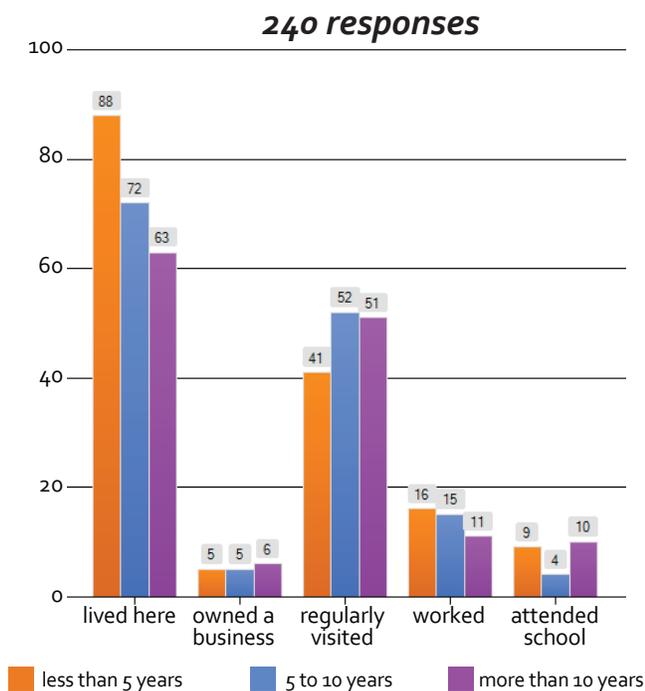


Status Check

Transcript of Rainier Beach Questionnaire Responses

The Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan was adopted in 1999 and includes the Rainier Beach 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)?

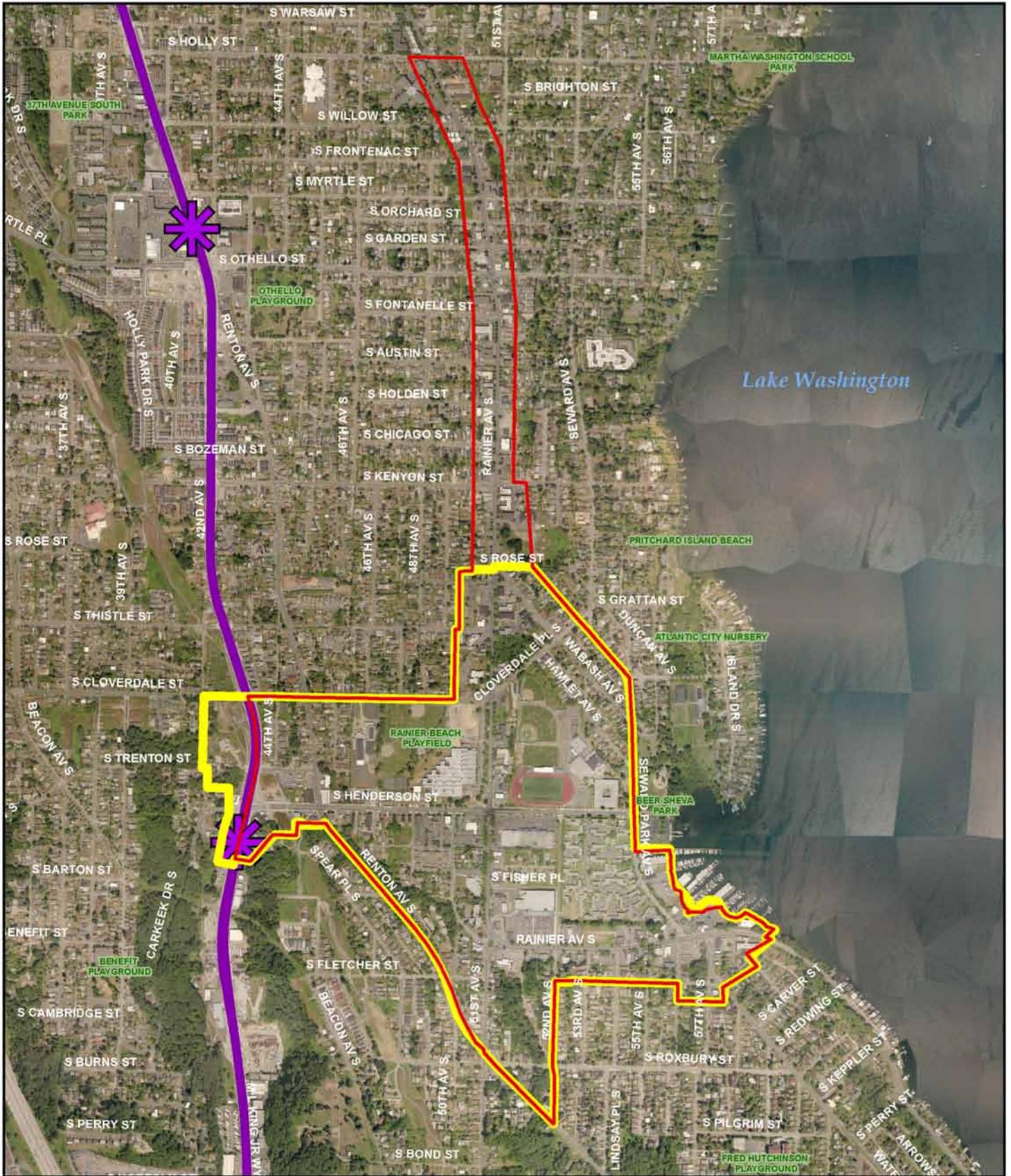
*Question 2: What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you...
most pleased about?
most dissatisfied about?*

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

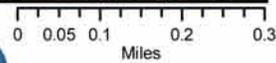
*Question 4: The Status Reports should focus more on...
they should focus less on...
Are there important gaps in the Status Reports?*

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

RAINIER BEACH AERIAL MAP



- Urban Village**
-  Neighborhood Plan Area
-  Aerial Photo: 2007
- LINK Light Rail**
-  Stations
-  At-Grade / Aerial
-  Tunnel



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

new housing, light rail!, the new library, not sure that it is any safer...still lots of crime, maybe a bit better.

It seems to be slowing improving in some areas at the same time crime is increasing.

Crime has gone up. Light rail has been completed.

The Rainier Beach business center has been improved, library and walkways near the business center have been created. A new school is almost completed. The area still has a high crime feel, sanitation is an issue, with no curbs on some side streets, garbage piles up, especially along Rainier Ave S, where the neighborhood plan has not been implemented.

I am a newcomer to the neighborhood but probably my move is a testament itself to the way the neighborhood is changing. I live at the start of the Chief Sealth trail, and decided to purchase a home there because 1) I am an avid cyclist and use the trail to commute and for recreation; and 2) the trail link to the train makes my morning commute a breeze. Also, I feel very safe in my part of the neighborhood and really enjoy the diversity and affordability. All of the neighbors I've been getting to know in the past month (we closed in mid-July) have commented that the neighborhood has been changing for the better. Everyone seems to be in agreement that the Chief Sealth trail is a great improvement for the neighborhood, and people generally seem excited about Light Rail (even if they are not riding it yet). Anyhow, I get a sense that the neighborhood is emerging from a rougher time and all of my neighbors are happy about it.

There have been some positive changes in terms of new businesses, and negative ones as well--RB doesn't need anymore Payday loans! Violence and crime tend to go up and down, though violence, especially youth violence around Rainier and Henderson continues to be a problem. The Lake Washington Apartments have improved dramatically.

Great strides have been made in the neighborhood. Looking forward to upcoming improvements.

it has remained stable...not too many homes for sale. Several homes have been remodeled.

I've only lived there for less than 3 years, so I haven't seen a drastic change.

Only major change since we've lived here has been the implementation of the Light Rail. I hope to see more small local businesses emerge as a result of this commuter system, but not a consolidation of major bus routes. Urban growth, not necessarily development.

The Othello station and light rail opened. Construction has started on Othello and MLK for a mixed-use facility. Several homes in the neighborhood have been put up for sale.

It seems to have gotten nicer. Better signage is now on display, and development around the light rail station will hopefully pick up. More abandoned and sketchy apartment complexes have been demolished to make way for rail-adjacent housing - a good thing, in my opinion.

Business has thrived but street crime has too.

Some good improvements along Henderson St. I'd like to see more done along Rainier Ave. (especially corner of Rainier and Henderson) where a lot of kids/people hang out. It seems like violence is increasing--especially gang-related. The light rail is a great change, but we need access to it. It's hard to get to and from and especially at night we need frequent buses and some security at the station.

Have only been here under a year, waiting for some positive change to occur.

Light rail. Some grocery stores have gotten more "up scale" (a good thing)

The construction and completion of the light rail line is probably the most significant change to the neighborhood since I moved to Rainier Beach in 2006. I think it will be the catalyst for a lot more change in the coming years, as it potentially attracts more development to the area. Even in the time that I've lived here, several housing developments have been completed, begun, or at least planned.

Yes. There is more art, Kubota Gardens is beautiful, Link Light Rail is a huge asset. We still have an abundance of gang related activity, though.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The Neighborhood has begun to change with Light Rail. I am hopeful that the station will bring more business and make our neighborhood more walkable. We still have an abundance of gang related activity. I call 911 regularly after hearing gun shots.

Yes, of course with Light Rail coming there have been some improvements with the sidewalks, etc. The Rainier Beach Safeway has improved that sector. The new school construction at Southshore is a big project.

New playground equipment in Beer Shiva park. A slew of businesses have changed. Rainier Beach High School has remodeled.

The addition of attention paid to pedestrian and bicycles has been improved.

light rail is bring more business into area, causing remodel of Safeway store

Yes

more multicultural

Crime rate is still extremely high. The gangsters make it difficult for anyone to go outside without watching your back. How can anyone raise a family in this neighborhood. Time to tear down all the old decaying properties and businesses (Pancake House on Rainier Ave S) and move forward with the new.

home owners have personally upgraded their homes but the city as not replaced the horrible cement panel streets with black top to make for a quieter street. The buses have access thru the neighborhood making street noise and damages due to the vibrations very loud when the cement streets slap because they are loose

The light rail is the first large change since I moved to this area 2 years ago. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for me to get to the train station, as I would love to take it to work downtown.

The neighborhood has "cleaned" up a bit in the last 5 years. However there is still a lot of crime, graffiti, youth "hanging" around on street corners. The business district has not changed, and is not attractive. There are no gathering places for people to enjoy a cup of coffee or have an informal meeting with friends. The businesses that are there do not meet the wants of the people in the neighborhood.

The superficial improvements are adequate but, the gang activities and youth management seems to have failed.

My partner and I bought a house here in 2006, and since then, we have noticed continual changes here with respect to housing and business development. Many of the new or revamped apartment buildings in our area are so new that it is difficult for me to be able to gauge how things have really changed. On a surface level, these updates appear to be positive. The one thing that has been consistent for me these last 3 years is a feeling that this neighborhood needs to be safer. We live a little over a mile from the nearest light rail station, and there is no chance that we would walk to or from the station at night. Even walking to and from the Henderson Street station during the daytime can feel a little sketchy, depending on who is loitering on the streets nearby. I am hoping that increased population density with the new apartment buildings will add to a feeling of security.

I have only lived in the neighborhood for 3 years. Many changes have occurred during this period. One new school has been built and another one is nearly completed. The Link Light Rail has opened. Families have starting moving into the neighborhood, as housing is still so what affordable.

The opening of the light rail, new businesses along MLK and Graham, new facade of Circle K mini-mart

Light rail open, fabulous! Improvements to corner of Rainier and Henderson are underway. Community Center slated for a renovation. Great library. New schools completed and nearing completion.

Rainier Beach seems to be the holdout "tough" neighborhood (maybe Aurora N. too). Columbia City 10 years ago was considered very rough, and now it's being featured in "Outdoor" magazine's two paragraph profile of Seattle (as well as many other publications/features). Most of the gang/youth shootings of the last couple of years have been in this neighborhood (and the CD). Citizens here definitely feel ignored by the city, and longtime residents have even developed a sort of stubborn pride (laced with bitterness) in the civic shunning.

More petty crime. Rainier Beach is more like Columbia City was 15 years ago; loitering, begging, petty crime, litter.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

It has become more dangerous and gang infested. I am tired of watching open drug sales in front of a public high school. All conducted in full view of school staff.

Some signs of economic life along 57th at Rainier and along Rainier north. The redevelopment of the South Shore School...Wow! New signs directing people to community 'assets.' The planned redevelopment of Chinook Beach Park (never heard of it?) Many new families. A new train station...kind'a close by. A renovated Henderson Ave.

When I first moved here in 1993, I heard from many in N. Seattle, that this area was unsafe. Personally, I didn't see any problems other than the usual. Now, however, I am very fearful as I have seen a marked increase in both property crime and assaults, etc. There was a young man shot and killed 5 blocks from my home. Neighbors' homes are broken into regularly. Women are accosted at bus stops. There are drive-bys, muggings, etc. The situation is now MUCH WORSE than it was 16 years ago. Though there has been some development—especially along the light rail, Rainier Avenue continues to deteriorate (except for Columbia City and parts of Hillman City). The boarded up Pancake House says it all—a prime location that has been vacant for 15 years. I no longer feel safe going to the Rainier Beach Pool after dark. I don't feel safe being anywhere on Rainier after dark if I'm alone—including Columbia City. I have come to believe that this area is second-class as far as the city is concerned and all we get is lip service. Prettying up the libraries, etc. isn't going to cut it. We need MORE police on the streets, a stronger gang unit AND some respect from the city officials.

In our neighborhood, have seen a significant increase in drug related activities:sales, violence related to such endeavors. Have seen less up keep regarding streets, and street lighting, curb repair and cleanliness of roadways. Much faster traffic speeds and less enforcement regarding this. On the positive side, have seen many younger families moving into my neighborhood which bodes well for general upkeep and appearances.

The light rail is the major change. MLK was horrible before the rail was put in, now it is much better. It is nice to see some development here but I don't want the usual stucco boxes like we have seen built in Belltown. The crime in my neighborhood was almost nil until the start of 2008, now there are almost constant shootings and burglaries.

the two biggest changes in my immediate neighborhood are improvements to lakeridge/dead horse canyon park and a pizzeria within walking distance of my house.

I've seen neighbors band together more, block watch in our Rainier Beach Neighborhood with Ben Wilson is strong. I appreciate those who have worked hard to get the roundabouts in the smaller side streets put in. I do not want a roundabout on Renton Ave and Roxbury---I believe we'll have more problems. I've lived here for 33 years and have never seen an accident in that area! Now druggies, speeders on 62nd and Cooper and Prentice--their is lots of bad activity there. There seems like Light rail will hopefully bring good activity. Love the library and Safeway plaza areas. Thank you for your hard work

There are more potholes on streets that are going unfilled. There are more incidences of gun violence. There appear to have been more younger couples that have moved in, more Asian and white people have moved in, more Black people have moved out. QFC came and moved out, Safeway re-designed its store, A 7-11 convenient store was replaced by a Pay day loan business.

More first time homeowners, less rentals, newer shopping/dining opportunities.

Shopping/dining terrible and general condition of much of neighborhood deteriorated. Becoming a scary place to live.

The neighborhood has become more gentrified. More gang activity and seemingly more violent crime. Schools are finally being brought to the standards of other parts of Seattle.

Not much to my eyes, except the neighborhood flags on the utility poles

The lightrail has began operation.

Most notably is that the Sound Transit has a stop in this neighborhood (Henderson). The ethnic demographic has changed. A new middle school is being built. Small business turnover, but no apparent increase in number of small businesses. Perceived increase in crime.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Yes, We've seen an increase in crime and gang related activities. The light rail is touted as a great thing for us, but the reality is that we won't use it because it's not safe to walk past Rainier Beach High to get to it. The city has turned a blind eye to us (Mayor Nickels won't even participate in debates down here) for a long time and the results are evident.

Not for a consistent amount of time.

Neighbors seem to still be quite angry about safety and attention the neighborhood gets

Addition of Light Rail. Upgrading(some) of shopping area. Remodeling and building of 2 schools. Improvements to Kubota Gardens.

The biggest change I have noticed is that now that we have a viable school, the new school, families have a reason to actually stay in the neighborhood

Can't say there has been any extraordinary change except there are more neighbors that have been more active in the community.

Rainier Beach seems to be getting on its feet more and more. It seems to be a neighborhood that is struggling with crime and poverty, but is moving forward in community involvement, education, and community resources.

The crime rate has increased to such a level that we fear to visit this area after sundown.

N/A

More public art and signage. Light Rail improves access to downtown. Many homes have been improved and younger people moving into neighborhood.

Many capital improvements such as roads, etc. Also, increase in quality of small businesses.

The improvements along MLK have been great but Rainier Ave is still looking below average and I consider it very dangerous.

Gotten less safe to walk in

Light rail has begun. Two new schools built on Henderson.

Two new school buildings, an additional transportation amenity (Link Light Rail), a new athletic complex, a renovated library. Services for relatives caring for family members (particular grandmothers) have emerged. Neighborhood residents and service providers have organized to conduct two neighborhood wide events that create community connectedness - Rainier Beach Back2School Bash (August) and Rainier Beach Town Hall Meeting (January).

There doesn't seem to be a decrease in crime, unfortunately.

Thought it would be getting better but then the housing market tanked. Hoping more active and involved families who care about community will continue moving here.

Some of the plans have been partially adopted, though not all are given due maintenance. I've observed and used Chinook Beach, Kubota Gardens, Beer Sheba and Atlantic Beach parks. Each has been well improved. I witnessed street improvements on Henderson and signage and art installations. Chinook Beach and the Mapes Creek walkway deserve more maintenance along with Rainier Avenue. It was disheartening to lose the Rainier crosswalk at 54th Ave S. Attention to revive the Waters Street business area has lagged.

The neighborhood is dirty and areas need clean up. Traffic is heavier. The new light rail system is challenging without proper parking available for those who do not live within walking distance of the various stations. Lack of restaurants in the area always results in going to other neighborhoods to have a meal.

I believe it has become a safer area

Some. Many more young families with children.

Not much has changed in the last three years. I do see some changes happening near the Safeway - such as the announcement for the new clinic that would be in the spirit of the urban village.

More crime, higher density, fewer businesses, worse care of parks, closed schools

The light rail has been built since i have come to the neighborhood, I have attended my new gym - Rainier Health and Fitness, and i have seen much change in the businesses as well

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Rainier Beach in the past has been perceived as a neighborhood that can be underserved without protest because poor brown people live here. I believe this is changing. We have some beautiful parks and thriving businesses that weren't here 10 years ago. We are a community with the same needs and hopes as any other!

I have not noticed a lot of change. We lost our QFC and crime seems to be worse.

Yes, it has changed, but not for the better. We do have a light rail, but it is in the midst of blight from so called business owners who do not care what they look like. It's like riding through a slum area! We have way too many residents who are subsidized by tax payers who bring down the neighborhood with junk cars and multiple cars on every inch of the street, unkempt property, and so on. We have lost our QFC to be replaced by SARS, a low quality store. Rainier Beach Hi still looks like a slum school, with the exception of the Performing Arts center and athletic area. Excuse me, but what is the first purpose of having a school? The city does not maintain the wetlands along Sturtevant as they did in the past, no matter how much complaining.

Rainier Beach has changed, but more changes are needed. We need more viable businesses, more street lights, a place for teens to hang out to stay off the streets.

community center is in progress

The light rail link has appeared to start discussion about changing. I haven't seen much real development in the nearly 5 years I've lived there. Retail is limited, walkability is hard, and youth/gang appearance is rampant at Rainier/Henderson

Upgrade with the library and now the lightrail.

I see positive changes but area at Henderson & Rainier is still problematic.

We have had attempts to bring the neighborhood together through joint block watch programs meeting at the Presbyterian Church, through their Peace Garden, through community meetings and memorial services around the death of James Paroline, and in other ways. I am not sure this has been as a result of the plan.

Link Light Rail has just gone in. I am not sure the bus connections make it realistic to use on a regular basis. I hope so. I very much appreciate the traffic safety improvements on Rainier Ave So - especially the corridor south of 57th Ave So to Renton. Traffic still goes too fast and recklessly much of the time in the corridor from 57th Ave so north through Rainier Beech, so please keep working on that. I appreciate that the Auto parts store has moved into the once grubby plaza on Rainier between 56TH and 57TH Ave So. In general there is way too much litter on the sides of the streets and in empty lots. It is distressing. More organized neighborhood cleanups PLEASE. Seattle Police Detective Cookie Boulin's Urban Youth chess club is on Sat. at the Library. That is a wonderful resource.

Many infrastructure improvements to revitalize. Library, four schools, beer sheva park, mayes creek walkway, sewer lines, boat ramp, henderson improvements, public housing, safeway rebuild, QFC/Saar/Riteaid rebuild, wayfinding.

housing values have gone way up and back down. Development seems to have been good, the new stuff still looks nice, crime seems about the same. Rainier/Henderson intersection seems a little better - fewer scary people hanging around.

The improvements to Henderson St. have made it nicer to walk on. This is nice but the neighborhood is still not safe enough for waking to/from the train station late at night. Also the walk if to far for many of the people in our neighborhood. Walks greater then 1/2 mile are to long for young children, elderlyl, and the disabled. There are not any good bus or shuttle routs to the station at this time. The busses on Henderson make it a disorganized and hectic. It is hard to drive on and the lanes are not well adhered to. Also the changes in resedents in there neighborhood is distrubing. The number of black families are decreasing and many houses are empty.

Columbia City is much improved (retail and residential) Increasing lack of parking is now a problem. The city of Seattle is clearly not in the business of parking.

Our neighborhood has become more welcoming and friendly. We feel a sense of community with our neighbors. Two drug houses that were here when we moved in (1994) are gone thanks to community effort. We meet regularly as a community to discuss issues of concern.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Beer Sheva park has toys that make the playground much more used. The library has improved, the Mapes Creek Walkway has had art added. Pritchard Beach has brought back lifeguards.

Big box stores, smaller chain stores and supermarkets have move out. Residents are concerned about ongoing gang and drug activity.

More gunfire; pedestrian safety issues at Rainier & Henderson and Rainier and Rose. But also new school construction and new housing along Henderson. Rainier Ave. from Columbia City to Rainier Beach continues to be a mostly sad and depressing stretch of neighborhood: garbage, abandoned businesses and buildings, empty lots. But then again, Rainier Fitness Center is a bright spot as is some new businesses in the area such as Cafe Vignole.

Been a large growth in population and housing, bringing with it more diversity and activity, good and bad. Lots of neighbor hood plans have sprouted up due to the lack of city's intervention with the violence general lack of care in the local areas. The suspicious activities are more subtle but still relevant. I love the area and neighbor hoods and businesses and restaurants (tons a great asian eating establishments and grocery stores).

Since I've been here (4 months) the light rail opened and the city has broken ground on Rainier Vista. The anticipated light riail driven development 'boom' didn't happen as planned but is showing signs that it is coming back. The Safeway on Othello recently decided to not shut down but to put \$3m into improving it, keeping our neighborhood a walking one.

Gentrification is a major issue as well as leaders with no understanding of our community implementing changes that our not beneficial to our daily way of life.

Crime is high, the feeling of safety is low, and the city seems to have failed to come to terms with crime's impact on the rest of the planning objectives and the quality of life in the community.

There have been definite improvements with Light Rail, the Library enhancement, and Kubota Gardens. Thank you. But there is still a distressing level of crime, littering, loitering, houses that are not maintained (garbage in the yards, fences falling apart, houses falling apart), all of which makes us feel unsafe, brings our property values down, and makes our neighborhood shabby and less appealing. My major concern is with safety, specifically for women. Lighting needs to be improved, and the City of Seattle should work with Metro to increase the frequency of buses (and MORE POLICE patrols) so that women are not standing waiting for buses for more than 10 minutes. We have had rapes at bus stops (a woman dragged away from the bus stop on Henderson and another one where the man followed the woman home), and attacks on women who were waiting for buses in a nearby neighborhood. So many cities provide a much more frequent bus service; we need to as well. I don't live near the Light Rail, so the bus is still my main mass transit option (the #106). I have seen a man cut a woman's face on the 106, a girl beaten (literally stomped) in the aisle by 4 other girls, a man robbed, and various other crimes. I have been personally sexually harassed on the bus multiple times. If you really want to make Seattle a green city, you need to make mass transit safer and more appealing. The contrast between the filthy Metro buses and the Sound Transit buses is striking. Sound Transit is much more pleasant to ride, and the routes I have ridden seem to have a much higher frequency. Frequency not only translates to a higher level of safety, it also translates to a higher level of convenience which encourages increased usage. If someone rides the bus for the first time, and it's late so that they just miss their connection to the next bus and have to wait 30 minutes to catch the next one, that experience may discourage them from riding and encourage them back into their car. This happens to me on a weekly basis. I keep riding most of the time, because I'm committed to reducing my impact on the environment; but with everything I've seen on the bus and at bus stops, and the inconvenience I experience daily, I sometimes wonder why I do it. In addition to preventing assaults on women, other crimes are also a big concern--drug deals, home invasions, robberies, gang violence, etc. We need MORE POLICE in this neighborhood. We need to create an environment where crime is not tolerated and doesn't thrive. Another concern is the excessive speeding in my neighborhood. We need more traffic circles to discourage drivers from using residential streets to speed along despite children, pets, and pedestrians whose safety is compromised. 57th and Gazelle would be a good place for a traffic circle; we have one at 57th and Norfolk, but people still use 57th as

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

a speedway down to Roxbury. Is there an effective way to prevent littering and dog waste on sidewalks and in yards (from dogs that aren't ours)? We all clean up after people and dogs, but it is a never-ending battle. If the city knows ways that have prevented it happening in the first place, it would be great to have these resources/recommendations for our neighborhood. We need to make our neighborhood safer, more convenient (improved transit), and more aesthetically pleasing.

some commercial development along Rainier, additional multi-family buildings along Henderson between Rainier & MLK, new South Shore K-8 & South Lake High School. Light rail... my residential neighborhood (Upper Rainier Beach) has not changed much.

In the 7 years since buying a house in rainier beach, rainier beach lacks a city center of active business (ei coffee shops, retail,).

We've seen great improvements in the library, the Henderson street lighting, the light rail station and some newer constructed townhomes and apartments. We have also battled with lots of crime that appears to be increasing and regularly hear gun shots. There is lots of poverty. Lots of violence. It often feels like this area is forgotten.

In the 4.5 years I've lived in the neighborhood, crime and traffic congestion have increased. I believe the traffic will redistribute now that the light rail construction is complete in our area. With the downturn in the economy, I expect property crime will continue to rise. In the last month, a drug dealer has started doing business on the corner across from my house.

Light rail has come into the area, we have a new bike path, a new library, new schools, and plans for a new community center. There are new apartments coming up, new townhouses, and new projects planned.

There has been a decrease in road traffic since the lanes were restriped to include one lane in each direction and a center turn lane. However, the road south of 51st st toward Renton is in terrible condition with multiple pot holes, washed away lane dividers and ugly center lane barricades. The city is spending resources of time and money to continually replace barricade markers due to cars running into them.

Gang activity is worse.

Safer roads

I see slow improvement. Areas get cleaned up and the probs simply move a little further out - getting pushed southbound.

Yes, very much so.

There have been several changes in the last nine years. Light rail has brought changes, it has helped connect the south east end of the city to the city center. The economic climate has brought difficulty to the area. There are several new small business ventures like the Rainier Beach Health Center and a couple of restaurants, but in general, the business climate is not great. Owners are struggling along the Rainier corridor between the Rainier Beach city limit and Othello. There are abandoned areas and businesses and drug trafficking and open prostitution is a huge problem. The past year has brought a sudden upswing in violent crime and gang warfare. We desperately need economic development and an innovative youth program strategy that reaches the area's children early through the teenage years.

The first six months we lived in our house, there were 4 homicides within a .5 mile radius from our house and nightly instances of gun shots. That situation has abided, somewhat, but there is still a constant presence of street crime i.e. drugs and prostitution in the immediate vicinity of Othello and Rainier. There have been few "improvements" to the business community along Rainier south of Columbia City to Othello and very little improvements in the way of options for multi-family housing and rentals for folks who work downtown.

Rehab of apt bldgs, along Henderson, including SHA seizure of terrible slumlord properties. QFC came and went saying they couldn't make enough \$ in the neighborhood. Safeway wiped out 15 small businesses so they could put in a gas station. Many more young 25-40 year olds moving into the neighborhood (excellent) Rezones accomplished in the village (good). Repair of Henderson St (City, King County and maybe Sound Transit is patchworked and shoddy looking- and too many people trying to take credit for improvements to Henderson (Marginal at best) People are using the train, and kids are playing in the plaza adjacent (good) Medical clinic (new construction) coming to the Beach Square will improve the corner. Merchants still struggling. Landlords still taking rent, not improving much.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

I haven't lived in the neighborhood long, but Light Rail is a big change for the positive. Businesses seem to be slowing growing, coming into the neighborhood. Lots of new housing around the station!

the 'hood has improved...park improvements, street improvements, etc. less crime overall

More elders have passed away; thus homes are turning over to younger families. Although some economic development has occurred - Safeway, RB Library - crime is still a problem. And there are still enough vacant lots or signs of neglect to create an impression of a place inviting to crime. Traffic control has improved along Rainier Avenue heading south. Before the two lane setup and islands it was a drag strip, very dangerous. There seems to be more density and it feels multicultural in makeup - this is a good thing. But the mix of affordable housing and urban dweller doesn't seem to be working. There's a forced gentrification that isn't seen [for example] in Madrona or the Central District. Schools in our immediate neighborhood are some of the worst in the city - they seem to have decayed in the last ten years - and this has a ripple effect throughout the community. There should be better coordination between city planning and the school district to create high quality of living which includes good schools in the neighborhood.

We've been in this neighborhood for two years and have seen a few changes. I like what is happening near the Community Center. Adding art into the neighborhood has also been an improvement (sculpture at each end of Ranier Beach).

Light rail is now operating, bus service has expanded. Redevelopment of many buildings has occurred, for the better.

Corridor behind Saars, between Henderson and Rainier was paved. Many Henderson apartments have been rebuilt. Rebuilt or remodeled: Rainier Beach library, Safeway, Rainier Beach High football field, Southshore high/middle school, the New School. More lighting has been installed.

Appearances have improved but there is still too much crime -- theft, loitering, graffiti. I would like safer and more attractive options for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Higher property values, greater divide between haves and have-nots.

Yes, there are many more "rental" homes available now, which I find very sad. Rental property is not well kept like home ownership property is. The home owners property values go down.

I have noticed positive changes with the remodeling of neighborhood businesses. There is a decline with the maintenance of schools and parks. There are opportunities to utilize the local schools to build mentorship programs and tutoring centers. As a working professional and part-time college teacher, I have numerous skills I would like to share with the local youth. There should be a plan to utilize existing residents and align them with community centers to help keep local youth on a positive path.

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

It hasn't.

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

We purchased a home in the Rainier Valley when the housing market was sky-rocketing and development was a promising sign of improvements to the community. Now, the majority of the houses on our block that are for sale are in foreclosure, and the promising feeling of 5 years ago has vanished. Lightrail has brought some hope back, but in general, we feel our neighborhood is a dumping ground for poor people in need of social services. The new buildings that erected in our neighborhood the past year include Sasaki Commons, a transitional housing development for homeless/very poor, and Hope Place, a transitional housing development for hundreds of women and children. While it's nice to see run down lots developed into something more attractive looking, it is unfortunate that it is all for low-income residents. Why don't you spread these developments out more evenly throughout the city?

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

Light rail and more businesses along Rainier Ave. S and Seward Park. MLK has improved since light rail has moved in.

Not much. Two new traffic circles.

Rainier Beach has changed a great deal since my family moved here in 1994. When we moved, there were two drug houses on our street, abandoned houses and overgrown empty lots. Our street now has new houses, and those two drug houses are gone. We have annual summer block parties, holiday sing alongs, etc. We have awesome neighbors the best we've ever had. Many of them have become friends. Our children have made good friends here. now, The New School were our youngest daughter attended has changed the landscape for good upper level schools in this neighborhood in the near future. The New School at South Shore has a new campus, as does South Lake High School--where the historically neglected program finally has a nice home. Transportation is easier, and the light rail enhances everything. When we moved here there were no good cafes, coffee shops or even grocery stores. We did most of our shopping in the areas near our jobs. We bought our beautiful 1918 Craftsman home for a song, and it has appreciated enormously, even with the bubble breaking this year.

Great to have the light rail so close but safety and crime is a big issue in our area. the Mapes walkway is infested with troubled teens. The apartments behind the walkway bordering Seward Park and Henderson has cleaned up a bit and the park has felt relatively safe. Overall, its a great neighborhood but there is a lot of concern about speeding, crime, and safety.

Not much change in the 3 years since I purchased my home in Rainier Beach.

Move-outs and foreclosures have changed the character of Rainier Beach. More white, higher income folks have moved into houses on our street. The parks and libraries are nicer. Graffiti and crime are still a problem, and the bus terminal and Mapes Creek walkway seem to be a gathering place for sketchy people.

Is been changing little by little

Revamp of Holly Park into New Holly Light Rail

QFC left and that was a travesty. Safeway has been updated. However, with Safeway, there has been the urban mentality of locking the entrance near Starbucks. Overall, there seems to be urban renewal and area is cleaning up

We have seen some great improvements in Rainier Beach, and also some resistance to improvement from the city. The new library, new schools, light rail stations, and real estate improvements along Henderson have added to the liveability of the neighborhood. The new schools have also contributed (South Lake High School and South Shore K-8). I would still like to see street beautification along Rainier between Henderson and Seward Park Ave. S. I would like to see residential speed limits reduced to 20 MPH, install sidewalks or clean up sidewalks in all residential areas of the neighborhood, and install more cross walks on Rainier and Renton Ave. S. to make this neighborhood more pedestrian friendly. I would like to see a bike lane on Renton Ave. S. Lastly, crime (hearing gunshots) is the biggest problem with this neighborhoods liveability. Rainier Beach is mostly populated by families with children, and is the primary reason we enjoy living here, but my son has asked that we move because hearing gunfire is scary. I would like to see more Metro Police at the transit centers and more Seattle Police along the Rainier corridor, especially in the area of the Safeway parking lot. Their visibility is a deterrant to some of the anti-social behavior that occurs along this corridor. My dream is that someday.... there is a cafe with outdoor tables and a bookstore on Rainier Ave.--a place I can walk to and hang out at on a Saturday morning.the big empty lot on Rainier next to McDonalds is used for a P-Patch and a farmer's market.an organic grocery store moves in walking distance from my house.

Light Rail has been completed....the New School will be done soon & I've seen Henderson St improve.

play ground at behr sheva, new library both great for families light rail

I can see improvement in public areas but there is still a lack of police presence and I still regularly see drug activity in broad daylight.

The neighborhood appears to be a bit more cleaned up. It seemed safer a few years ago but that doesn't seem as true now.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

With the exception of Light Rail being constructed along the western boundary of the Urban Village and the construction of two new schools, the Rainier Beach commercial core has not changed much. Strong schools and efficient transportation options are cornerstones of a thriving neighborhood. Unfortunately, at this point in time, private investment has not followed. The SHA has purchased and renovated a few derelict apartment buildings along S Henderson and the new buildings look great. SEED has improved the Lake Washington Apartments' grounds. It appears, based on the demographic data provided in the Seattle Planning Commission Report, that the economics in Rainier Beach do not support attracting private investment. In summary, the change that has taken place has been driven by the public and non-profit sector.

I was pleased to see Safeway build their new store, and very sorry to see QFC leave the neighborhood. I am thrilled to have Rainier Health and Fitness, as this is a much needed service. I am happy to see the new Community Center and Middle School on Rainier and Henderson. I hope we can attract more students to Rainier Beach High. I am grateful Light Rail is now running, and so glad not to have the heavy traffic on Rainier Ave that we endured during the building of Light Rail. There appears to be more smaller businesses along Rainier Ave, but I don't frequent them. I have seen high density housing units going up east of Rainier near Rose, I think it is, and hopefully those will be good for the community.

The main change is a sad one - crime has gotten much worse over the last year. We've had our cars broken into in our driveway 3 times in the last 3 months, and seen police cars and ambulances on our street dealing with a crime issue on a weekly basis. The light rail has brought some positive effects. I like the art and the signage. It's all very classy. The Rainier Beach Community Center and the library have seen very nice improvements, as has the Chief Sealth trail. We love Kubota Gardens, which is always very well maintained.

I would say our neighborhood has improved. The RB library is awesome! Rainier & Henderson is looking a lot better. There are some new stores, and light rail is finally here. But we also have an increase in violent crime, and a decrease in affordable housing. Long-time RB residents are moving out of the city, chasing cheaper rents.

The neighborhood itself has not changed very much. The major, most notable change is the Central Link Light Rail system that recently opened. Crime is still prevalent in neighborhoods, the broken window theory is still alive, police are not proactive in patrolling the areas. It's like these same people that commit the same crimes are allowed to do so. I've heard many people over the years in conversations saying they do not feel safe walking in the neighborhood; not even to get to the Light Rail station. They'd rather continue driving or taking the bus they regularly take (although there will be a major service change coming in September with King County Metro). I find this to be very sad because through the years, I've seen many neighborhoods change for the better, for example Beacon Hill and Columbia City. The businesses are thriving in the area and people come and go freely because they feel safe. That's not the vibe here in the Rainier Beach area. Illegal dumping is on almost every block (you'll see lots of trash/furniture littered on sidewalks), we still have NO sidewalks or curbs on majority of the neighborhood blocks. I am saddened and frustrated when I see kids, teenagers, and young adults out there being ignorant and rude, the same way it was 10 years ago. It's frustrating because it seems we can't grow beyond this and move towards a being a better community, and having mutual respect for our neighbors. It's almost like people have given up on this neighborhood. When people that don't live in the area hear the words "Rainier Beach" they either think it's a joke or a place they'd never even contemplate moving to.

Almost nothing has changed. I do like the new library, and the walk from the light rail station to Henderson is pleasant. But then you get to Henderson & Rainier and see the drugs changing hands there all the way to Rose. It's the same old place, and I can't see how that's going to change soon.

Our neighborhood is welcoming and friendly now. When we first moved there fourteen years ago, there were two drug houses on our street, undeveloped lots, and not many activities for youth (i.e. organized sports, clubs, etc.) There were no good grocery stores, or good places to shop. We shopped in Renton or in my work neighborhood (Capital Hill). Henderson and Rainier was very threatening at night and even in the day at times, with youth hanging around, looking suspiciously up to trouble. The traffic was not well managed, frequent speeding on Rainier down by Henderson. The elementary public school choices were limited until The New School@South Shore.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

A lot of people are moving to the South King County like Auburn, Kent, Renton or Federal Way because it is getting too expensive to live in this community. The drug and crime activities in this community seem to calmed down a bit even so it is still not as safe as compare to other communities.

It's changed a lot in the year and half I've lived here. Old ugly buildings were torn down and new ones are in the process to be built. I remodeled a house that we bought, and noticed a few others doing the same, which makes the neighborhood look better.

Urban decay and higher incidents of violent crime.

Gang activity and crime has increased.

+ Light rail finally running + Handful of newly built houses (though mostly empty) - More crime (no longer shop in the neighborhood -- safer to drive elsewhere to shop). - More empty houses - More noise (light rail bells are really annoying)

The biggest change has been the addition of light rail. There are some definite benefits to it, including recent improvements and new developments such as those near Othello Station. Unfortunately without designated park and rides, most of the residents in my area do not have easy and quick access to it.

I've only lived in this area since February of 2009. As such, I have experienced a few changes, including the implementation of light rail, various new business openings and have heard of various neighborhood activities (though haven't attended thus far). It's my sense that this is a very diverse community, with lots of room for growth, especially from a safety perspective. It's amazing (and somewhat sad) the personal safety level between one block (Rainier Ave vs. Seward Park Ave).

The crime has gotten worse, the kids have nothing to do in the Valley but hang out and shoot each other people are afraid to walk around without being attacked. I don't see it getting any better

Improvements have been coming over the 22 years I have lived & had a business here. It is sad to see that the education level has gone down.

More crime, less interest by city officials

Haven't seen much change

Lt Rail system, seems like crime (violent) has increased along with gang activity

I do not know - have lived there only 8 years

The area as a whole appears to be stagnate at times, then appears to decline. The area business are all the same - beauty/nail salons, very USED vehicles, or FAR too many asian cuisine restaurants. NO true variety.

I've only been around the last 3 years, but the link light rail stop is a great help. The neighborhood seems to be attracting buyers who can maintain their home, which is nice for other homeowners. However, commercial areas such as mini-marts and grocery stores still need a great deal of help.

Few businesses are "visit" worthy... most look/act seedy/illgitimate. We refuse to go into the business areas at night due to questionable folks hanging around storefronts and parking lots. Neighborhood is not walkable... too many scary individuals walking/standing/driving around. The entire neighborhood feels unsafe - sounds of screaming, racing and gun shots are too common.

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

I've worked at Graham Hill Elementary for about 3 yrs. I'd like to see better maintainance of the big hill leading up to the school. It's dangerous in the winter. They sometimes unload the kids at the bottom of the hill and make them walk up to school - with spotty supervision.

Better transportation options. Some improvement to local infrastructure.

Sidewalks are a mess. Not a ped friendly area. Crime still a major issue

The only significantly noticeable change is the link light rail station.

I've noticed improvements at the library, on the Chief Sealth Trail, and at Beersheeva Park. There are some new Sharrows also.

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The public land has improved. We need more trees. It is the private land that brings down the area. I wish we could inspire people to care about this area.

The glimmers of prosperity and business development that attracted us to this area have dimmed or been shuttered. Every day I drive by a newly closed small business. The promise of "Beach Square" seems highly suspect, given our current environment. The development across from the RB Safeway at about Rainier and 56th (the new medical center at the old "Outreach" community center) seems stalled. The only businesses that seem to be attracted to this area are auto parts shops and pay day loan/pawn services. Talk of education "being a building block of the future" has turned out to be just talk, with the most notable developments in this arena since our arrival being the attempted closure of RBHS and the continued consolidation of other primary schools. A SPD budget shortfall that represents a mere fraction of the cost overruns on the transportation projects around the city has brought our school system to its knees. The only bright spot is the construction of a new "New School", although it has been placed next to the city's alternative high school and across the street from the hottest gang hang out in Seattle. Therefore despite the pleasing shiny new exterior, I hardly consider this an appropriate location for a six year old to attend school. My family does not plan to stay long, we have the luxury of leaving and we will be doing so at our earliest opportunity. Improvements that we've noticed are the nice, "window dressing" kind of improvements that get somebody a pat on the back-foot paths and greenery improvements. Hardly delivery on the promises of any real economic development for this area. And as for Light Rail, after talking to business owners in CC, the heralded foot traffic has yet to materialize. Until crime is under control in RB, foot traffic between MLK and Rainier is a moot point. Who would walk around this part of town on foot? I am convinced that this area will see better times. Just not in time for me or my family.

I am surprised to learn that the portion of Rainier Beach that I live in doesn't fall into the neighborhood which is very concerning for me and my fellow neighbors. How can this be changed?

The area around MLK and Light rail has changed for the positive.

Although some improvements have occurred (such as the new library and Henderson improvements), it is still a blighted area with gang activity, trash and ugliness. I don't see the impact of any City planning.

I have been in the area for two years. The only major change I've seen is the new light rail. Also, Pizzeria Pulcinella is now open. It's a cute place where you can count on seeing people you know from the neighborhood. One of few neighborhood gathering places within walking distance of my house in Upper Rainier Beach. I have also appreciated seeing some of the new construction on Henderson between the light rail station and Rainier. I feel somewhat safer walking between MLK and Rainier on Henderson at night now, though still not very safe.

cleaner

I've seen improvements in the public areas around Henderson St. (library, walkway, new track at RBHS, new playground at Beer Shiva Park, new grocery store buildings, improvements to Lake Washington apartments.) Visually the area has improved. My perception of crime, especially gang related crime, is that it has increased. Though it appears more attractive to walk around, I feel less safe as I hear and read about shootings.

There have been a number of physical changes; improvements at Kubota Gardens, library expansion, the entry and demise of QFC, a new Safeway, school construction, fire station construction, and of course, light rail. I was hoping for changes in other ways- a decrease in crime, development of a commercial business center a la Columbia City, and road improvements.

Light Rail, some large corporate business moving in such as Safeway and Starbucks

Safety has increased somewhat in our immediate area. We call the police much less than we used to when we moved here 7 years ago. Several of the houses closest to us are now owner-occupied.

No

Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

The Rainier Beach - Seattle Public Library received a great update for which I am very grateful as I use the library extensively. We endured a long construction period for the Light Rail and the "Rainier Beach" (previously called Henderson) stop was created. I haven't been on the Light Rail yet as it just opened to the public but my husband and daughter have ridden once so far. My husband says there is no park and ride available at the Rainier Beach stop so we aren't sure how you would carry all your luggage when taking it to the airport (in the future). Also the sidewalk along Renton Ave (from the intersection of 51st and Renton) where we would walk is often covered in grass and weeds so it's not easy to use, especially when it's rainy. The Kubota Gardens received a new entrance which looks great and a disabled stroll garden which includes a pond.

lots of investment in taking out old housing tracts (new holly, rainier vista) and replacing them with better housing. it seems that either information about crime and violence is better or there has been more crime and violence in this neighborhood. i believe there has been more grass roots efforts to make the neighborhood a better place.

I have lived in the neighborhood for three years. I don't believe the neighborhood has changed for the better much in that time. The light rail has just opened, but there hasn't seemed to be any effect on Rainier Beach yet. Other than that, gang activity has been on the rise and Rainier Beach has in general felt less safe.

Felt a decline even in the last 3 years I've lived here. The street is noisier, louder, there seems to be a lot more unrest. There have been lovely improvements with Chief Stealth trail and the light rail but the neighborhood still seems to be facing an uphill climb.

The crime rate has decreased over the last 11 years... however it does seem to be on the upswing. I would say that the housing stock and commercial business have physically declined...the building don't look as nice. There are more empty store fronts. The public spaces like parks and the library have improved dramatically.

The last 10 years seems like things have been going downhill. The light rail is a very welcome addition, and I like some of the construction i've seen, like the bike paths and sidewalks, but it seems like the criminal element, which decreased 15 years ago, is back up on the rise.

Crime has increased dramatically in Upper Rainier Beach since we moved here. Young thugs roam the neighborhood with backpacks on searching out homes where residents are at work. I have photographed these criminals and provided detailed descriptions to local police, whom ignore my emails (this is a typical response for SE precinct police). Police 911 responses are slow or non-responsive. One time I called when seven African American youths and young men were in my backyard at night. No officer showed up at all. I had to barricade my doors to protect my family from whatever threat existed. Abandoned and broken down cars sit on the neighborhood streets for weeks with no action from parking enforcement. Some citizens park derelict cars on lawns with no action from the city after reports are made. Several streets look like junkyards or war zones. Pit Bull dogs run wild and have attacked my dog while walking on a leash. We now have to walk our dog armed with a club to beat the Pit Bulls when they approach. The 3rd grade girl next door was backed down her driveway and cornered by a pit bull last month. Animal Control officers only issue warnings; they never remove the offending animals. The pit bull that attacked our dog jumped a five foot high fence and ripped a hole in my dog's throat. It cost us several hundred dollars to have our pet treated. We reported the attack yet the dog still remains resident at the home. We fear walking down that street as a result of this incident. An 80 year old woman two blocks away was the victim of a break in an attempted robbery two weeks ago. The young African American youth who broke in was chased by several neighbors who heard the woman's screams at night. The perpetrator was never apprehended. These stories are typical of daily life here in Upper Rainier Beach. Residents are developing a "fortress mentality" and (judging by the response to the break in at the elderly woman's house) assuming a vigilante mentality.

I have been here three years. I have noticed few changes, other than in actual infrastructure, i.e. the installation of the light rail, etc. There does seem to be a decrease in public safety, at least in my part of the neighborhood, with burglaries, shootings, and assaults happening more often. It is hard to find out if actual numbers support this perception, but I hear it from neighbors a lot.

Business decline; crime increase

Yes, Has become more diverse.

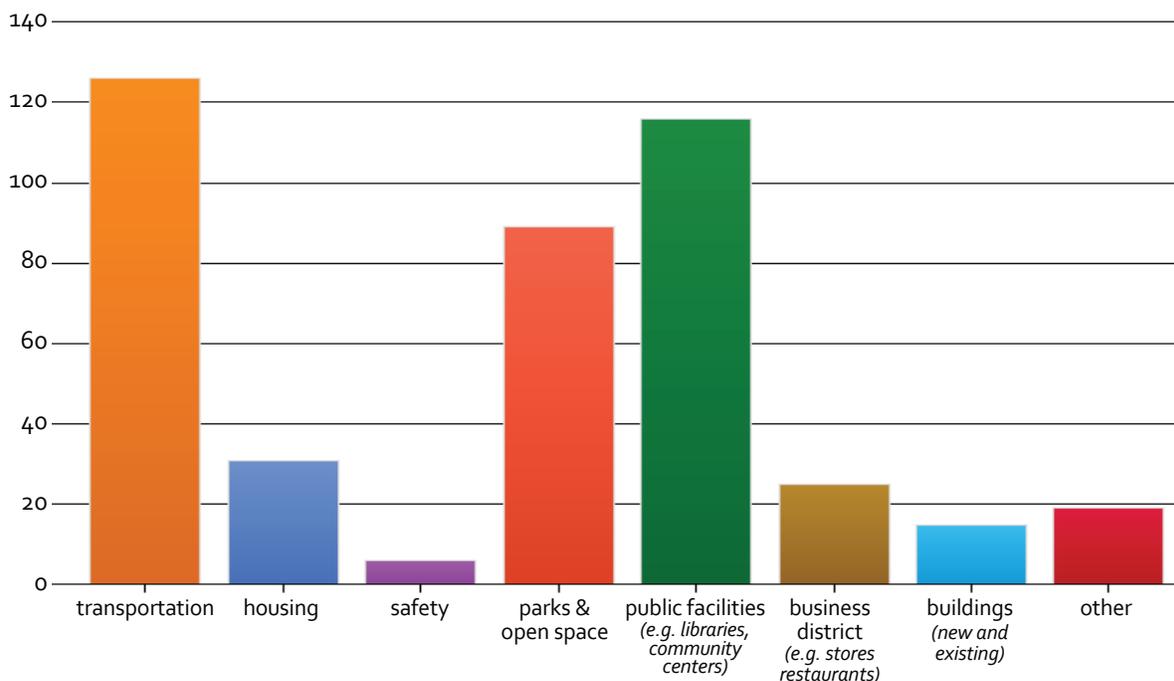
Q1: How has your neighborhood changed?

New School/Southshore will be moving into the new neighborhood; an increased Latino population; new auto parts store; light rail; the discontinuation of the Rt#42 through Rainier View; the closure of Rainier View Elementary, and increased parking and dealing at the dead end of our block. Since Rainier View elementary school was closed, the neighborhood has seen more break-ins. The playground is a central gathering site for neighborhood children, but the grounds are not well kept. We have tried to clean up litter, but there is always shattered glass on the playground making it unsafe for kids to ride their bikes.

Light rail, and associated improvements have opened. Library has been updated. Two new schools are being built/have been built. Community Center is slated to be rebuilt. Crime & gang violence has started to increase the last few years.

Yes, Crime and Gang Activity has sky-rocketed. The public schools are still not a viable option if your family has dreams of a college education thier children.

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



Other things respondents are pleased about:

- we seem to be a destination now.
- Diversity of demographic- I like that Rainier Beach is home to such a broad range of ethnicities, backgrounds, etc.
- The sense of community that is now developing
- light rail, cops removing abandoned cars quickly
- Excellent neighbors
- swimming pool
- My blockwatch is active. I need to get re-involved.
- diverse neighborhood/good neighbors/property value
- SHA rehab of apt buildings on Henderson
- The MLK area.
- my neighborhood and neighbors
- schools
- lack of police where you need them
- diversity
- Recycling initiatives
- I am happy about Link Light Rail, but it isn't nearby for me.
- KUBOTA GARDEN!!!!!!
- small pockets of gentrification
- none

The light rail is convenient and easy.

We love the investments that the city has made. Thank you

The Henderson - Seward Park Ave. stretch of Rainier Ave S is improving, with the library updated, new school buildings, walkways, etc. There have been amazing improvements on MLK JR Way in conjunction with the light rail. The roadway and businesses look good (except the horrible run down Safeway).

I like the fact that upper rainier beach is connected to columbia city via the 7 bus, and want to see that continue. the light rail is great, but not a great way for us to get to columbia city. my husband commutes to the cc/seward park area via that bus and the light rail would not work for that commute, because of the distance of our house from the light rail and the light rail stop from his work.

Our library gets used A LOT. All of the computers are full. I was surprised that this is not the case in other communities. Maybe they should expand the computers and even add onto library. It's one place where there is peace and a sense of community for kids and adults.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

The improvements at Kubota Gardens and Beer Sheva park are appreciated and utilized. Same for the reborn Rainier Beach library. Looking forward to a revitalized community center. The "new" Safeway was a major improvement; I refused to shop at the old building.

Kubota is BEAUTIFUL, and such a treasure in this neighborhood. Keep up the enhancements to this lovely park.

The library update and Sound Transit have been wonderful, well thought out additions to the area.

Multiple transit providers have invested in the neighborhood. a tad bit more coordination at the community level is warranted. Add schools to the public facilities element

I work full time and am a bus commuter. The great access to public transportation in Rainier Beach allows us to remain a one car family. The Light Rail will allow us faster access to downtown shopping rather than DRIVING to South Center. I'm an avid reader and LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the Seattle Public Library system.

Glad to see the light rail come in. The only trick is it feels out of the way and hard to get to. Not a friendly walk down Henderson, at least not yet.

the light rail is a wonderful addition and the bus service in the area is outstanding.

Housing is still relatively affordable in this area, but that will change if crime continues to rise. Seward Park and Pritchard Beach (inc. the wetlands) are the best thing this area has going for it.

The Rainier Beach Library has been a very welcome addition.

We have great parks, but criminal activities are really threatening our use of these assets.

Keep up the good, hard work on Kubota Garden. It has the power to transform the neighborhood. The ethnic diversity here is also inspiring and a treasure.

Great Library, nice parks

want to see some development at light rail station. Would not object to a park and ride south of the station on MLK.

The library has been upgraded but not the community center. Light rail of course will be a bonus. There needs to be more retail right at the station area. Coffee shop.

I love that the New School is a beautiful building and is located along a main street so is visible. The Link Light Rail, but I hope it does not become dangerous to ride like the #7 buses on Rainier Avenue.

Chief Sealth trail and surrounding landscaping were an improvement. Columbia City's gentrification has helped improve the Rainier Valley's reputation.

Happy about the new Link Light rail. Think we have a great public library, community center, and several great parks (Beer Sheva, Kubota Garden, etc.)

Light Rail is great just need to improve access from Skyway to Light Rail station; Bus 42 is inconsistent and limited frequency in peak hours make the commute longer than necessary.

The parks are well-planned out with areas for both toddlers and older kids. They seem to be well-maintained for the most part. The community center also offers many activities for people of all ages and abilities.

the Rainier Beach community center is in need to work, so I am glad it will be remodeled!

Light rail cut my commute time in half

Bus 7 isn't the most friendliest and safe to ride but it's pretty convenience.

Library is very nice. The two schools appear to be an improvement. It would have been good to up-grade Rainier Beach Community Center also.

The library is nice and attracts a diverse mix of residents.

Yay Light Rail!

Completion of light rail and Sealth trail are very nice.

I like the fact that I have several options for transportation. I am within walking distance of 5 bus routes and the light rail.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

It is wonderful to have light rail in our neighborhood. I hope to continue to see expansions and I would like to see the monorail incorporated into the light rail better. There should be a locals rate for the monorail so that it is a reasonable expansion from the light rail to get to the Seattle Center. I would also like to see parking available at the Rainier Beach station. It is a great way to get to work, but when you get off at 11:30 and get home at midnight it is not safe to walk the mile home. If there were parking this issue would be resolved. I would also love to see the open creek mouth that has been planned in Beer Sheva park happen. It would greatly help with the soggy grass and add general appeal to the park as well as be salmon friendly, which was the original intent.

Rainier Beach is a beautiful part of the City of Seattle, visually and ethnically (which is why I moved here 30 years ago), but the neighborhood is being allowed to fall into disrepair and disgrace.

The bus system is good. Great library.

The Park Dept. staff could be much more efficient.

I like what the light rail money is doing for the public spaces in Rainier Beach.

The light rail corridor is a fantastic addition to the neighborhood.

The Light Rail is a nice addition.

The Rainier Beach Library branch is a bright spot.

We visit the library, pool, Kubota garden.

Light rail is nice but anxious for its expansion to make it more convenient in my neighborhood. Currently 1.5 miles from the S Henderson Station.

I love the open space along the Chief Sealth trail, as well as Kubota Gardens. I am also a huge fan of the 25 acre horse farm on Beacon Ave S, north of S Gazelle. I'm very glad the city did not raise taxes/ water bills on that property, as it adds such a wonderful, country-feeling aesthetic to our neighborhood. I'm very pleased with the ease of transit also- Link is great, and the bus service is also very reliable.

Beautiful and inviting library. While the neighborhood feels safer, it has a long way to go (lots of litter, poor lighting, underserved by police). Light rail has arrived, but what about parking?

Light rail is the best

I love that Beer Sheva is a pesticide-free park, and look forward to having an improved bathroom in that park. We are excited about the possibility of a new and improved community center/pool in a few years.

I love living near Kubota Gardens, Pritchard Beach, and Seward Park. Dead Horse Canyon is close to my home, but I rarely go there. I would only go if I had another adult with me, because it doesn't feel safe. It would be great if Dead Horse Canyon had more parking, a port-o-potty, and a wider entrance area for gathering, maybe a picnic table?

The light rail has begun service and I expect that to have some positive effect on the neighborhood.

Beer Sheva Park, Kubota Gardens, and Dead Horse Canyon are wonderful resources.

I like the remodeling of Safeway and reutilization of existing older buildings and turning them into restaurants.

Light Rail's arrival is a huge plus, although I'm concerned about the loss of the #48 bus and the lack of destinations outside of downtown.

Light rail will be great, so long as it doesn't come at the cost of reduced bus service. Keep the 42! We live almost a mile from the Henderson station, so we need the bus too.

Light rail is good. Apartments in the area are being upgraded. Our neighborhood park has improved with community support, could be better. Community center is getting improvements. The community center needs a strong manager which has not been the case in the past.

The local library is nice, and the community center is undergoing upgrades which will improve it. I enjoy both nearby parks, though I seem to end up worrying after young children who have no parents in attendance. I happen to have the best neighbors ever, and they are the reason I've not yet moved from this area.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

Rainier Beach library is excellent

The Library is a bright light in dangerous area.

South Seattle is an undiscovered gem with Kubota gardens etc. Library is good, revitalization of community center also hopeful.

I'm pleased that I don't have to travel far to go to the store and that there are a few restaurants/ fast food places in the area.

Light Rail is wonderful!

I'm really happy the Safeway on Othello is being remodeled and that a Ross just opened off Rainier next to the other Safeway. Also love the diversity in restaurants and how they're all different and not chains.

Kubota Gardens is looking great, as is Beersheeva and the library. Love the Light Rail.

link light rail - great like the improvements to the park and boat launch (across from rainier beach high) kubota is terrific

The renovated library is a plus. The new playground at Beer Shiva park is well utilized. Light rail is also great.

I love the way Kuboda Gardens has been beautified and growing!! Splended! My former husband went to Rainier Beach with Mr. Kuboda's 2 daughters in the mid 1960s!

I absolutely love Kubota Garden; it's really one of the city's greatest treasures. I also love Dead Horse Canyon, Beer Sheva and Seward Park (the last one isn't in RB but close by). Housing is well-priced and I like the diversity. Light rail is definitely an improvement.

Love the new bike path and the new light rail. Love the new schools, the new library.

Light rail is GREAT though with no curbs on side streets and consistant parking violations - cars up on the sidewalk - it makes walking to the stations a chore and dangerous in dark.

Light Rail opening adds another option. Good to see improvements to the neighborhood's community focal points.

things are looking better

Mixed on transportation.

probably would put pleased in the parks and open space category but there are severe safety issues in using these spaces.

I am pleased to see the continuing support of the city and of some retailers to upgrade and make vital the various property areas in the RB urban village area.

Good to see Link come online; to see Rainier Avenue get better traffic control. Good to see the Rainier Beach park maintained and improved along with other smaller parks in the area.

Lake WA Blvd., Seward Park and the public access to Lake Washington from Leschi all the way to Beer Sheva park make this area a gem. New and established business along Willson such as PCC and Ideal Pet store, the coffee shop and restaurants as well as Flying Squirrel Pizza in Genesse are great.

The 106 bus is my connection to the world. I am too far away from Henderson to be able to use the Light Rail.

The Rainier Beach community center is very utilized by our community and I am happy that it will be undergoing a major renovation! Light Rail is a progressive plan that sets the South End apart from North End neighborhoods.

Some of the new buildings near community center look impressive.

The new Light Rail station is exciting and will bring a lot of change to the neighborhood. The upgraded playground and bathrooms at Beer Sheva/atlantic City are nice and draw families to the area.

We are fortunate to live near Pritchard Beach, Beer Sheva Park, Kubota Garden, and Seward Park, so the public parks nearby are great for recreation and leisure. I marked "housing" and "public facilities" because of the many new buildings going up and renovations happening in our neighborhood.

We bought our house a 1 1/2 ago and love our property. We love the easy accesibility to parks and lake.

Q2: What are you pleased about?

we bought near this neighborhood because of light rail and affordability, plus parks along the lake are nearby. we live between two libraries. we love all the multi-ethnic businesses in this neighborhood and hope that does not change. southcenter/renton offers this; we don't need it in our small village area.

The light rail is fantastic.

I like the Chief Sealth Trail and the bike lanes on 51st Ave S. I love that Kubota gardens is in our neighborhood. The Rainier Beach library and the Skyway libraries are great resources. We mostly shop at PCC Seward Park, but we also shop at our Safeway.

I don't care what plans the city HAD for light rail, while the rail line is great, there needs to be parking near the stations in our area. Need business development around stations.

Bear Shiva park is a great community hub and is well maintained overall. (Though the bathrooms are used during the day for prostitution when open, so I am glad to see they are regularly locked now).

I'm excited about the Kubota Garden expansion.

I like the light rail.

Parks are many and decently kept. Community Centers are growing. Transportation, especially the implementation of the Light Rail, has improved the commute, although the possibility of consolidated bus routes for the sake of saving money is disconcerting.

I am happy that light rail is in but find it very challenging to get to it. understand that stations are designed to be walkable or accessed by transit but many buses stop at henderson and rainer

We love Kubota Gardens and Dead Horse Canyon. We take people to these places all the time, and they are amazed these places are so unheard of outside our neighborhood.

Henderson Avenue is replacing apartments. Park across the street from Rainier Beach high School is nicer. Bike lane on Renton Avenue.

I can't wait to see the new pool!

Light Rail! I know it's because of the airport, but I'm really glad the first segment wasn't downtown to the northend.

Ten years ago the library and parks were our best assets (plus the view and the people) We are an area that is majority owned by gov't entities but the example to retail etc spaces does not carry over to business districts.

light rail will really open us up to downtown....excellent

I'm excited about Light Rail and happy to have the new South Shore K-8; I undersatnd the Community Center will be rebuilt and that's great.

The parks provide an important and healthy place for residents to gather. We need more areas like this.

Link rail is great, want to make sure good ground connections to station via bus is maintained. Kubota Gardens is true gem.

Such as it is - light rail is growth. Does not improve my life in any way. Won't ease my commute or take me where I need to go.

I love the new library, the light rail line and station, and the Chief Sealth Trail. The new wayfinding signs along bike routes are really helpful; I would like to see more of them placed at intersections along the trail where trail users can connect with local business districts, the light rail station, etc. And although I don't know a ton about it, it's exciting to see the new construction at the community center making it more inviting.

New Holly is an improvement. Library upgraded.

The light rail station at Othello is a definite plus. Happy to hear about plans for the Rainier Beach library and Community Center.

This appears to be the only area that ANY effort is being made, usually with the time and work of some local resident holding the torch for a long awaited improvement.

Despite some feeling that light rail is meant to kill all of us at grade, I love it! The libraries are great.

park maintenance seems better

Q2: What are you pleased about?

I see things changing but not fast enough.

I love the light rail and our libraries are great.

I have appreciated the effort that has been put in to bring people together for positive change and community building - the blog, my gym (RHF) and housing.

The library is great. Would like to see more well-kept community spaces.

This community has excellent communication with it's neighborhood google spool

We love the neighborhood overall. Kubota is wonderful, and there are so many different kinds of people around. The neighborhoods are less crowded and trendy, and more affordable than other areas our friends live. I like being near the lake.

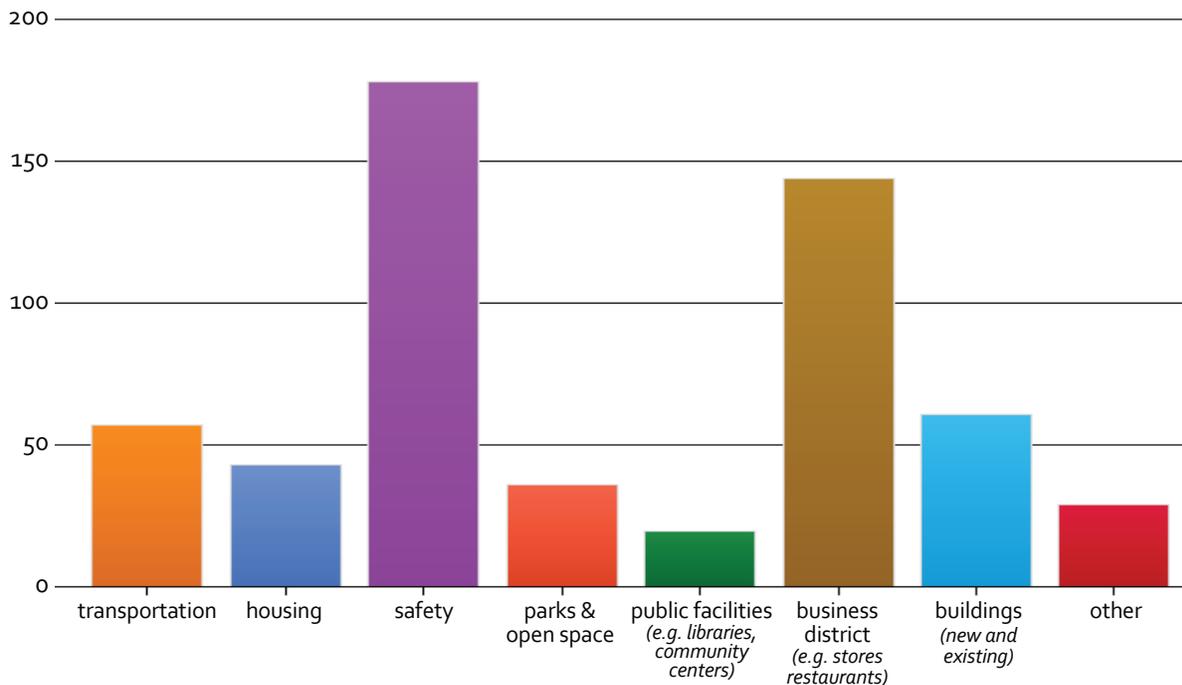
yeah for link light rail

need parking to access light rail for those who don't live within walking distance of the stations

I like that there are many options for transportation. Variety of bus routes and now the new Link Light Rail system.

The opening of the light rail has been fantastic, it now only takes me a few short minutes to get to work in Pioneer Square. The stations are beautiful and hope that they remain clean and up-kept.

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



Other things respondents are dissatisfied about:

- public schools
- Condition of some roads, pick-up of items people dump in supposed secluded places.
- Property owners need to address run-down buildings. Rainier Beach Community Center is a terrible facility. It needs tremendous improvements.
- no code enforcement to dilapidated cars and houses on Cloverdale and Rainier Avenue
- street parking
- lack of bicycle network connectivity from Rainier Beach up to Columbia city and points north and east, as well as connectivity to the South.
- drug activity
- we never received the roundabout on 51st - bridging the gap levy money was funneled to south west seattle - I think we got some signage - the bulk of the south end funds went to west seattle
- R B High School
- Plan has no teeth!
- Needs more and better stores and business. Lots of potential for development here
- traffic
- The sense of public order is diminished by loitering, litter, begging.
- disrespect: dropping fast food trash and loud music frm cars
- police presence
- Slum landlords not taking care of property, litter, along Rainier Avenue, need more viable businesses, need a larger community center with hours to accomodate teens, better connection to light rail from waters avenue.
- schools
- loosing diversity
- We still need more vibrant business south of Hillman City.
- sidewalks, curbs, pedestrian friendly residential streets. Litter. Crime.
- Waste
- overall appearance is bad in this area. Litter, Potholes
- burglar bar businesses, and sanitation issues
- Trash on streets and in neighborhoods and abandoned vehicles
- Support of at risk and low income families and youth
- lack of pedestrian improvements
- SCL and SPU
- Lack of Street & Neighborhood maintenance

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I hear gunshots almost every night. My wife locks the doors and windows when she's home alone (even in 95+ degree heat, with no AC), and won't even venture into our own backyard unless I'm home. Crime reports indicate that it's safer for me to shop elsewhere, so I do my shopping in more affluent areas of the city. Even the library 3 blocks from my house (Rainier & Henderson) is rated as a dangerous place, so my wife and I use the downtown or capitol hill libraries instead.

Rainier Beach High School needs to be remodeled and special attention dedicate to helping it recruits students. There aren't enough services for youth and family down in Rainier Beach and businesses are in need of help to thrive.

Safety is and will probably continue to be a problem. Since I had a home invasion robbery this spring I am more concerned about crime.

There is too much gunfire, and too much youth violence.

Need more clean and open and safe space for families and children.

More is being done by the citizens regarding safety than the authorities in regards to awareness, open-lines of communication regarding suspicious and criminal activity and obvious presence of public drinking and drug activity. I've used 911 to report activity more and more as a citizen in the last 3 years more than ever. I live in the Othello / Rainier neighborhood.

Safety remains a major concern. The area could do with more police patrols venturing off the arterials. Additionally, the business district is hurt by large parking areas in front of major stores, and by some businesses disappearing.

I don't like the crime element.

No business district; former restaurants and shopping have closed leaving no choice but to eat and shop in Renton or other communities; transportation is no longer safe and east-west connections are scheduled to be closed; multiple-family housing is deplorable and unsafe

Need more commercialized business. Upset the QFC had to leave the neighborhood. Intersection at Renton Ave and Roxbury continues to be a traffic mess. Nobody knows when to go or stop.

need more routes of bus 7 to Prentice

Crime (burgleries/drug dealing) on-going problem

* could use bathrooms in beer sheeva park. * need more bus service feeding the light rail stations.

BRING BACK THE BICYCLE PATROLS!!!!!!!

I think the business district and safety could both be improved by cutting down on gangs and tagging in the area. Adding stores that are customer friendly like the auto parts store or resteraunts are great, but I would rather not have stores like payday loans taking over in our neighborhood. These are not helpful to struggling people. I am most dissatisfied with the institutional racism that is pushing the diversity out of Rainier Beach. On my street, Hamlet Avenue, we currently have five vacant homes. Each one of these homes previsouly housed African American families that were either renting or owned their homes. These families were forced out of their homes either by landlords evicting them or by foreclosure. Now these houses are vacant and the makeup of our neighborhood is being altered. These practices must be racist when the families being forced out are all African American, yet the white families remain. Something must be done to stop this. In addition to the loss of diversity, this is also making our street less safe. We have houses that are being tagged and are boarded up with cuss words on them now. There were perfectly nice families forced out of these homes so they could turn into this, and that is not okay.

We refuse to ride the Number 7 bus which starts its route one block from our house due to assaults and harassment by thugs. This route would take me most of the way to work, but I drive to avoid crime and possible assault. The Number 7 had 52 assaults in 2008.

Give us a break...put low income housing elsewhere.

There is simply a lack of pride in this community. Few people take care of their property. Few people take care of communal spaces.

The most succesful local business ought not to be gangs.

I avoid driving on Rainer or mlk in RB because I don't want to expose my family to the crime evident there.

Not safe at all.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Light rail is nice but anxious for it's expansion to make it more convenient in my neighborhood. Currently 1.5 miles from the S Henderson Station.

no code enforcement regarding dilapidated cars and houses on Cloverdale and Rainier Avenue

too many cars are left parked in the same spot for months on the streets and buses and cement streets are VERY damaging and loud

Regarding safety, my immediate neighborhood feels very safe. I hear reports of violence and property damage on the valley floor, but s. of Renton Ave, off of 51st street, is very safe. I'm much more concerned with safety from the perspective of being a cyclist, actually. The trail is great but riding conditions on streets, even if they are designated as bike lanes, are less than ideal. There are many potholes, there is a lack of connectivity, and there is not the awareness of bicycles that there seems to be among drivers in North Seattle. I had a minor collusion with a car 2 weeks ago, and I think part of the problem in my particular situation was that the driver was not looking for bicycles. Regarding connectivity especially, the bike lane on 51st ave s stops when it reaches Rainier, and also stops to the south of the Chief Sealth trail, so it is a bit of a disjointed segment. Also, while bike access along Lake Washington Blvd. is good, it would be nice to have a designated bike route that leads from Rainier beach to Columbia City. Part of it has been constructed- I believe 42nd ave s is designated as bike lanes for part of it; but it would be nice if that were a continuous connection. Regarding the business district, it is functional in that it has 2 large, full-service grocery stores, but there is no central area that is particularly inviting for pedestrians and pedestrian-oriented shopping experiences. There is a group of buildings along 57th at Rainier that are emerging as a nice little pedestrian-oriented corner, but a lot more could be done to enhance the pedestrian experience along Seward Park Ave. South. In general, it would really enhance the neighborhood if there was a place that really stood out as a pedestrian-oriented center- a plaza with retail, or something similar. Another option might be to consider building massing in the long-term- so that future redevelopment of the major commercial stores (the Safeway and Saars, for example)- emphasizes building massing along Rainier Ave S. with parking in the back. Moving buildings closer to the street and pushing parking around to the back would really help enhance the pedestrian experience (but I realize this is a long term strategy to be implemented only as redevelopment is occurring).

Safeway continues to struggle, many empty storefronts, very run-down and shabby. Neighborhood still feels unsafe, with the amount of litter, poor lighting and inadequate police staffing.

The parks are trashed and not policed, there are a lot of dumpy houses, the commerce is third world and the number 7 and 106 buses are a total ghetto scene -

Rainier Beach High School parking lot is the location of a lot of illegal and disruptive activity after hours. The police show up promptly when called, but there must be a way to keep people from going back there to engage in these activities in the first place.

I haven't been personally impacted by crime, but I do worry about coming home from UW at night on the bus. I have had some scary experiences lately on the #7 bus.

Rainier Beach is an unsafe neighborhood. There is no sugar-coating that. The business district is also extremely unfriendly to pedestrians.

There are cuts to metro bus route 7 that are unreasonable, Rainier & Henderson intersection is downright scary, home robberies are on the rise...

Rainier Beach is still a violent area. It can be intimidating for people to visit if you are not from the neighborhood.

I think there's a lot of potential for more gathering places, such as coffee shops and neighborhood pubs. There are a small handful of good places. The Safeway parking lot dominates a large stretch of Rainier and most businesses put their parking on the street, pushing the storefront back - it's not walkable. There's a HUGE lack of bike routes throughout SE Seattle - the routes are less than ideal and mostly don't connect to destinations. North-south routes are difficult and scarce.

Businesses seem to be complacent with crime going on right outside.

1) There are too many old poorly maintained apt complexes in area. 2) Access to light rail is inconvenient if not on route. I do not see strong reason to catch bus to dt and transfer to light rail. Would prefer to have neighborhood shuttle service to light rail.

We have enough fast food, but it would be nice to have more sit down restaurants.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

I love my neighborhood, and struggle with criticizing it. But I'm worried about youth violence, and would like to see more community police officers being a presence in the community.

Safety is some what improved but needs a lot of work with all of the crime/shootings in the area. We could use more retail in the area and that won't happen until it is safer here. Ross on Rainier is a good thing for the community, even though it is north of Rainier Beach. SAARS is a depressing, low light, low ceiling grocery store.

I don't walk at night or on Cloverdale/Rose during the day (have been followed and witnessed solicitation of drugs/prostitution). Wouldn't walk to the Light Rail station alone because of the rough characters on Henderson. No local coffee shops--must walk or drive to Columbia City to get a nice business environment.

Rainier beach needs more upscale retail space

I dont see to much activities for kids to do around the park usually the park stuff is for very young kids. It see that it safe stuff for the kids but they should have other activities for kids that are challenges for them. It seem that the new building they are doing there is not to much parking at all. That is a problem. Not too many alternatives busiiness need more varieties of business. There is not much thing for kid in the community center to do it see it they same stuff from years ago need to implement other stuff.

I do not like gangs! I do not like gang related violence. RB High School does not reflect the needs of the community. We are losing several bus runs to force us to light rail. I will not allow my family to use light rail at the RB station unless they are escorted. The Henderson Gangway is not a viable access.

I wish there was a little strip mall or something. It would be nice to have a few actual restaurants to sit and dine in. Seafood or chinese. More variety.

There needs to be more commerce around light rail.

There's too much crime in a small area, and i see too many cars get broken into. My house had an attempted break in. Also I hate all the old ugly buildings that nothings going on except drugs and graffiti.

Transportation is terrible; the light rail is great, but to use it, you have to walk through less than stellar neighborhoods. It's not safe--I rented a house as my office space (I'm a freelance writer) while we were doing house remodels. It was broken into, my laptops stolen, and it took police 3 hours to get there because they are underfunded. The house was also shot--a bullet through the window and embedded into the wall opposite. I blame the drug dealers next door. Although we have some newer restaurants, the types of businesses moving in are not conducive to neighborhood building. Like an Autozone, rather than a coffeeshop or locally owned grocery store.

The intersection at 51st and Renton is a mess. When is DOT going to put in a traffic circle? This is a MAJOR problem.

constant drug deals outside of Safeway and mini-marts in the area are of huge concern to myself and family. there are also many burglaries in the neighborhood; we were victimized earlier this year.

There are some stores and restaurants, but everything looks rundown and, at times. It'd be great to have an area where families feel safe to walk around.

There are still vacant buildings and lots along Rainier Ave. S. (like the old colonial pancake restaurant) that make the area look blighted. Overgrowth of weeds and trash are common also along Rainier Ave. Graffiti and dumpy cars are still common. But the biggest issue is the increase of gun related crimes.

The Rainer Valley is still a pretty grim place. Walking along Rainier is unappealing and not always safe. I'd love to see the feel of Columbia City extend to the south.

Some areas of the neighborhood are not safe--unsavory elements abound (Rainier and Henderson/ Rite Aid and Saar's parking lot; Speedy Mart on Renton and 51st). The Kubota Garden parking lot isn't safe, especially at night. Car thefts are common. Gang violence, etc. There is a lack of services, though some nice new businesses have come in. I think this is slowly getting better, but even more walkability would be a huge improvement. Some businesses along Rainier still need some aesthetic improvements or should just be banned --ugly car repair shops, Pay Day Loans (Sharks!!), ugly apartment buildings on Rainier, etc.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The corner of Rainier & Henderson after dark is NOT safe & looks very scary. I don't walk or even drive around there after 7pm which is sad.

The buses need to connect to the train at Henderson. I have taken the train three times since it started with my two children and all three times we have had difficulty making it to the train. The walk between Henderson and the train is too far for people carry heavy bags, walking with small children, or people in poor health. However, the wait for the few buses that go to the train is also a burden. I only live 1 1/2 miles from the train. I should not have to take two buses when there is a bus terminal that could be moved 1/2 mile to meet the train.

The business district is still very car-focused (or even more car focused with the advent of the Safeway remodel -- which does not have the pedestrian focus as requested by the community). I think there should be some open space on the Chief Sealth bike path. There is a 3.2 acre house for sale (vandals burnt it last week) that would make a great park. There still is not a very good selection of business types in the area. Would like to see the new housing adhere to the recommendations put forth in the plan. Would love to see more bike lanes connecting to other neighborhoods. The thought of biking down Rainier or MLK scares me. Now, I can use bike path to get to Beacon Hill, but what about G-town? People are concerned about safety and police presence but I feel that if buildings were more pedestrian focused, that would take care of itself. There is still a very dangerous intersection at Roxbury that the community has asked help on. The DOT recommendation was roundabouts but the city council did not find the \$\$ for it.

While the transportation options have improved, the options to get to the transportation center hubs is as poor as it used to be and in some cases previous services are no longer available (some bus links have been terminated)

no great restaurants, no retailers, shops. Need a trader joes, target, and some locally owned restaurants like a Geradines, LaMedusa, etc. LOTS of crime in our neighborhood. People think it is scary down here. Friends with children dont want to live here because of the schools.

Bus service to the neighborhood getting reduced makes it difficult to take advantage of Light Rail. Crime & gang violence have increased in the last few years. No new business' have moved into the neighborhood. Development has stagnated, even before our current economic state occurred.

Focus on the crime. The crime is destroying a great neighborhood. Good people move out due to the high crime rates.

where are the new businesses and stores and places to eat?

Too much violence on Rainier in the Henderson area.

Crime will hamper any improvements to the community if that is not kept in check.

The commercial core continues to house a grim and dilapidated central section that reduces the viability of the core from being more than a collection of stores feeding off of the business their parking lots attract. Leadership in the form of a public/private partnership is needed to to develop this superblock of land zoned commercial bounded by Henderson on its north and Rainier on its west and south. Collaboration between smart city and commercial property planners could devise an overall further development that would make the RB Core a magnet for amenable retail and retail related activity, which could totally change the health and character of the Rainier Beach Urban Village.

needs improvement in all aspects, we have lost ground

Biking should be supported with infrastructure to encourage more bikes and less cars for inner-neighborhood travel. The Rainier Beach area along Rainier Avenue is relatively flat; could be a great place to bike with a bike lane. It still feels unsafe in Rainier Beach; recent murders suggest crime is increasing. Economic development hasn't kept up with neighborhoods like Columbia City. Too many abandoned lots or buildings in one area.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

It is not yet safe enough to walk from Light Rail to home along Henderson Street after dark. Librarians at the RB branch are incredibly rude and abrupt to patrons-- not just me. I have never seen anything like this at other branches, e.g., Green Lake, Col. City, NE Branch. Because of this kind of behavior and attitude, I don't patronize my neighborhood library even though the facility is close and beautiful. It would be very nice to have some coffee shops and more restaurants along Rainier Ave. not just KFC, McD and Burger King near the Safeway store. No one uses the Mapes walkway. Too easy to get trapped in there since it's blocked off on both sides.

The business district is unsightly and dirty.

My major concern is schools in our neighborhood as I have a 4 year old son who will soon be entering kindergarten. I do not want to have to leave our neighborhood, but will likely have to send him to private school. I hate that he cannot go to our neighborhood elementary school, but I refuse to subject him to that kind of chaos.

The new buildings are not necessarily inviting; poor signage. Many of the store fronts need a face lift. I would not feel safe walking from a bus stop to my home in the evening. I would not ride Sound Transit at night for that reason. I don't see much open space/park area. There are vacant lots in this area that could be dedicated to park areas.

The Bus Terminal on Henderson St. is dangerous to navigate through in a car or on foot. It should be re-designed so that the parked buses don't obscure so many driveways in the adjoining parking lot. The terminal should be moved into part of the Saars parking lot to open up Henderson. I don't yet feel that my family members would be safe walking home from the Light Rail station at night after work. A stronger police presence is needed to prevent criminals and complacency. This increased police presence should include old-fashioned foot patrols and bike patrols, since there are lots of foot shortcuts through Rainier Beach HS, Beer Sheva park, and Mapes Creek walkway. Crappy little convenience stores that sell high-gravity beer are catering to the wrong crowd. I'm looking at you, New Star mini mart. I'm also concerned about the number of foreclosed and vacant houses on Hamlet Ave. this year. Lots of Black families are moving out, and we're losing our diversity. How can we save the diversity of our community?

Regarding transportation, the light rail station is great, but not convenient or safe to get to. If I felt safe walking from my house on Seward Park Ave S. to the Henderson St. Station, then I would take light rail more often. As it stands, since I do not feel safe going to or from the station (especially after the sun goes down), I still use my car every day. Personal safety is a big problem in this neighborhood. There are often groups of young people hanging around with nothing to do except get into fights with each other or harass passers-by. The business district could be vastly improved if there were a larger variety of stores nearby (retail, restaurants in particular).

I would love to be able to see more areas in which we could walk to such as Columbia city. I would love for our neighborhood to have a little gathering area with restaurants, coffee shop and local shops.

there are regular shootings, gang activity, and other questionable happenings in the neighborhood and i do not feel safe to walk (especially alone) at night here. during the day, it seems fine. but night is a different thing entirely, or at least that is my perception. i would love to see this neighborhood support a natural food store. i would like to see more small specialty businesses--coffee shops, services, etc.--that are more concentrated and not so strung out. more walkable/bikable centers. we have some wonderful businesses here already; they're just scattered. i do not want to see big corporate chains move into this area.

Delapidated buildings and the lack of respect in certain parts of the neighborhood. Trash strewn about etc.

Re: Transportation. I am dissatisfied with the transfer from the light rail to a bus that will bring us to Rainier View. The bus does not come frequently enough. Re: Safety, we need a light at the end of our block, and Rainier View residents need a safe lit pedestrian friendly way to get to our bus stop since now we will have to walk to Beacon Ave to catch it. I would like Rainier View Elementary playground to be a safe place for our kids to play. We have no sidewalks or proper street drainage system. When we have heavy rains all the street run-off runs down and damages our gravel driveway.

Make it a place where people want to live and work.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

We live in the south end of Rainier Beach (Lakeridge) and over the last 3 years this area has seen an increase in business vacancies, homes becoming vacant, and fights occurring in the streets. Never do I see a Seattle Police Patrol Car, and only on rare occasions do I see the KC Sheriff patrolling (maybe 2x month).

I'm upset that the traffic circle at Renton and 51st was taken off the list.

There are no direct connections to the RB light rail station via bus. The closest that the bus will take us is to the Columbia City station. There's something very wrong with that. Police and 911 response is very poor. I believe that they are understaffed as the police we interact with are great.

It is too hard to get to the Henderson Station. The bus terminal should not be 3/4 of a mile away, that makes it practically impossible to walk there with my 4 year old son. Why was the bus terminal not changed to MLK to link up to the Light Link??

Police in the area seem like more of a threat. Response is only reactionary, and what patrol there is, remains aggressive, giving feel of police state rather than public neighborhood servants.

There are no bus routes that connect upper Rainier Beach to the light rail station. Hutchinson park needs better lighting.

I think that community partners/City Leadership would benefit from Institutionalized Racism training prior to developing plans for our neighborhood. I know that many community leaders from our neighborhood have worked hard for years trying to develop business/economy but are often thwarted by misconceptions, etc.

business district and shopping continues to be very limited

While safety has improved a great deal since we moved here, there is much work to be done. We need safer ways to walk in our area, better lighting in public places such as Fred Hutch Park. We have trouble with speeding cars going through our neighborhoods, and need help controlling traffic. We would like more choices for shopping other than Safeway. We would like to see things for youth to do, instead of just hanging around and getting into trouble.

Slum landlords, vacant homes, yards not maintained, RATS, need tennis courts, Saars Grocery store on Henderson - parking lot not kept clean.

I would like to see the fast food places go away and be replaced with independently owned restaurants and shopping stores.

Strip-Mall type appearance (Safeway, Saars Market, smaller business strips made of cinderblock). We used to live in Columbia City, and really miss the business district there. Really miss it.

overall appearance of community is worn down and dirty on MLK/Othello corridor.

Still too much speeding on Rainier Ave

I want our neighborhood to be more walkable- safer for pedestrians, fewer giant run down apartment buildings on Rainier, more services within walking distance.

Some of my neighbors do not feel safe in their homes due to burglaries, although I personally have not experienced this concern. I do not feel safe as a pedestrian along the Rainier corridor after dark. I am very disappointed in the maintenance of the new public space at the NW corner of Rainier & Henderson, and am very frustrated by the lack of maintenance by businesses along Rainier - there seems to be very little pride in "keeping things up" - landscaping is not maintained, etc. Too many huge parking lots along Rainier makes pedestrian experience unpleasant. I am also concerned that the #7 bus schedule be maintained so that I can use bus to connect to Light Rail.

It seems that most residents I know don't feel safe going out at night here. Even to the grocery store. That's not healthy and something needs to be done about it.

It has been dishearting to see lack of commercial business development and diversified housing options, seems like a lack of foresight on the part of developers. I would also like to see a better visually connection between Henderson and Lake Washington.

Need better designed multifamily housing on Rainier. Need more focus on retail in walkable parts of community.

Rainier Ave businesses and housing still in need of clean up and improvement.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Crime continues to get WORSE. Most of the cities shootings occur in the SE Seattle area.

There are a lot of improvements that need to be made in order for Rainier Beach to be all it can be. Safety is definitely a concern. As the plan states, revitalizing a business core (with decent shops and restaurants, not check cashing or auto shops) would also be beneficial and would likely increase community a whole. Access to light rail would also be beneficial through park and rides.

Public safety is the biggest dissatisfaction a lot of us have in this neighborhood. This includes the problem of gang violence and associated crime, and the apparently understaffed police in this area, at the top of the list, of course. But the lack of sidewalks, the absence of streetlights, and the persistence of abandoned vehicles and trash in many areas all contribute to the perception that Rainier Beach is at the bottom of the city's priority list much of the time. Frankly, we tend to avoid dining or shopping in the Rainier Beach business district (and our options there are limited, anyway) because it just doesn't seem like the safest spot to stroll around--we go up to Othello or Beacon Hill or farther out instead.

Not enough places to shop at. We have to go to Renton to do any major shopping

Public safety is a joke.

Rainier Avenue is a speedway. Othello Park is still scary. And while the police are seen cruising up and down Rainier Avenue, the brazen drug dealing and prostitution within steps of Metro bus stops in the vicinity of Othello/ Rainier is unfortunate, to say the least.

This part of town really is suffering in just about every aspect. Any improvement is usually delivered with a HUGE caveat. Such as Light Rail, that comes with serious curtailments in METRO service. The city appears to be treating this community as it WISHES it to be (more like other communities in Seattle), rather than HOW IT IS (very, very different).

Not your department but Seattle Public Schools are pathetic. Rainier Beach High School seems more like a way station, despite improvements to the building. Given the economic status of our community, the kids don't get the kind of home support that kids in wealthier neighborhoods do which makes it harder for the staff of the school. The racism that was fought in the 60's has turned into a socioeconomic issue today--rich vs poor.

trash collection along Henderson Street...who is responsible ? especially the outside fence along the sports fields

Our commercial district is sad. I love what Columbia City has done with their section of Rainier Ave. We could do the starting at Rainier and Waters (57th Ave S). The few businesses that do exist struggle because they don't have comparable businesses adjacent to them. Let's see more restaurants, small shops, cafes, and maybe a single screen cinema.

The diversity of the neighborhood is currently jeopardized.

traffic lights need to be timed better, driving me crazy

I think the business district could use more sustainability

Do we have a gang unit? Seriously, I would rather my wife go to the Renton Safeway than the one in Rainier Beach. The remodel was great, but the wondering groups of kids at all hours of the night is a little scary and quite frankly, not cool at all.

Shortsighted not to merge buses immediately with light rail, out of control youth a visible problem.

I wish that the police response time was faster when help is needed.

Crime is a huge problem. Unless it improves, we will definitely consider moving, despite everything we love about the area

Bring in new businesses and make this an area that young families feel safe to live.

Need Safeway on MLK remodeled. Business areas need updating. Need greater transportation options when bus won't go up hill (Renton Ave. South) during snow season.

Please build curbs and sidewalks through residential streets so people are not parked all over the place and pedestrians will actually have a place to walk safely other than on the road. Please monitor illegal dumping. Loitering in streets. More well lit areas, better street lights in neighborhoods so it can help to possibly deter crime when eyes are not watching.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

It's a terrible idea to have the hub of bus stops a half a mile from the link light rail station. All the buses should loop over and have a stop at MLK and Henderson. This seems like a no brainer. I'd love to take the light rail but by the time I walk to Rainier and catch a bus the rest of the way home it's over an hour from downtown.

our house was broken into on a Sunday afternoon and it took the police two hours to respond to our initial call. The business around MLK and Othello are not very inviting, bars on windows and doors and the outside sidewalks and storefronts are not the cleanliest. We need to somehow figure out how to boost pride in our neighborhood so that people make more of an effort in keeping it beautiful.

I am most dissatisfied with the level of violence in the neighborhood and lack of notification/communication regarding safety issues. On a much lesser note, I think there could be more businesses and restaurants on MLK near the light rail (I realize plans and construction are already being undertaken). Lastly, while not on the list, there needs to be some type of effort to clean the neighborhood of trash and waste. This could be related to parks and open space, but also safety.

Potholes and trees. There are lots and lots of potholes everywhere in our area. Some have been fixed, lots have not. More trees

Need better education and job creation so that the youth can be productive instead and succesful of idle and malcontent.

I would like to see more businesses in the area - coffee shop, retail store selling kids' clothing, yoga studio, etc., more like columbia city, while preserving the existing businesses

We need more businesses to move in. Poor bus connection to the light rail station.

I'm not really dissatisfied with the parks we have. I just think that this is an area that can continue to expand. How about making a wading pool near Rainier Beach Community Center. We need a place to hang out with familites and build our sense of community. More coffee shops near Henderson and rainier. The main thing, though, is to have more police available.

There have been published reports about the crime surrounding the Rainier Beach Safeway and I no longer go there as a result. The area around there is rundown and unwelcoming.

I work at the Museum of Flight - which isn't far but if I want to take the bus I have to take a bus to downtown Seattle and then transfer which takes about an hour. The drive takes about 10-15 minutes so taking the bus is not an option. The housing situation is not great. Lots of home owners had big lots and a change in the rules allowed them to sell off a portion and they were developed with new housing which doesn't fit in with the neighborhood architecture or streets system. Now we have several alley like ways or extended drive ways instead of streets. Hutchison Park needs decent and safe bathroom facilities, especially with all the scheduled ball games. We have no real business district. The community center is really run down and I've stopped using it. We still have a lot of folks speeding through the neighborhood as several streets were blocked off nearby so our street became a pass through. We still have a lot of drug sales evidenced by the number of plastic baggies scattered throughout my yard. There have been a lot of break ins, especially in the summer time. I often return home wondering if we've been broken into today. We recently had a neighbor killed while he watered the round about. Racial tension can be high at times. The intersection of 51st and Renton was to be turned into a circle but nothing happened. Using the intersection is pretty dangerous. Change happens very slowly in the south end. When I purchased a home here 10 years ago I thought things would improve more quickly but it hasn't. I have tried to be active in our neighborhood block watch and community meetings but in hindsight I think an investment in another neighborhood would have made more sense. I see my friends in other neighborhood living in safer, more attractive and better equipted neighborhoods than mine and it's some what depressing. 10 years is a long time.

We desperately need economic develoment and an innovative youth program strategy that reaches the area's children from an early age through the teenage years.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

The options for getting to the light rail are limited, and would take longer to get to and transfer than directly catching a bus downtown. We were REALLY disappointed that there is not a parking option or more direct bus routes to make taking the light rail more practical, and that bus service along Rainier will be reduced as a result of the light rail services. Rainier Ave S, from Columbia City to the Henderson intersection looks and feels dirty and dangerous. We don't walk along the street, unless we need to catch a bus. Bus stops are often dirty and full of garbage. Without curbs on some side streets, street sweeping is not an option, so debris and garbage pile up, making the neighborhood look even more run down. Poorly maintained non-descript businesses and residences with burglar bars make the area look run down. We thought green meridians were part of the neighborhood plan for Rainier Ave, but have not seen any progress on this. We hope to see new businesses and mixed use areas along Rainier Ave S like on Henderson. It would be a great improvement to make the neighborhood feel more walkable and safe. Replacing QFC with an ugly, security laden SAARS Market was a step backwards in the business district.

The light rail is very nice but it is disappointing that there are no Park and Ride lots nearby, no nearby commerce, and no convenient bus connections. The city was going to put in two traffic circles at Renton Ave S and 51st Ave S but it looks like that is never going to happen. Major roads are in horrible shape and pothole filling is not going to fix it. Maybe it's my imagination, but crime seems up- the body counts, the thefts, driveby shootings- Why do I continue to live here? What is the Rainier Beach business district? It is a disjointed hodge podge of poorly maintained storefronts. The only player who really works to keep it clean is McDonalds. And we still have no Tully's, Starbuck's or Independent coffee house.

Please improve the frequency and safety of the 106 bus route. Many of the businesses are shabby and rundown, especially on Rainier. Is there a way to enforce any basic standards of cleanliness and upkeep?

Concerned about City's review comments on mixed use developments that are not in the core of the neighborhood, but in the neighborhood nevertheless. The "classic" approach recommended, outside the core, by project managers do not reflect community needs or desires.

Rainier Beach is plagued by empty lots and ugly buildings. Because the business district is bisected by such a busy street, it doesn't feel walkable or pleasant and there isn't a wide enough variety of businesses to attract someone to the area. The light rail station is not tied in to the neighborhood in a meaningful way, and the promises of Henderson becoming a tree-lined blvd. leading to the light rail vanished long ago. Instead, there is a light-rail station in the middle of nowhere and a business district without meaningful connection.

There needs to be more areas in which residents feel safe after dark. With the infestation of gang and gang activity, this area is not safe after dark. Some of the businesses along MLK are deteriorated or have been in deterioration for some time. New, viable businesses need to be encouraged to come into the area.

I want to live in a neighborhood where my children NEVER hear gunfire. I want to live in a neighborhood where I can walk or bike to everything and never need to get in my car. I want to live in a neighborhood where it's safe for my children to walk to school, library, swimming pool, etc.

too much public housing in a very small area. new buildings are UGLY (See Sasaki Commons on 39th Ave S. and S. Kenyon for a perfect example). The business districts along MLK and Rainier are run down and resemble third world business districts.

It is still not entirely safe to walk in Rainier Beach at certain times of the day. The play structure at Beer Sheva is nice, but the bathrooms have been out of order for some time and I can tell you from personal experience, the portapotty has not been tended either. It would be nice if there was a central business area in Rainier Beach, rather than a random collection of shops along a very busy street (Rainier Ave).

it's not safe to walk at night in our area. i want to ride light rail to/from work but cannot safely walk from the station 2 blocks to my house when it's dark. there is not enough police support, huge issues with crime and violence. we regularly hear gun shots (weekly). we need more lighting along sidewalks (Renton Ave. for example) and more officers on the streets. we need to end the youth violence.

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Safety is a major concern now. I will not let my 14-yr-old daughter walk anywhere alone. I would NEVER let her take the bus from here alone. I am also angry that the city is cutting back on bus service on Rainier. Our family does NOT have the time to take a shuttle to the train, and then the train, then another bus or shuttle, etc. And the fact that the city has seemed that we should NOT drive to the train—no park and rides is utterly stupid! My husband and I would have loved to take the train to Westlake and then the monorail to attend theater, etc. at Seattle Center.

I am especially dissatisfied with the lack of new businesses & the community center is quite sad.

I have no use for crime and gang activity. We do not shop or use public services (including public schools) in our area if at all possible. We will not use Light Rail - RB station as it has no parking. Further, if we walk, we will need to use the Henderson Gangway to get to the RB station.

Crime, crime, crime. Unless the city does something about the gangs, rise in home burglaries and other crimes, nothing else will matter. On top of that, the new light rail has resulted in the loss of several needed bus routes and it is not safe to walk the several blocks to the rail. Bus routes need to be preserved and linked to the light rail for it make a positive impact.

You are right to focus on the poor quality of the business district. This is a beautiful neighborhood, but it needs more care and attention and the quality of business offerings is key to this transformation. We have prime waterfront (Atlantic City), and this would be a beautiful and scenic area for new restaurants, etc.

Substantial deterioration in both areas. Bureaucracies are simply not responsive and do badly.

Junked cars behind chain link fence. Garbage. Unoccupied businesses/ storefronts.

Need more on the street neighborhood patrols. Need more expansion of restaurants, stores. Need better sidewalks on sidestreets. Need better housing stock. There has been some improvement along Henderson Street.

There are no "destination" businesses or restaurants of substance located in Rainier Beach to bring visitors to the area. There are in Columbia City and Renton, but none in Rainier Beach. I'm concerned about the number of low-income housing that's being built. Low-income often means more crime and lower property values for home owners.

I want to cry every time I see the Link Light Rail, which means every day as I try to cross it to get to work. Because it was built at surface grade, it has now effectively sealed off the southeast corner from the rest of the city. Along the current LLR corridor, MLK NEVER WAS AND NEVER WILL BE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY - who wants to stroll along a giant boulevard that's devoid of any businesses? And frankly, I will never attempt to walk through the crime capital of the 'hood (Rainier Ave S & Henderson St.) to get to the LLR station. If I'd known LLR was going to be built, I would not have bought a house in this neighborhood. The area has more people and more crime than 10 years ago, while police presence has stagnated. P&Z needs to set some standards for new and existing buildings as well as signage. There are some buildings barely standing and in extremely dilapidated condition (many small churches and businesses) that are a blight on the neighborhood. Worsening the neighborhood is are new buildings going up that could not be more dull and unimaginative. The senior housing on Rainier is painted the most god-awful, ghetto colors. We need some oversight here so the southeast corner will not become east L.A. north.

i am not please with anything about the RB area. It is a hot mess. With the light rail they are about to screw up the bus transportation. Where I could commute from RB to the CD....taken. From Beacon hill to RB taken. Now I need to ride more then one bus just to get where I am going. Currently working on getting a car, because the transportation will suck after September 2009.

Why don't we get the same tender loving care that Magnolia Bluff, Mt. Baker, Madrona get?

Q2: What are you dissatisfied about?

Safety is a big issue in our neighborhood. Rainier and Henderson is anecdotally the most dangerous intersection in Seattle, and that's where my kids will be attending elementary school this Fall (the South Shore PreK - 8). I think we'll need improved police presence there. I also wish there was more family-friendly business in the immediate area. We need coffee shops, ice cream shops, news stands, restaurants, etc. to serve the influx of families attending school there as well as the Link commuters. I'm not sure if these businesses do not exist because not enough incentives for small business owners exist, or because of the safety issues (gangs). While Link is great, I do think in this particular neighborhood there should have been a park and ride option. I live 1 mile from the train station, and I would never feel safe, especially after dark, walking home. An increase in business development along Henderson would make this walk safer.

Rainier Beach Community Center is in need of major improvements including the swimming pool where my daughter takes classes. Need to provide facade improvement funding for business district. Need to promote more clean and green and beautification opportunities all through Rainier Ave.

Slow police response. Some people drive way too fast and cross the streets without caution. The outer appearance of some stores isn't adding to the neighborhood.

safety issues seem to be spiraling downward not improving. and even with the light rail, transportation is an issue because even considering to cut back on the 7 and not have it go up to upper rainier beach is truly unacceptable. Light rail is just not that accessible.

It would be nice to have more feeder buses to light rail.

Police presence lacking at locations of every day drug dealing spots. Lack of police patrolling Upper Rainier Beach neighborhood. I see 1 cop car every 6 months on our streets and I walk my dog 3 times a day every day in my neighborhood. Where is the police presence? Maybe this is why my neighbors and I keep getting our houses broken into!

Streets are dirty, not maintained, many buildings are not maintained well. schools need attention

We need better policing, safer parks and open spaces for our kids.

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

Having recently become aware of the Neighborhood Plan, I have not had sufficient time to observe whether or not the majority of the key issues are being achieved to my satisfaction.

Rainier Beach High School continues to struggle with enrollment and attracting excellence in academic achievement. The business area is not walkable and still seems sketchy. I want to support the local restaurants and stores, but their appearances distract and haphazard structures do not invite me in.

The only achievement is the light rail system which the neighborhood does not consider a success since it is unsafe for residents and will be inaccessible from the East side of community. The plan for business developed has brought only more pawn shops and loan shark companies which is a factor in increased criminal activity.

There is a lot of illegal activity compromising the good intentions of many of the projects emphasized in the Plan. It is hard to see an enhancement like the Mapes Creek walkway as being particularly successful when you walk to the library the long way around anyway to avoid the teenagers fighting or the piles of litter and broken glass on the walkway.

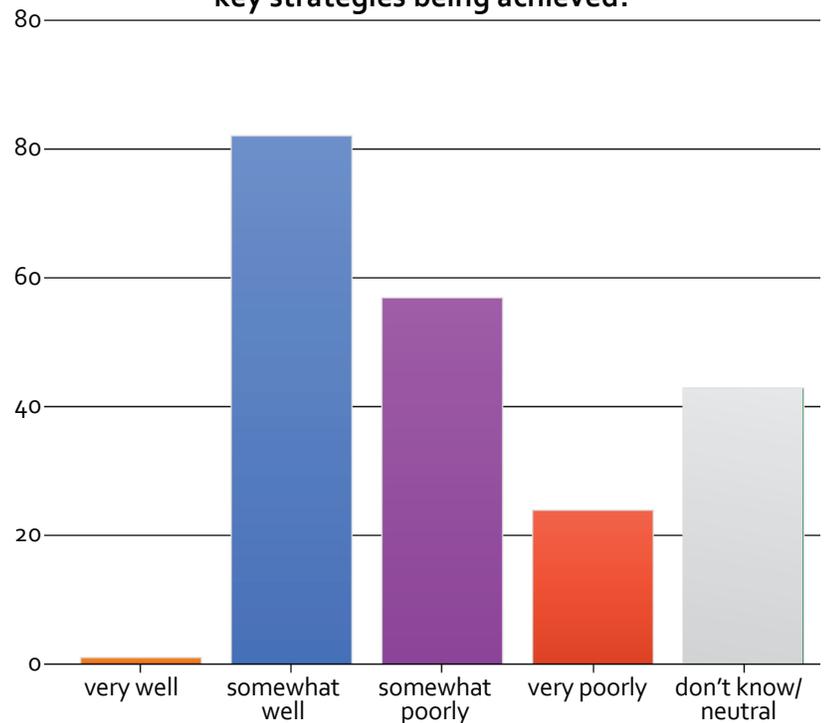
The City has invested a lot of money for public amenities in Rainier Beach since the plan was adopted but it doesn't seem to have done much to attract private investment and development.

Safety goals have not been met. The library, however, is very nice and we use it often.

Widening the sidewalks on Henderson does very little toward making Rainier Beach walkable. Other than that, R.B. feels unsafe and unpleasant.

Henderson is just now starting to come along, and it's still not great. I don't see much in the way of commercial core revitalization and community education.

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



Well looking at the plan, we did get a new entrance to Kubota Gardens, an overall of the Rainier Beach Library, the installation of a Light Rail stop and a walking trail and the Lake Washington apartments got landscaping and security fencing but our neighborhood still needs a great deal more to make it a community.

Change comes slowly and some changes have to come from the community, not the city government.

Upper Rainier Beach is not a part of the neighborhood plan and it has no vision according to this process.

The neighborhood is still affordable and wonderfully diverse. In many ways I find the neighborhood pleasant. Safety is an issue that I don't think has improved much. As for prosperous, I think that means the neighborhood should have a wide variety of educational and after-school opportunities for children and youth. The library and community center are nice, but I wonder if the public school children are receiving art, music, and other opportunities. The New School sounds like a great opportunity, but I think the high number of applicants that are turned away shows that there is some unmet demand for educational opportunities in the area.

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

The library and light rail are not area specific, those are city wide projects. This area need maintenance with frequency.

There needs to be more investment in the main business district. Without a stronger core for business, the rest is only window dressing.

One of the key elements of the SE Transportation study, the construction of a turn lane and reduction of through lanes to one in each direction from 52nd Ave S to 57th Ave S has apparently been abandoned. Vehicles continue to park partly on the curb and Rainier remains little better than a raceway from 51st to Seward Park Ave in terms of pedestrian safety.

You can't change the culture of a neighborhood through government. The citizens need to wake-up, clean-up their families, their communities, and their properties - and then take pride in what they have accomplished.

The 2006-08 Rainier Ave Safety Project reduced collisions by a whopping 1%. Need I say more?

As I stated there has been improvements made in the last 10 years. It is moving in the right direction.

Again, I am tired of the increase of crime. The notion of light rail increase access is just silly.

There seems to be a disconnect with police and the community regarding gang violence and how to deal with it.

Making South Henderson & Rainier Avenue a better place to visit should be key to the area. Right now it's not a safe corner but it's a key shopping area.

I don't feel like we've achieved many of the goals that were set. I've lived in this neighborhood for 25 years. There have been changes but it seems we always revert back to square one. I'll always hold out hope because I WANT to live in this neighborhood, and I want my family to be safe and have a sense of security when they're out about living.

The Rainier Beach Neighborhood has two major hurdles to overcome in order to begin to revitalize: 1) Improve the quality of housing stock 2) Improvement of Rainier beach High School 3) Attract businesses that people with disposable income will support

I don't see anything happening that's moving towards ""Beach Square."" The new construction at the Community Center might be linked there, but the poor conditions a half block away at the entrance to Mapes Creek walkway negate all that hard work. what's being done to promote education?

We need to focus on public safety and making the neighborhood pedestrian friendly FOR CHILDREN, not just adults (ie: 20 mph speed limits in the residential areas of the neighborhood).

safety, crime, school standards and tolerance

I know that community activists have worked very hard on improving our neighborhood in partnership with the city, but I think that there are many barriers to accomplishing the goals.

I haven't seen much change. It's a poor area, and we see a lot of things aimed at the poor, like payday loan places and so on.

Jury's out. Hope the best is yet to come. See the infrastructure being planted, hope development/ improvements follow.

Still waiting for more traffic circles

It's coming along, but what about the teens? There's nothing for them. Few programs or jobs. No one will move in amongst gang members until there is a PLAN.

The plan is too focused on the very center of the neighborhood.

The vision looks great, but it doesn't seem to be happening very quickly. Not sure what the time schedule is supposed to look like. The only difference that I can see is the area at the Community Center is improved, other than that, it all seems like lofty goals.

Things seem to really be changing for the better, although walking appeal and browsable store fronts, neighborhood gathering spots, bike and public transport all have a ways to go.

While some areas like Henderson are getting attention; other areas are still neglected, like south of Safeway or North of Henderson and Rainier Avenue.

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

City investment in business district is lacking. This 'update' restates investments that happened with in the last 10 years, were voted on 10 years ago and so forth. We have yet to see the huge investments in SE - of attention and channeling business etc that we have seen at SL Union. Or the investments were those the citizens decided to fund. Also, the alignment of city budget with neighborhood plans seems to have just disappeared for other agenda items.

"Promote education" still seems like a vague, feel good goal. I appreciate the investment in the school facilities (South Shore/New School) but the fact remains that parents are leery of their choices for both (public) elementary and middle schools in SE Seattle given the apparent weakness of the academic programs if scores were a sole criteria.

My neighborhood is now physically cut off from the rest of the city. It feels less safe and it looks like crap. Metro wants to cut the #39 bus out down where I live. What's next, de-annexation? I didn't see where the plan was to turn Southeast Seattle into a gulag.

I'm glad the pool will be renovated.

Crime is still an issue in RB. Storefronts are rundown. The roads are in poor condition. It seems that the city has invested a lot of resources in beautifying the areas around light rail but have neglected the other areas.

Feel there's been very little movement in the last few years. I feel that the city should be concentrating on this rather than updating plans. Still so much to be done!

There's a long way to go before shopping becomes a pleasure in Rainier Beach--in the day time, high school students not IN school are unfriendly; I've sworn never to go into the Rite Aide again (between rude service and pan-handling); my neighbor was intimidated into leaving the Safeway gas station by other patrons because of his race (white). There are no desirable local hang-out spots to grab coffee with a friend. I don't recall seeing any Community Education promotions, and public bus transportation is actually be reduced on Seward Park because of the Light Rail (which I don't feel safe walking to via Cloverdale any time, and not at dark via Henderson). That said, the Lake Washington Apartments have improved; Kubota Gardens is a treasure and the gated entry is beautiful.

South Henderson and Rainier Avenue has nice sidewalks and better lighting - but the landlords need to be held more accountable for keeping up their properties and it's still a very unsafe area at night. I haven't seen any improvements in Beach Square. As for the education issue, a central focus should be on Rainier Beach High School.

I'm not sure what the plan vision is for Rainier Beach

vision of a ""pleasant and safe neighborhood"" is not yet met in my mind. Key strategy of Commercial Core revitalization is incomplete - commercial uses currently in place are all auto-centric (not pedestrian friendly) and there isn't much there. Auto accidents and shootings continue.

The improvements are great, but there are many issues that we still have with safety, cleanliness, and transportation.

If the plan is in middle age, I don't see many changes except the apt. construction on Henderson in the wake of Light Rain development and the tree planting that went with that, which is really nice. The priorities remain. Mapes is a nice idea, but is not well used because of its design and the fact that it connects 2 grocery stores--it doesn't really take people anywhere.

Some people are moving out of the neighborhood because they cannot afford housing or are tired of gang activity.

There have been many positive changes, but we must not lose the diversity of Rainier Beach in the process.

Park and Library improvements have improved the quality of life for Rainier Beach residents. The walking improvements on Henderson Street are a good start to making our neighborhood a better walking neighborhood.

it is very competitive for funds, we are less affluent, and more minorities and immigrants so do not get heard. It is good that we have a coordinated plan, any plan is better than none ...

Light rail has made it, Safeway is a big improvement

Yes, the improvements seem consistent with stated key strategies.

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

First I have even heard of there being a plan for Seattle neighborhoods

we need someone to clean garbage along rainier ave. s. and even in renton. Make sure graffiti is removed quickly.

Need for safety

Poverty and crime have blurred the "vision".

I see that the very last areas of South Seattle have really not been addressed-upper Rainier Beach until it becomes Skyway.

Link Rail is great, but access from neighborhood to stations very poor. Need car to drop someone off, distance to walk too far. Not enough car harbors for fast drop off at all stations.

Businesses at this end are not catring to the communities needs. We go out to Columbia City for restaurants and do grocery shopping in Renton or at PCC. No place to get coffee on the way to work.

Rainier Ave is a great drive and has so many people traveling along it, if there were better services people would use them!!

Having read the accomplishments for 2002, 2003 and not seeing anything more updated, I guess I missed reading about the latest accomplishments. Seems like there may be a stand still. I know the police are always willing to come out to help with burgarly---we still have too much crime, I really want the Casinos in Skyway to be gone--they attract the criminal element--along with the Bowling alley. We use to bowl as a family but things have changed for the worse with too much gambling.

I still see gangs. I still see crime. I do not see viable businesses coming in

Crime is getting worse and the transportation aspects are poorly planned.

Safety!

Henderson development, work on parks, south shore school campus development going well.

Can always do better! A dog park at Othello park would increase the RIGHT kind of people and decrease the dodgy characters... Still lots of litter, loitering, at rainier and henderson and still lots of violent crime there.

The transportation for the neighborhood is improving.

Henderson is not safe.

I feel that the city is doing a good job of trying to revitalize run-down buildings and ensure that vacant lots are being used for additional/new housing developments. Population density is only part of the solution to having a strong community, though. We also need businesses that will be a "draw" for people (no more pawn shops, nail salons, check cashing places) and we need to be able to access public transportation (i.e. light rail) safely and easily. As it stands, many of my neighbors are not utilizing light rail because it's not convenient or safe enough to get to and from the station.

Efforts to improve the Henderson Street corridor are underway, and I am willing to "wait and see" how it improves as the light rail becomes more of a factor in our neighborhood. I know there have been some efforts at revitalizing the commercial shopping area, but I wish there were more of a focus on making them pedestrian-friendly. Huge parking lots between the streets and the stores seem like magnets for trouble in this area, and are unwelcoming to anyone walking over to the district from the light rail station.

I think with the recession, it's just going to take longer to achieve the vision.

The biggest accomplishment has been around the light rail stations. There is still so much work to do in relation to community education and outreach and commercial revitalization.

The first sentence of the vision describes a pleasant and safe community - we need a more specific strategy around safety and partnership with law enforcement (their presence currently happens after "incidents" in a responsive manner rather than through a proactive partnership).

According to the Strategic Plan outline, it is unclear what measures are being taken to meet such goals. Community activity could be made more public, and/or advertised. Safety measures are absent from Plan outline.

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

Close to the mark but not quite there. Future light rail expansion planning would be really nice. Perhaps a line that runs from Tukwila to the S Henderson Station.

There continues to be good community involvement in Rainier Beach as with the plan, and groups like the Coalition are doing what they can, but all of the problems outlined in the plan continue, and the vision and strategies are still pertinent.

Regarding strategy A, I think the strip along Henderson Avenue is improving greatly, especially with construction of the new high school and the affordable housing redevelopment across the street. It is easy to get to the new light rail station from there. Regarding strategy B, it still has a long way to go. This seems to be a goal that could best be achieved through redevelopment and land use enhancements of existing parcels (mixed use retail along Rainier and Henderson, for example). I don't know enough about strategy C to comment.

Rainier Ave S, north of Henderson until Columbia City is a mess. Unsafe, dirty and not pedestrian friendly. Mixed use buildings don't seem to be appearing along that corridor, and there was supposed to be traffic calming, green meridians installed. In the improvement along MLK Jr Way, Rainier Ave S seems to have been forgotten.

Rainier Ave S feels unsafe for families and other pedestrians. Businesses with burglar bars and dark small entrances are unwelcoming, and our family does not enter them.

Cars travel way too fast along Rainier Ave S, cutting through Cloverdale, Wabash Ave S/Rose St., and Seward Park Ave (including police cars), making it unsafe for kids to play in the neighborhood.

Violent activity seems to be increasing, gun shots heard fairly frequently, people hanging out at bus stops, and walking and congregating on the streets at night.

The Light Rail gives the area a new look. A new school is being built. Some new or remodeled housing.

just having moved here nearly two months ago, i don't know that i can rate this one. i have traveled through the neighborhood more. but even then, i don't think i have enough knowledge to answer this question.

Question 3: Please describe the priorities for your neighborhood.

See above comment.

I wasn't part of the process 10 years ago, so it is hard to say. Since we moved to Rainier View (from Columbia City) I have not been able to figure out what neighborhood we should be part of. Rainier View definitely does not feel like it is incorporated into Rainier Beach, let alone the City of Seattle. Many times, we feel more apart of Skyway/West Hill. I would like to have the vision better incorporate Rainier View.

Need to address business development (not more "mom and pop" stores) to generate public presence and safety on our streets and revenue for our community.

Safety and walkability are my top two priorities.

The priorities listed are okay, but I think safety, walkability, and accommodating gentrifiers without displacing current residents are at least equally as important. There should also be a priority on getting more shops and services in the area, particularly on Rainier between Kenyon and Graham.

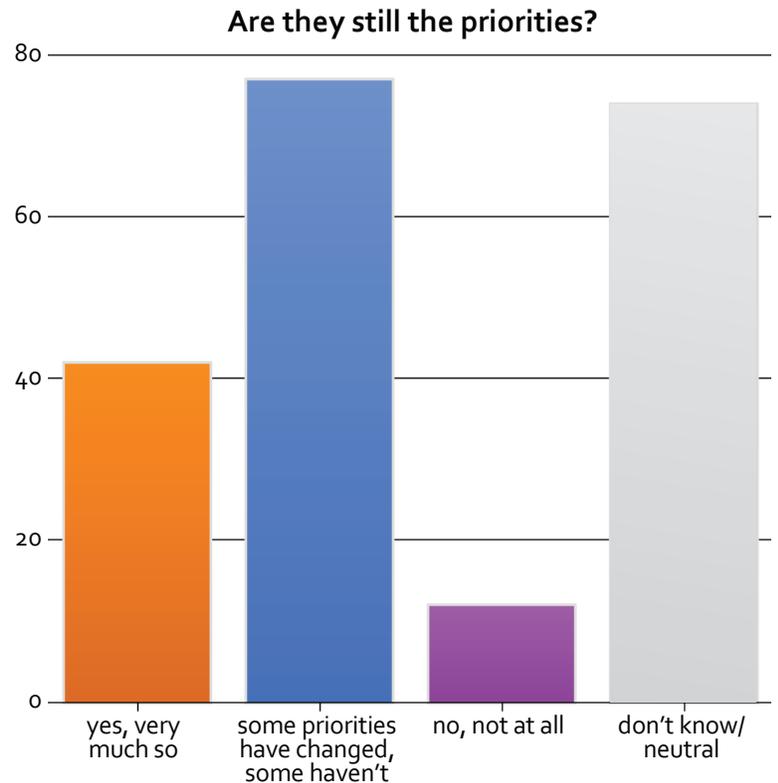
We really need an overall to the 51st and Renton Ave intersection. It is not safe. We also need a real business center which would bring our neighborhood up to par with neighborhoods in the north end.

With some major physical accomplishments, it's time to focus on making a safer, tighter community.

Unfortunately, our area has not been included in the neighborhood planning process and does not have an official set of priorities

While the city has done a fair job in supporting the upgrade to Henderson, the revitalization of the commercial core has been hampered by the giant parking lots and high vehicle speeds along Rainier.

I think that we should be realistic and maybe take another look at what needs to be on the top of the list. While there are many things, I think that some are more immediate.



It seems that they only come to the "hood" when something bad happens. I would like to see the street/sidewalks cleaned more often.

Increasing safety and preserving our diversity should be emphasized. Many outsiders' perception of Rainier Beach are that it's an unsafe place to live.

The priorities of any resident just don't align with the bulk of the text in the plan. Parks and green-space are great. But not when you're not safe to sit or allow your children to play there. When you are approached by drug dealers or gang members every time you turn around, it is just not a pleasant experience. The business development described is nice, just don't see details for delivery on those plans. Ditto for schools and education.

Safety and walkability are the two that in my view should be the focus.

The priority to whom?

For who -- my neighborhood or the city planners?

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

In addition to economic development at "Beach Square", I'd like to see more mixed-use residential & commercial sites in Upper Rainier Beach/Skyway. I think the demand is there for a few corner stores, like a coffee shop, bakery, or other casual community meeting place. I don't mean Starbucks! I mean local businesses. Right now I live in this void where there are no businesses within a 1 mile walk. It's about 1.5 miles to the library/community center. And nothing in the other direction until you get to Renton. Also, I think our area would benefit from a farmers market or produce stand, where people could get fresh produce. That would be a great business to have in Beach Square.

Ya gotta make the place safe

We need to continue working on good schools and community access to education, make Rainier Beach High School thrive again. We need to support the Rainier Beach Community Center in all their efforts to reach out to everyone in our area. We need to encourage use of public transportation by making it safe to walk to, safe to wait for busses, and links to light rail, that are convenient. Commercial development efforts need to improve to encourage business to travel southeast. The demographics of 98118 have changed a great deal and so should the businesses in this area as well.

business dist improvement. What about recruiting business to SE. What about the \$250,000,000 in dollars SE residents spend in Renton and Bellevue, South Center each year (for many years) because we don't have enough good and service in SE? What about the \$25 Million in tax revenue the city loses each year because city residents have to leave the neighborhood to purchase stuff. What about a city general fund investment (instead of block grant) that would allow business dist improvement including physical beautification without engaging Davis Bacon. It would be good for Seattle to take a look at Portland PDC Commission, quit using the old lending of credit excuse and figure out some new ways to make things happen to improve biz districts.

Safety needs to be prioritized; along with economic development and improving schools in the neighborhood.

The city really needs to get a handle on the gang scene in RB and the resulting crime - assaults, robbery, burglary, drugs and prostitution.

I think safety and crime reduction might edge out all the other priorities, but wish the ones in the summary were being fully achieved.

increasing safety should be key in this area. one way to do this is adding more street lighting. and property upkeep should be enforced along the main walk areas - like Henderson, Rainier Ave, Renton Ave, MLK, etc. Overgrown brush covers sidewalks, abandoned cars are everywhere, trash is dumped and left.

Same as above

Question is not clear - the vision and key strategies are good but vague; they are still priorities to me but they do not appear to be priorities for the City.

Increasing safety should be a number one priority, though. Improving other transit options (other than the great new Light Rail) should also be a priority.

I think we need to discuss how people will get from Light Rail to their homes without feeling vulnerable or unsafe after dark. This also includes feeling safe walking to the community center and the library after dark. The SPD have identified Henderson/Rainier as a 'hot spot.' Drive by shootings and drug dealing are common there. We're seeing more neighborhood break-ins where I live. Fortunately our neighborhood is getting organized and making positive linkages with the police. We also need to continue to prioritize reaching out to youth in RB.

We need to focus on education and safety more. We need to continue with improvements to the business district. We also need to focus on the traffic improvements to Henderson street and add specific priority to get the members of our neighborhood to the light rail and home from the light rail safely.

More public info about how to get involved. Getting re-involved in my block watch may give me access to that info, too.

They are a priority for the residents, but not the city.

Continue to strive to make neighborhood feel safe, while needing better retail.

We'll see with budget cuts. The Mapes creek walkway is good example of project strategy lacking priority.

Q3: What are your neighborhood's priorities?

Yes would like to see more Police on foot walking the neighborhoods

A number of elements have been completed, new ones have emerged.

Improve the businesses and the community will have chances to interact more!!

i'm not clear about what the question is asking specifically

Get rid of the gangs. Stop the crime.

Need to prioritize economic development and community development. Esp small business, walkable retail and services.

Better links to the light rail system and more programs for youth at risk; more police presence!

See comment above related to safety.

Public transportation is changing the public sphere to include more commuters. How will the plan meet the safety and business interests of the growing commuter population, as well as the surrounding grids that are directly effected by the advent of the Light Rail and a changing dynamic in transportation?

See previous comments regarding local police "efforts" to maintain order. Suppression of hostility is only met with hostility, and thus the cycle ensues. I would like to see less police, but more effective practices of serving the public needs.

I think strategy B should still be a strong priority. As the neighborhood continues to improve, preserving neighborhood affordability will emerge as a priority as well. I also think that community empowerment is a priority- providing for leadership opportunities among the residents already living there, and working with them to help develop neighborhood capacity for jobs (both in what is offered and it what skills residents of the neighborhood have).

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

Stopping Crime and Gangs.
Creating successful public schools

Development patterns with respect to the existing and planned Transportation networks. Public Amenities and affordable housing as a component of new development as well as being addressed as individual components of the plan.

public amenities should include schools; and how many of our children are attending school in the neighborhood;

Bureaucracy should be responsive. Metro should coordinate with itself and light rail. IT DOESN'T.

Business development and public safety

Public Safety.

we need transportation that works. i love the light rail; but my senior citizen neighbors won't use it because it's a mile away down a hill. And we need good affordable housing.

There should be more focus on quantifying what private development has happened in the last 10 years. And what business have closed or left.

safety, youth violence, keeping garbage off the street and community activism.

Crime, public safety, beautification, transportation safety.

demographic balance

Leveraging the light rail to create retail and housing density. Safety issues.

crime

improving traffic flow at the intersection of 51st and Renton Ave. Providing safe permanent bathrooms at Hutchinson and Kubota Garden. Improving the community center or rebuilding it. Building a business center.

Traffic safety. The lane reformat on Renton Ave and Rainier Ave has slowed traffic slightly, but is not safer. Not a day goes by that I am not passed on the right or left for going too slow.

crime prevention

Reality

SPECIFICS related to economic development and education

safety, cleanliness, urban forest

Outlying areas of the neighborhoods.

Alternative transportation, making the area between MLK and Rainier more walkable, business development... do we really need another car mechanic or parts place in our neighborhood? Making Rainier Beach more of a destination for our businesses.

Neighborhood Beautification, Public Safety and Facade Improvements

safety

safety, attractive businesses and public places

Safety, especially visible police presence. Traffic calming, to make Rainier a more pleasant place to spend time and do business. Encouraging new businesses to open in the business district.

Smart development. High density housing is great. But without good parks/public spaces it becomes a zoo. New Holly looks like a nice place and a good plan to emulate.

living/shopping/being in a nice place (if Rainier Beach were a nice place)

safety

Crime

Schools

Business Development and Economic Improvement

Safety.

safety, sense of community

crime prevention, home ownership

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Crime Control, Neighborhood maintenance

Safety and crime prevention and stop dumping all the poor in 98118

More frequent street sweeps and litter pick up the place is a dump

Traffic safety and installing the roundabout on 51st

Safety and crime. Also, getting more businesses opened locally by providing as secure environment for them to operate.

Safety, education, safety in the affordable housing complexes, Rainier Beach needs help in all areas.

Safety of residence/reduction in crime/gang violence

SAFETY! And developing a business core.

Crime prevention and neighborhood safety

things for kids to get involved in

public safety and local school improvement

Affordable housing, viable businesses, safer streets.

safety

Crime prevention, Safety with the new light rail, and community involvement to bettering the city.

Schools, libraries, businesses and housing. Most importantly the safety of the community. Please provide translation and interpretation when sending important information regarding community well being.

Environmental Changes--Community where we can walk safe sidewalks, well lit. More community resources for youth socialization. Economic development (Ross Dress for Less is not economic development--friendly climate for small business. Reinstitute gang unit and community policing in our neighborhood. Transportation to and from light rail. At the moment, it's difficult to get to. All the natural beauty in our neighborhood, the wonderful neighbors, the new restaurants and cafes.

Crime.

crime

EVERYTHING. safety, education, community, security.

Teach people to cross in crosswalks and to respect people who are in crosswalks.

Help teens see value in not being gangsters.

Areas for youth to go and new business development.

crime prevention-patrols

Creating a plan with action steps, timelines, and lead agencies

Housing. Is it possible to get affordable housing for working people. Honestly, I work....make about \$40,000 a year, but for a 2 bedroom 2 bath home, I am paying more than \$1,000.00 a month. Anything less than that is rat/roach motel.

Safety

Accurate crime figures.

Safety.

Making the neighborhood pedestrian friendly for children.

Decreasing crime--NO GUNFIRE!!!

I know this is not a City of Seattle issue, but this is where partnerships come in--Rainier Beach High School needs to attract more students from the area. It is dreadfully under enrolled and at risk of closing. There are plenty of students in the area to populate it. How could the Dept of Neighborhoods and Seattle Public Schools work together to draw more neighborhood residents to that school?

crime, safety, and schools

Parks and open space

Effective Policing: Reinstate the gang unit, and community police officers. Work in conjunction with the schools to address issues of gang violence and black on black crime--this type of crime hurts everyone. Since the city abolished these programs gang violence and petty crimes have risen drastically.

Marketing our neighborhood's beauty and strength, the natural beauty, and neighbors who really care.

The awesome food in local restaurants.

safety and walkability

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Having quality businesses & restaurants in Rainier Beach. Less vacant properties or businesses that move out and don't keep up the property.

continue to improve and expand Kubota Garden, improve the commercial area (needs drastic help), traffic calming, increased attention to public safety.

transportation, clean up of existing and for sale properties, incentives to get businesses in these sale properties ...

transportation, public amenities, shops and restaurants for the general public who want more than asian markets and dollar stores.

A park and ride south of the station on MLK. Mixed use development, more retail on Rainier and MLK. Landscape- median at Rainier- clean up!!!

Community education and safety

schools

A plan for teens. More community outreach, "officer friendly" patrols, jobs or job training.

Reducing crime first of all, then more options to get people to and from the center of the neighborhood from the outlying residences and not just to downtown Seattle.

More focus on making the neighborhood safe and pedestrian friendly. We need more sense of gathered community and a place to make that happen.

Bike paths *as a form of transportation and committing*
Developing retail core that isn't based around driving/parking
Access to the rail station
Sustainable density

Telling the truth about how your outreach process has failed. The notion that this process would be 'more inclusive' than NP was in the 90's. We get an email from our community police officer asking us to reply. City outreach has not worked.
Could have done a better job updating demographics- what about the american communities report?

Safety; economic development; improve neighborhood schools

1) Safety as it relates to light rail. Sound Transit can't do it all.

2) Positive opportunities for business development and those businesses that serve families in the area.

At risk and low income families and youth. We don't have the services and resources we need for the percentage of low income residents. We need a commitment from the city to support at risk youth, innovative programs that support training and present options. We have the base for community support, we need leadership and resources from the city.

We also need economic development.

Youth & community safety

Activities for youth

Access to Light Rail

Revitalization of area by partnering with long standing community orgs.

Public safety and reducing crime

Attracting quality business and shopping venues

Providing avenues to home ownership so people can develop pride and responsibility in the neighborhood

After and summer school programs

Planning and zoning design standards

Crime and drug dealing

Deal with gang activity. Provide opportunities for kids to have positive activities. Most schools need vast improvements as well.

public safety, road/traffic safety, street/sidewalk maintenance and improvement

Jobs. I thought that was one of the prerequisites to being an urban village.

Safety/Crime reduction/Truancy at Rainier Beach High School/Encouragement of local small businesses (not just chain grocery and drug stores)/Beautification of Rainier Ave

Connecting people to light rail - buses criss-crossing the neighborhood. Youth outreach - reduce violence, engage young people at school and community center. Affordable housing - improve RB for the people who already live there!

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

affordable housing at the 50-80% AMI levels to balance out the amount of housing at under 30% AMI. There should be an increased focus on home ownership programs targeted for this community for people up to 80% AMI. There should be a strong focus on holding landlords accountable for the upkeep and appearance of their property. There needs to a focus on crime and violence reduction and increasing safety particularly for pedestrians. We desperately need an upgraded community center that really serves the whole community.

retail/community space that encourages walking

pedestrian experience along Henderson and along MLK & Rainier; safety; bussing to support light rail

crime prevention

Safety, not just pedestrian safety as the improvements have focused on. Increased police presence.

safety and business development

General upkeep of the public utilities, roads, sidewalks and parks.

at risk, vulnerable youth--creative uses of the \$9 million fund focused on SE Seattle involving groups like Seattle 180.

Public safety--from the light rail station to Henderson/ Seward Park intersection. Consider a shuttle bus?

affordable housing and decrease in violence

Keeping the diversity of the neighborhood intact and stopping the growth of vacant homes and businesses.

transportation

transportation: connector buses from neighborhoods to the Light-Rail

When looking at demographics, development patterns and housing affordability there should be more focus on the institutional racism leading to a disproportionate number of black families currently facing foreclosure, or losing their rental homes.

making use of the light rail

Safety, business district

better transportation to upper Rainier Beach
decent grocery stores and other business where one can walk to and not be so dependent on cars.
remove the ordinance on building 2 dwellings on one lot.

business development, affordable housing, safety

opportunities for citizen involvement in day to day activities

transportation

Making getting around by public transportation a truly convenient alternative to using private vehicles. Recognition that it is the people who are doing the walking, not the planners.

SAFETY!! And better access to light rail. Right now, we would be required to change buses before getting there and it's just not time effective for many of us.

delivering as promised and if not able, explain

communication to the neighborhood about the changes

Safety and growing businesses

Schools; public safety; litter; parks

Crime

safety and business development

business district, safety, housing

SAFETY

safety and concerted effort to deal with gangs and getting youth programs established and those in existence, enhanced.

cleaning up and beautifying the area. So much natural surrounding beauty it's a shame we can't keep it cleaner. Bury the power lines!!

-diversified housing choices

-pedestrian oriented connections between parks, housing, commerce.

transportation issues

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Reducing crime. Getting rid of the gangs. Figuring out a way to add parking near the rainier beach light rail. I'm not going to drag my young children on a bus to the train. I only live 1 mile from the train, but I can't figure a way to get me and my kids there. How about a place we can park our bikes at the train station without getting them ripped off? How about more fun places to bring the kids - skateboard park, water parks, etc.

Safety

Safety and business development

business development

SCHOOLS! and safety.

getting faster police response to crime

public safety

Safety in the neighborhood

transportation to and from the rail from neighborhoods like upper rainer beach

there are back alley ways that need to be paved. most of them are dirt and uneven which means the will scrape the bottom of the car. Anyway we can get them paved?

Education

Homelessness and housing affordability. Activities for young people and places for them to go should be provided to a greater extent,

Rainier Beach should also consist of Bryn Mawr, Lakeridge and Skyway as these smaller neighborhoods are bedroom communities to the greater Rainier Beach area.

Crime prevention

Transportation networks.

Public amenities, street safety within the neighborhoods

safety, and safety education

increasing citizen responsibility for neighborhood

safety

neighborhood safety, including more and better social services, interventions for kids in school.

More police officers on the beat and more emphasis on the gang unit. More effective policing of property crimes too. So many professional people I know are about to leave (or have left) this area just because of the crime. No use riding the rail if you are afraid to walk the streets at night. And the city released a level 3 sex offender and placed him on our block at the same corner as the major bus stop for the neighborhood. We were not notified and he is still there, most neighbors don't know. I spoke with a SPD parole officer and he told us to lock our doors 24 hours a day because the guy is insanely violent and is expected to rape again- what the hell?!

Business development, urban village core development

Public safety

Seeing what can be done to make Skyway casinos disappear.

gangs and crime - public safety

Neighborhood transportation to connect us to Light Rail. For example, neighborhood shuttle busses. More community opportunities for the foreign born to learn English.

Crime prevention and gang control.

Real solutions, rather than quick-fix, short term political ones...

Walkable retail and services. Bus/public transportation connection to the train station.

crime statistics, home ownership/property values, ratio of social service agencies to retail/resturants.

Gang violence, job creation and reducing the number of rentals.

Attracting businesses to the area that promote more of a community feel, crime prevention

...police patrols and making our neighborhood safe. When 2 hooded kids can walk up to my porch and try to get my wife to open the door in the middle of the day, there is an issue!

Q4: Status reports should focus more on...

Safety -- as mentioned previously, we need to be able to move about our neighborhood at different times of the day and feel safe doing so. This is currently not the case.

completion of projects with realistic goals

Stopping crime in the area.

safety and security - gang related violence
bus service

Business development and neighborhood cleanup.

Safety, retail development, open space and parks for families.

Safety.

development patterns

More police. Increasing safety. Getting repeat offenders off the streets.

Gang-related violence and how to deal with it to make the streets safer for the majority of residents.

Development and development patterns.

Safety, community building, and commercial revitalization

Peace, prosperity, voice, change.

Continued support of the parks. I.E.: Lakeridge park, Kubota Gardens and Lake Washington improvements. Expanded bus lines that were synchronized to support the existing Light Rail.

It would be interesting to see a comparison between the different neighborhoods in terms of achievement so that people could determine which factors were instrumental in success--community support, business, City investment, achievable goals, etc. Also, a focus on the degree of change instead of the "snapshot" model in terms of demographic and census information.

community development, capacity building of current residents, preserving affordable housing and promoting home ownership. Also, completing bicycle infrastructure (connecting bike routes to Columbia City for example). Revitalizing the commercial core and attracting suitable retail businesses to the neighborhood. Crime prevention and community policing.

Business and mixed use building development.
Making the community more safe and walkable
Education.
Community outreach efforts

Safety, cleaning up and developing Rainier Avenue with new retail and mixed use

Development patterns, public amenities

walkability (commercial district, henderson street), preventing gentrification, neighborhood festivals and events that bring people together, education!

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

Light Rail - unless of course - they make the Henderson/
Rainier Ave South area crime free

Light rail ... it is done, although not well

All of it needs attention.

The status report seems to be taking credit for things
that were totally separate, e.g. Libraries for All. Mapes
Walkway is a nice idea, but it is unkept and lonely.

diversity - everyone knows that there are many different
races, cultures, ideologies/ housing is already affordable
here. there should be a better balance between rent/own
so people would have more accountability or ownership
in the neighborhood.

The Chief walking trails. I probably won't use them. I
am not interested in hiking under major electrical power
wires/source.

The Chief Sealth Trail is a silly idea. Who wants to go
hiking and biking under power lines?

Platitudes

"Urban Villages"

Think Rainier Beach has significant needs all around. A
holistic approach is needed in order to Rainier Beach to
close the disparities and eliminate bad reputation that it
has.

density

Henderson street: a job well done by the city, the light rail
should encourage improvements from the private sector
as the economy recovers.

transportation to get out

Parks and Recreation, at least until every improvement
isn't being claimed as a new gang/youth hang out.

affordable housing - we have enough thanks

diversity

Tearing down and then building new schools

New curb & gutter project

Has there been any focus?

The Rainier Beach Library was just remodeled not too
long ago, why does it need to be remodeled so soon?

light rail

BUilding condos thinking that will change everything

This community is in need of major focus on all level so
there isn't anything that I would recommend focusing
on less because that's how bad Rainier Beach needs the
attention.

Every single crime, reported, made a big deal about so
that people think of RB as "a bad neighborhood" when
nothing.

unsure

Creating a vision with no foreseeable means of
implementing that vision

Keep the rest in there.

Housing density/affordability. We already have more
apartment buildings than other areas of the city. We
also have a higher proportion of low income apartment
buildings than other areas of the city. We need to focus
on improving quality of life for the residents that live here
before focusing on moving more people in.

Looking at our neighborhood through distorted lens
of institutionalized racism. Because a community has
diversity does not mean it is inferior, a perception that
gets reinforced by media/city etc.

Low income housing.

housing affordability

Open space

Maintaining status quo vis-a-vis avoiding density

Q4: Status reports should focus less on...

We were told that 3 SE neighborhoods would have plans reviewed, now the request to all villages to update the city. Why do you spend the little dollars there are redoing replanning, reasking, what the citizens designed- why not finally invest as we asked you to? The planning commission has been out for focus groups, the auditor, why can't the city just make some neighbor voted on improvements instead of spending the resources every 2 years on this?

Transit integration, park beautification [love parks, but not at the expense of other priorities]

Graffiti
Whatever neighborhood the mayor lives in

Safety

art (sculptures)

the ordinance on building 2 dwellings on one lot.

High income housing

gentrification

MLK Avenue businesses. Light Rail is up and it's time to look beyond that one strip needing assistance and development.

any other subject.

Social services

light rail

development

Street signs and banners

what they WANT to do or envision that doesn't seem to get done

Housing affordability.

Control, division, silence, acquiescence.

stats

Infrastructure improvements and community investments (with the exception of bike infrastructure mentioned above)- it seems like the vast majority of focus has been on this, which is fabulous and has been much needed, but seems to have been largely achieved.

The MLK Jr Way along the light rail looks great (except for the Safeway corner)

Let's focus on Rainier Ave S now...

?

not sure.

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

Sort of irrelevant and more of an ad than anything else.

Public amenities are worthless if people are afraid to use them because of crime.

there should be a survey and mapping of and some emphasis placed on how 'nuisance businesses' have impacted the neighborhood.

A comprehensive plan to prevent crime and increase police presence is essential to the viability of this neighborhood.

It would be helpful to post crime statistics for each neighborhood on yearly basis.

The "Urban Village" doesn't include improvements to transportation to and from the core aside from the light rail. We need better intersections in outlying areas--especially at 51st and Renton/Roxbury!

The bullet on the SE Transportation study suggest far more improvements than we have felt along Rainier.

I'd like to know how the city plans to address continued crazy driving along Rainier Ave, despite the 6 figure 2.5 year Rainier Safety Corridor Project. People continue to use the turn and Bicycle lanes to pass at high speeds, mowing down the pedestrian crosswalk islands and any cars or BICYCLISTS in their path. This chicken wouldn't cross the road on Rainier Avenue unless there was a fire to escape, and crossing was my one path to survival.

Much more emphasis should be given on the social aspects of the plan...curbing gang activity and other crimes (victim and victimless). Without making this a safe community, all other plans will not do very much in the long run.

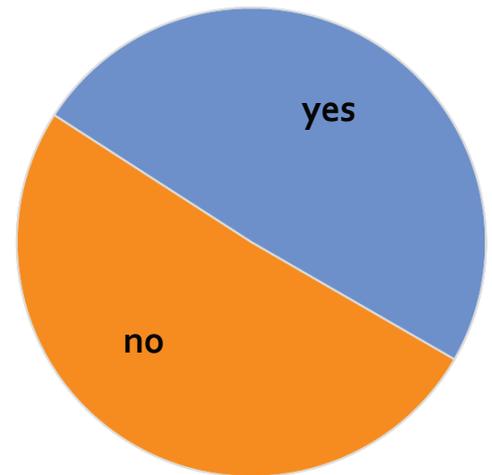
Crime prevention? Hiring new police officers? Nice to hear that we're building out the shopping center, but it's 3 blocks from my house and I'll never use it as long as it's still rated as one of the most likely places in the city to get shot by a stray gang bullet.

The local public schools in the Rainier Beach area are among the most under enrolled and least successful. This hurts housing value and allows crime to flourish.

Increasing employment opportunities and career developments for the Rainier Beach residents should be another thing to focus.

crime

It seems the focus is mainly on transportation and a plaza? I think the plan should be broadened to include other areas of emphasis.



it would be good to know turn over of local businesses, i.e., how many opened that were new, how many closed.

What are SPD's plans for engaging with the community? What are Metro/Sound Transits plans for changing/improving our transportation infrastructure?

I might have missed it, but it does not thoroughly address plans to improve the community center, and how the community center could better meet the needs of the community (ie: not just physical structure, but actual programs).

Safety Issues=Improve relationships with police teams to:
better response to 911 calls
deal with gang and drug related violence
hooking up support and intervention resources for families

See above.

There's enough underused/vacant land to support some parking south of the light rail station. I understand the reasons it has not been accommodated, but this is something that needs to be rethought. I'll take a little traffic, along with a little activity, in that rather moribund area.

Safety issues are not addressed

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

So we build this nice Chief Sealth trail, but I walk it and rarely see anyone on it. How about a Rainier Beach bicycle club? Can this be incorporated into the schools in Rainier Beach? Who was this trail built for? We need cycling leadership or even a walking club in the Rainier Beach area. When you pave streets, you make the area look nice. When you INCLUDE people, you build a neighborhood.

With the exception of the SE transportation study and the paint on asphalt, Rainier Beach is a rehash of stuff created years ago, funded or voted for years ago. The gaps are: in not listening to the neighborhoods, and doing what they designed 10 years ago. And in taking credit for what was on the table, voted on by citizens before. And in trying to survey all groups instead of just doing what you said, which was update 3 SE plans. How much money have you spent on this?

Action plan to deal with crime.

Youth and violence. Crime. Gang warfare issues.

Specifics on exactly how the neighborhood can be rejuvenated. Personally, I think rejuvenating MLK now is a lost cause. It is just a transportation corridor that's a royal pain to try to cross. Rainier Beach has always gotten the shaft, but it can't recover from this boondoggle and the way it was implemented.

Safety

Again, people need to feel safe going to RB.

Jobs

Status focuses on what's been accomplished, and not what hasn't. We have a long way to go...

No mention of reducing youth violence.

% of people in subsidized housing, % of kids on free/reduced school lunches,

It seems like there should be a "next steps" section.

crime prevention

It doesn't address the significant level of crime in this neighborhood. The safety emphasis is on pedestrian safety (very important), but we also need an emphasis on crime reduction, other transit improvements (FREQUENCY is the key to improving most bus routes, and more police patrols on buses and at bus stops).

Lack of police presence in active areas of the neighborhood where obvious activities are taking place every day, in broad daylight.

If you lose all the neighbors then the developments are useless.

The draft status report had such old data. I found the housing an employment and demographic summary to be non helpful. I don't believe that the info is accurate. I would like to know what the stats were 5 years ago and what they are today. I feel that the neighborhood is losing its diversity. Maintaining the diversity was part of the plan. It is not being attained.

I think there's lip service paid to the perceived gang/crime issue, and the South Precinct does a good job at involving the community, but NIMBYism is rampant...

safety

To make both the Light Rail line and the commercial/ civic core integral and strong, Metro Transportation must be pressured to maintain close watch on their bus feeder patterns. People can be expected to walk two, maybe three blocks, and to expect patron friendly bus collection and delivery patterns. Otherwise they will still depend on their vehicles, and once in the vehicle, they don't need to patronize Rainier Beach merchants, or the Light Link Rail. They can go to Renton, Columbia City, Southcenter, Madison Park, SoDo.

There is not enough police patrolling. There are not sufficient resources to keep kids off the streets - the amount of truancy in our neighborhood is inexcusable!

Staffing levels for police

safety is related, I think, to public presence. Much focus needs to be on community scale business development

The investment of Seattle public schools - two new school buildings - that support the "community education" strategy.

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

Explicit ideas about education. Using art and art to educate youth, engage them in the welfare of their own neighborhood. Pride, ownership.

If the reports for Rainier Beach included stats for Bryn Mawr, Lakeridge and Skyway I think the scope of the results would be much wider: higher rate of home ownership, possibly higher rate of crime, and a wider range of incomes. This area has million dollar homes two blocks from fore-closed Section 8 housing which makes creating a unified sense of community very challenging. Lots of kids down here too!

If so I have not noticed.

Rainier Beach needs a connection with the water-the lake. But that would mean removing the private marina.....

Expanding the neighborhood plan to include all of Rainier Beach. Plan should extend right up to the city/county limits.

It thinks light rail will be an asset for RB

Very little about crime.

crime statistics. These can help the city know where to increase street lighting and foot patrols.

Was unable to review the report online before taking this survey

I am not sure what the "draft status report" is

we have a gang problem. More police presence, more social services, more to address poverty.

I don't see any reference to public safety concerns or a plan to address them. I assume that the Seattle police department is making efforts to reduce the impact of the gang presence in the neighborhood; it would be nice to have a bullet that speaks to those efforts and the challenges or successes they have encountered.

2024 employment growth targets in relation to jobs

See above.

See comments above related to safety, community building and litter prevention

Mission vs. strategy.

It is difficult to, at a glance, gauge how successful the plans have been in terms of goals achieved and also difficult to get a read on the general gist of the report at a glance--for most this isn't adequately covered in vision and goals.

One obvious gap is that the census data is nearly 10 years old- will the reports be finalized before or after new census data comes out? The newer data would be very helpful and obviously more relevant. In particular, housing prices/ rents could be updated from other sources than from the census.

Also, the status report should include counts of new/ rehabilitated affordable housing projects happening in the neighborhood, as well as bicycle infrastructure inventory/ improvements.

Finally, while the report does a very good job of documenting the community investment that has come into the community (and the city should be commended for committing so much funding to the neighborhood!), there is no mention of any kinds of education initiatives or programs that would help support strategy C, education. I would love to see more reporting on programs, initiatives, etc. that show how this goal is being met. On the same note, it would be helpful to see reporting on any sort of community policing initiatives, programs, etc. that may be in place in the neighborhood.