displaced by Rainier Vista project.

housing - keeping things affordable and keeping the history alive in the area
transportation - shuttle to light rail?

Public amenities and transportation networks.

Improving neighborhood schools

Sidewalks please

Integrating the Transportation System

Safety and improving run down businesses (store fronts) and homes. Crime and personal safety are a big concern.

Making sure that residence aren't being moved out because of the ""newer"" development. People have been able to afford to live in the neighborhood, and love the diverse people, schools, and businesses.

Safety, crime and creating opportunities for young people so they have more options.

Quality low income Single Family housing at below 50% Area Median Income. Driving Residents to use the light rail for their daily commute by changing bus services, specifically re-route the redundant Route 42 to go from Rainier Beach via MLK Jr Way/Rainier Ave/23rd Ave to the U District instead of downtown and Re-route the Route 39 to follow its existing route but head to West Seattle instead of Downtown.

Improve Schools

Increase Police Presence

Slow or reduce traffic on Rainier Corridor

More programs for kids - focused on helping kids succeed in school and stay off the streets at night.

Dealing with traffic on Rainier; slowing it down and offer more natural space in the neighborhood. A tree lined median would be lovely.

zoning, crime, education

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

The lack of transportation links to the light rail station.
The lack of affordable housing.

I think the focus is great.

Schools, Safety (more speed bumps in residential neighborhoods and more police in neighborhoods especially where people are walking to Light Rail) , Housing (Concern that too many multi-family complexes added to area will change the ""family friendly"" feel of the area and add congestion)

Safety, growing the community and encouraging a vibrant business district. There needs to be more attention paid to Bus Line #7 - poor scheduling (or keeping to schedule), safety on the bus (I've personally witnessed dangerous altercations on the bus). Safe public corridor from the light rail station to Columbia City at night.

crime, gang activity, registred sex offenders. Focus on what's really important, keeping our community safe.

Safety

completing street curbs and sidewalks to create a walkable environment. Calming traffic on Rainier. Encouraging development of more housing and services.

inaccurate demographics presented

Crime

Placing more low income housing and services in other parts of the city.

Schools

Improved public transportation

Crime

Schools

Crime is up.

Schools are not as good here as other parts of the city.

Crime is up.

Schools are not as good here as other parts of the city. Low income housing and services are disproportionately being placed in the south end.

Developing attractive business district in Hillman City so that Columbia City's revitalization can be extended.

Transportation access

Smart development that continues to foster a sense of community, pedestrian and bike friendly transportation.

parking close to the light rail stations

sidewalks

safety - break-ins continue

cleaning up the business district in Hillman city. Police presence.

Improved public transportation. (The #7 still has no air conditioning) and the #48 is scheduled to end Columbia City service). Parks should be landscaped.

sidewalks

Public safety; improving and cleaning streets;

see previous notes

schools

crime

drugs and gangs

Hillman City needs more improvements

Outlying areas, particulary safety, transportation (sidewalks, streets, buses), and parks. Also jobs and social services.

increasing business and residential densities. Maintaining character of community. Increase access to amenities.

affordable housing, integrated transportation

safety & transportation

Public safety. A lot of petty crime and one serious violent crime occurred. The neighborhood was not kept up to date after the violent crime. Also, better matching new construction to the existing architecture through the Design Commission

mixed-use housing and business planning
safety

Pocket parks, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, affordable housing, sustainability/environment, senior assistance

Beautifying the run down buildings, trash clutter, making the streets safe to walk at night.

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Public safety

safety and well maintained properties

reducing social services in SE Seattle.....give the economically challenged an opportunity to move into communities where there are viable businesses.... our businesses have been shutting down over the last 5 years. Why can't we have Park and Rides - I'm not going to walk to the Light Rail with my children.....one of whom can't even walk. Fixing the congestion issues created by light rail would also be a priority. People aren't going to give up their cars..... people speed through the neighborhoods trying to avoid both MLK and Rainier now.

Open spaces, public parks, safe exercise routes for bikes/ jogging/kids.

crime and safety

Safety: We need to have a better police presence - consistently

Bus links and safety.

Housing affordability and please, let's lay off on building McMansions. Also, the quality of public transportation is really terrible once you get off of the Rainier/MLK corridors.

Public services like sidewalks and road construction. Litter control

Safety.

public safety, business development

safety and the arts, ending gang violence

schools, keeping streets in better repair.

Building more infrastructure. keeping housing prices low while supporting more growth (multi-unit housing development) and increase in retail and commercial services. The current supply of these areas only barely supports this community.

improving the business district

Market price housing and private development, especially around Light Rail. Rezone to NC and allow building above 40 ft in the few blocks around Light Rail.

Safety and improvements along Rainier Ave.

safety, housing,

Affordable housing
Bike routes

Fulfilling basic city services to the community with an emphasis on street maintenance and pedestrian/bicycle navigation throughout the community.

connecting Columbia City and Hillman City along Rainier Avenue as a safe, pedestrian friendly walk. Perhaps even adding bike lanes on Rainier and having it go down to one lane for cars each way between Hillman City and Genessee?

safety

Safety, lowering the crime rate.

Affordable housing

Public safety; improved bus connections with light rail; incentives to diverse, independent and vibrant small business in walking distance.

Amenities for families: schools, day care, safe playgrounds. And a lot more investment in bike and ped improvements.

development patterns and public amenities

Crime

Affordable housing, public safety, economic development, transportation, non-profit service agencies, homeless

SCHOOL QUALITY -- our schools are NOT comparable in terms of educational quality or facilities to schools in Queen Anne or Greenwood. We have lower incomes here and it directly affects the quality of schools and students' school readiness.

Safety, law enforcement, and decreasing gang activity

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

safety - residents will continue to live "out of neighborhood (shopping, dining, etc)" if we do not feel safe

Up the zoning to allow more families to stay here and work here. If one builds it correctly/ nicely then that is a plus for all.

safety and crime, development of rainier corridor

Making the neighborhood SAFER in general. Safer from gang violence, putting sidewalks in, safer to walk across the street at MLK where the lightrail now disrupts the flow of both pedestrian and car traffic. Adding more appropriate businesses that will continue with the feeling of a landmark district. BIKE LANES! There should be bike lanes on MLK and Rainier. Where are the bike lanes?

Safety, schools, managing traffic and curbing density in smaller neighborhoods.

crime

how far people commute to work and how long it takes them. i worry that public transportation is going to get harder rather than easier for those of us in the southend who cannot safely access the light rail and do not have many good bus options already.

Safety

Housing that fits the neighborhood, with yards instead of huge fences - please focus on how all the new development affects neighborhood streets.

More focus on neighborhood safety...speeding down Alaska...etc. There should also be more focus on doing something with the vacant buildings which do not look appealing, especially next to a place that is either new or upgraded. Columbia City has so much potential

Parks and neighborhood walkability.

Getting rid of drugs, making MLK Jr have retail and a reason to take the light rail. Add restaurant zoning around the Mt Baker and Columbia City stations so there's something to eat when you get off the train. CC business district at Rainier is too far away.

Local, walkable businesses. That will encourage Link use as well.

Safety and programming for youth. If there were more to do maybe less children would join gangs.

safety, and infrastructure improvements, especially drainage, road surfacing, traffic calming

sidewalk turnouts installed in Hillman City and Genesee - transportation opportunities to the Columbia City, Othello and Rainier Beach Light Rail stations

crime

neighborhood "story"

Public amenities (park cleanliness/usability) and development patterns. Ethnic communities seem to congregate and isolate themselves. This is likely an extremely difficult problem (if it is even considered a problem) to address.

transportation

Upcoming developments and the status of planned projects. Traffic safety and calming plans with additional crosswalks for the stretch of Rainier between Edmunds and Hillman city.

Enhancing character of neighborhoods to provide unique identity and to incorporate more international cultures represented in the demographic. Encourage more civic pride in current residents in this way and thereby improve safety and appearance which will hopefully attract unique and interesting (not corp. chains) businesses and jobs.

Community and keeping the historic Columbia City core and it's small-town feel intact.

Pedestrian safety.

bringing in more businesses to round out the community

keeping buildings to scale--but also allowing for development

street safety

continuing to connect columbia city and hillman city... pedestrian friendly.

Transportation and Schools

Affordability of housing.

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

economic development, especially when that means auto-oriented development

Old data. Find new data or wait for it or set up a dynamic system for agregating, anysung, and visualizing hood status data.

Businesses

making rainier, genesee or MLK a highway. please slow down traffic.

tree planting but cleaner streets.

Columbia City

“Maintaining diversity”. Really, what does this mean in a very diverse neighborhood of both races, ethnic groups, income, and education levels? Keep the majority racial components as other than white?

increasing population density in Columbia City / Hillman City - no more multi family homes!

Low income housing. The city needs to focus on attracting better employers (high tech, green tech).

rolling over backwards for developers

demographics

diversity.

Big housing development

transportation

Gentrification and Yuppism

How City Hall thinks things should be and how those who are most directly affected are being treated.

expanding density, putting up unattractive housing buildings, and marginalizing the southend.

Development - please! I'm just not sure with the change in the economy we're going to fill all the condos/ apartments that are being built.

subsidized low income housing and non-profit social service agencies. There is an imbalance with how much of these services are sited in the valley relative to the rest of the city.

Forcing values of what city officials consider good quality of life, on to residents. You can't legislate family values.

demographics

I don't think there should be less focus on any part of the plan--but I do think that Columbia City is retaining it's character as it is growing, and the Rainier Corridor has been steadily improving over the last 10 years--at least in Columbia City proper and to the north and south of that a bit.

Social services expansion. Restore the Special Objectives Area (SOA) overlay to stop the dumping of social services in 98118.

codling criminals, City promotion of midnight basketball for youth, etc.

demographics; we're pretty diverse down here!

Housing, transportation

All are valid points of focus.

pricy restaurants and art studios

Home values and gross rent

Large metal shovels that are Pigeon perches.

business development

Giant high rise condos that no one can afford.

beautification

demographics-

None

Attractiveness because that's nearly complete.

LESS FOCUS on synchronizing with the United Nations' Agenda 21 charter for spreading undemocratic globalization through local neighborhood planning efforts.

Q4: Status reports should focus less on...

Incentives for market rate housing. There is a lot of new housing sitting empty at the moment.

Density, Funding social services in SE Seattle, and forcing people onto the trains by not putting in the right infrastructure.

Ritualized "public involvement."

new new new new (there seems to be a preference to demolish old Seattle, with our city planners)...if NYC can keep its history, I think we can manage to do the same...

Demography

Beautifying MLK - it looks wonderful, great job!

affordable housing. let's not make this the dumping ground of the city. let the market drive the prices

Putting in bike lanes and speed bumps for non car transportation. Instead, we should focus on making the neighborhood safe from violent crime.

Market Price Condo development.

Priorities are all still relevant.

The CC park improvement. That was a lot of time and money with not much to show for it.

Adhering to old goals set before light rail became real. We need to plan for the future, not the past.

real, planned development projects that actually affect our lives. transportation and infrastructure planning that makes it easier to live/work/play. economic development that creates local jobs. . .

Placing more low income housing and services in the south end.

Placing low income housing and services in the south end

Low income housing and services are disproportionately being placed in the south end.

Low income housing and services disproportionately being placed in the south end.

Using the south end as a disproportionately high end point for social services.

Low income housing. We have enough in our neighborhood as it is.

Core Columbia City.

attractiveness

low income housing

Adding more parks; we have plenty and they are fantastic!

trying to craft race/age/diversity ratios.

aesthetics.

parks, we're there for parks

Politics

standard development practices. This area is the most diverse in Seattle. It has the most immigrants which makes this a special needs area for development. The attitude like "What's good for Ballard" will not be successful in this area. People live much differently in the SE than anywhere else in the city.

building more condos

For this area, we have all the affordable housing and social services that the area can take. We've already reached and surpassed the tipping point!

adding more housing into an area that is already too full

Affordable housing. The Southeast Seattle community has done its part (aside from downtown) to support lower income families, its time for other neighborhoods to step up.

Gentrification

Superficial beautification, plantings, etc.

market housing

demographics -- 98118 is already the most diverse zip code in the US (2000 census) and we all get along well! we wouldn't live anywhere else in Seattle because we prize the diversity here.

Q4: Status reports should focus less on...

Urban sprawl is out. Leave that for LA. been there, hate that.

Building more townhomes. NO MORE TOWNHOMES PLEASE. Let's work on the people who actually live here now and then entice new people when the neighborhood is better.

population density

Low income housing

Getting cars through C. City - how about MLK?

all of the priorities are valid.

photos ops and sound bites

light rail

stats

Housing affordability. Home prices are a byproduct of the community's attractiveness. Trying to artificially drive down the cost of housing while simultaneously increasing the attractiveness of the community seems difficult at best, inconsistent and unfair at worst.

housing density

Transportation and large mixed use, market rate/low income developments.

housing is in place.

Contractors having their way and say above the local needs.

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

Traffic on Rainier -- how to slow it down and thin it out, making Columbia City a safer, more pleasant place to be.

There is no employment data. See previous answer.

Light rail location, focus on retailer acquisition is less important...

Transportation patterns for determining how to better get people to light rail.

Schools quality determine whether residents with children will stay or not

Parking around light rail stations. greater emphasis on business development and market-rate housing

we need better sidewalks too and a way where we tie in all the neighborhood to our park system. how cool is it that we have lake washington within walking distance of a historical downtown district? its really cool but no one will walk it despite how easy of a walk it is and how pretty it is. we need to support walking and biking between business districts and recreation areas.

Public property inventory -- quality and quantity.

Social and health attributes.

Schools!!

These neighborhood plans were always envisioned to be more than vehicles for land use density.

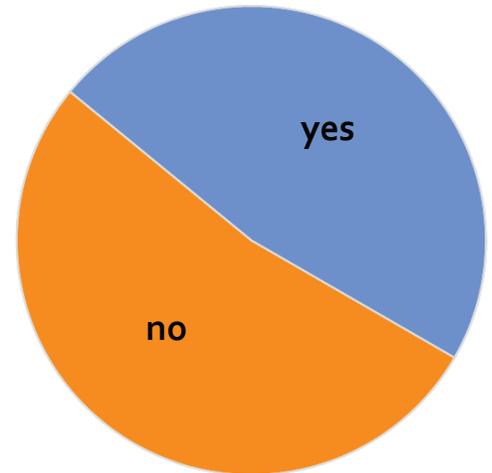
Major gaps when it comes to implementation anywhere called for in the plan except Columbia City.

Columbia City is a place, easy to give a successful update on. Why bother mentioning Genessee and Hillman City if you're not going to include them in the status report? Or even in the titles on the website? Its seems like a big hole.

They do not address public transport options that go to the University of W. Currently there is just one busroute.

This does not address more education options. The city needs to tell the U of W they they can have a laundry facility next to the light rail station at Rainier & McClellan. The city needs to make sure that if the U of W needs to do laundry then, they should take part of that property and make it into area for extended education classes!

I'd like to see some focus on improving the businesses in Hillman City. I think that many things are tied to this - If we increase pedestrian traffic to the businesses that will in turn increase the safety.



While I am proud that the SE neighborhood offers help and services to our needy neighbors, these cannot keep being concentrated into our quadrant of the city. Many, MANY social service centers have developed large buildings and firmly established a presence all along the MLK and Rainier corridors in the last five years. PLEASE limit further development of these groups in the neighborhood and encourage them to spread out into other areas of the city.

Information about the public schools.

More of an emphasis and focus on providing the police with resources to not only protect our community, but address the escalating youth/gang violence in our neighborhood. They need more man power! And they need to better communicate with the public what's going on.

Safety

drug dealing, prostitution, burglary
pedestrian safety

It is hard to complete this without being about to look back at the draft. Transportation...links from rainer to MLK and links from Beacon Hill to MLK, Light rail having transfers...there are significant hills in this area and a population that is aging.

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

Bicycles should be given LESS status in SE Seattle, and their riders forced to actually follow the rules of the road, especially STOPPING AT ALL STOP SIGNS AND SIGNAL LIGHTS. Also, they should be forced to yield the right of way to pedestrians on all park trails as well as city sidewalks. The majority, approximately 95% of all bike riders in Seattle are downright rude.

As a homeowner in Columbia City for nearly 10 years, we would like to see more planning concerning public safety, pedestrian accessibility, and identification of true public amenities. If Columbia City is to be a true "urban village", more restaurants and boutique shops are simply not enough.

It seems be too statisfied with the parks. The "improvements" at Columbia Park were marginal - it basically is the exact same park it was before it was shut down for an entire summer. It was fine before, and it is fine now. What we need is a good play structure that we draw kids from all the surrounding communities (and their parents who would stop in to shop in Columbia City).

How many services for disadvantaged/poor people are concentrated in each part of the city.

Need to think more on this... to be continued

The statistics I noted are from 2000, very old. And where are all these rental units \$200-500???

I didn't see much about schools. If we are moving back to a neighborhood bases school assignment system, schools need to be integrated into the plan.

Safety and access to good schools (maybe not in the jurisdiction of the plan?) seem like topics that deserve some focus.

see above please

reach of the boundaries do not include enough homes

I'm concerned about sustainability and plans to address that.

I'm concerned that with the changes, there will be some back sliding. For instance: now that light rail is in, are they going to cut back bus service. That would be dreadful.

What happened to the plan after it left the hands of the community needs to be exposed to daylight. The plan Matrix did not honor the plan nor the community's wishes. The plan Matrix is often contradictory with important plan elements left out of the Matrix altogether. Plan elements were 'cherry-picked' by city leaders. The comprehensive plan has not been implemented according to the community vision. This is the result of too much manipulation by certain city leaders, including the city council, who voted for the plan, then excised important plan elements according to their own political agenda or whim.

stopping crime / arresting criminals

Public safety. We are constantly being told that crime does not exist. Ignoring a problem will not solve it.

Build some parking areas for light rail users!

Environmental sustainability indicators such as air and soil pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Recycling / Composting service in businesses. Use of sustainable products and practices by businesses. Percentage of people using mass transit. Availability of organic food options at restaurants. Energy efficiency of existing buildings. Noise levels.

Neighborhood public safety.

The Housing & Employment and the Demographic summaries should be comparisons of then and now - not just a snapshot of one year.

crime statistics

link light rail is only a solution for people who work downtown, and the lack of parking makes it an unrealistic choice for many in the Columbia City neighborhood. Integration of buses and light rail feels essential to ongoing development. More attention to parks and open spaces.

Talk about Education in the south end and improvements that will happen

I'm not sure.

Just FYI, in case you would want it mentioned in your report somewhere- the Downtown Emergency Service Center just completed a transitional housing unit on Rainier, just at the south end of Columbia City.

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

I don't think I saw the Farmer's Market mentioned in the report. This seems to be an essential element for the Columbia City neighborhood, and will be undergoing some change in the coming years with the development of Columbia Plaza.

see above

Can we track how well the schools do in this neighborhood? Parent involvement, scores, etc.

Green development initiatives (stormwater management/ green buildings/ availability of zip cars & car sharing opportunities/ waste management on public streets)

1) More effective community outreach for long term planning such as this. Make intentional efforts to include English-as-a-second-language households, please. Reaching out to our communities in the southend require different strategies than what is used for mainstream communities. We have huge language barriers and lots of our folks don't have Internet access. Give everyone a voice, not just those of us who are most reachable. I know it is tough to do (I have experienced this through volunteer work too) but when it is done right, perspectives are broadened and a sense of ownership is a beautiful thing!

See above.

Education/Public Schools

Not sure if this is the right space - but I'd love to see more programs targeting poverty prevention/reduction - so money management programs, low income housing, pea patches and information about healthy lifestyle, etc... More quality of life education.

see above

I know this is supposed to be a positive report on how the neighborhoods are getting better, to be honest the only thing that has gotten any better is a few new restaurants and the Light Rail opening, besides that, Columbia City and South Seattle seem to be getting much worse.

ummm. . . that's a draft status report? Are you serious? I almost didn't see any content; it's pretty much all gaps. For starters:

- columbia plaza development status
- st gobain development status
- integration of bus/link status
- columbia city community council status
- Multi-family code update status including the weird dysfunctional DADU pilot and the useless, ineffective LDT zone. - Zion Prep relocation status
- Sidewalks and street edge alternatives (natural drainage and ecosystem health update status).
- What's up with the NA status of jobs in the neighborhood? That seems useless and misguided.
- The housing value data looks all wrong. I can't possibly believe that there are 0.0% of houses worth over \$400k, when my house is valued at \$475k, and almost everything in the neighborhood is priced similarly.
- also the 2024 growth targets are pretty stupid. That will be covered in the two developments that are completely ignored in status update, and we have an entire Transit Oriented Community that will be developed nearby as well as the next phase of Rainier Vista. Someone I'm sure there's more, but honestly I can't think of

Not enough information on crime statistics. Not only for the neighborhood but include the whole city. There should be a status report comparison for the whole city.

A city wide comparison.

Crime statistics

Crime proposals.

Odd place to put this, but your list doesn't include a neighborhood for the area between col city and the central district. Where did Mt Baker, Leschi, etc get to?

Does not seem to be any mention of parks. Genessee Park, in particular is not well maintained.

ethnic, language diversity--strategies to maintain?

Business opportunities and education/schools. These are significant factors affecting residents, potential residents, investors. Hard to see how a neighborhood plan can be effective without them.

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

I think we really need hard data about how the neighborhood has changed (e.g. demographics) over the years; static data alone doesn't answer this. New information about what our neighborhood's housing goals are given the changes in the region and the new light rail system.

schools

I can't find anywhere where the draft status report reports on something outside of core Columbia City. I'm not sure if this is a gap, because the plan didn't focus on this and so it's no surprise that there's nothing to report on. I'd like to see this change in the future.

Access

focus on accessibility for elderly and disabled.

Those of us living just west of MLK consider ourselves part of Columbia City. The dividing line should be the top of the hill, not MLK. The light rail especially makes MLK a more integral part of Columbia City.

Need median income info

actually, not sure, the statistics given, they are for Genesee/Columbia city/Hillman city? not just Columbia City? if so then you must call it the Columbia City plan.

More safety and bus links.

The goals don't seem very specific. How can you tell if they're being met?

slowing down drivers along Rainier Ave s.;

focus on community arts, better plans for safe neighborhoods,

Public safety

The lack of east/west transportation options is a big gap in the mobility of pedestrians who cannot afford an automobile.

Hillman City must be treated as its own entity when economic development plans are discussed.

I'm not sure this is the right place for this, but weren't there bike lanes on MLK at one point?

Public safety: I believe this is related to planning efforts. Vibrant, attractive businesses accessible on foot and open later at night makes for more lighting, more potential witnesses, and hopefully less crime. It also may improve economic conditions which may be a root cause of property crimes, and also facilitate community interaction which may prevent crime, or at least lead to apprehension of suspects.

no discussion of auxil. housing units, not enough on parking and transportation or public safety

Schools

not sure

I would have appreciated in the demographic study, a survey in regard to Light Rail ridership - whether or not a resident worked downtown and planned to take the rail when completed. There are thousands of Lakewood, Seward Park, Rainier Beach, Othello, Genesee residents who work downtown and live more than 6 blocks away from the stations. We were duped in voting for a system that does not include residents who would have used the rail if parking or shuttles were available.

Information on the amount of change would be helpful.

Attention to the hustlers that loiter the bus stops and benches along Rainier Ave

Pedestrian safety, parking restrictions