

# Status Check

Seattle Citizens Assess Their Communities and Neighborhood Plans

*Summary of the Georgetown Neighborhood Discussion*



**Status Check: How is Your Neighborhood Doing?**

Prepared by  
**Seattle Planning Commission**  
October 2009

## What is this report?

This report contains summaries prepared by members of the Seattle Planning Commission. These summaries document discussions co-facilitated by members of the Planning Commission and the Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) at a series of neighborhood meetings held in June and July of 2009.<sup>1</sup> The Commission and NPAC co-hosted five open house workshops that included 24 neighborhood specific breakout sessions.<sup>2</sup> In all, about 350 people participated in the five open house meetings.

The Commission was asked to provide a summary for each of the 24 neighborhood specific breakout sessions. The summaries will help City staff to complete the Status Reports and will be a part of the "State of the Neighborhood Report" that goes to the Mayor and Council at the end of the year.

The Commission and NPAC developed four questions so that we could gather information from the people who live, work, attend school and have businesses in the neighborhood to better understand perceptions about the neighborhoods and how well the neighborhood plan is doing. Participants at the meetings were grouped by neighborhood and asked these four questions by the NPAC co-host while the Commission co-host worked to capture the sentiments of the participants. Participants were also provided questionnaires that contained the same four questions and were encouraged to fill them out and return them to be included in the record. All of the original questionnaires returned from the open house workshops are contained in the appendix of this report.

## Outreach and Interpretation

The City of Seattle's neighborhood planning team arranged for interpretation services to the communities often under-represented because of language barriers. Spanish interpretation was available at 14, Chinese interpretation was available at 4; Vietnamese interpretation was available at 6; and Tagalog interpretation was available at 3 of the neighborhood community discussions. Interpretation services were used at 4 of the neighborhood community discussions: Columbia City, Georgetown, Rainier Beach, and the West Seattle Junction.

## Virtual Meeting

In an attempt to broaden participation, the Planning Commission also created and hosted a virtual on-line meeting from June through August. The virtual on-line meeting included a questionnaire that asked the same four questions that participants at the open houses were asked. The on-line questionnaire had a total of 4,576 participants. The Commission has provided a companion piece to this report that includes the responses to the on-line questionnaires for each of the 24 neighborhoods.

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1. The Seattle Planning Commission (SPC) was adopted into the City Charter in 1946. The Commission is an independent and objective group that advises the Mayor and City Council on Urban Planning issues such as land use, zoning, transportation and housing issues.
  2. The Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (NPAC) was formed in 2008. NPAC is a committee of Seattle residents and business-people that advises the Department of Neighborhoods and the Department of Planning and Development on conducting the neighborhood updates and neighborhood status reports.

## What is included in this report?

*Summary of one of 24 neighborhood discussions held in June and July 2009*

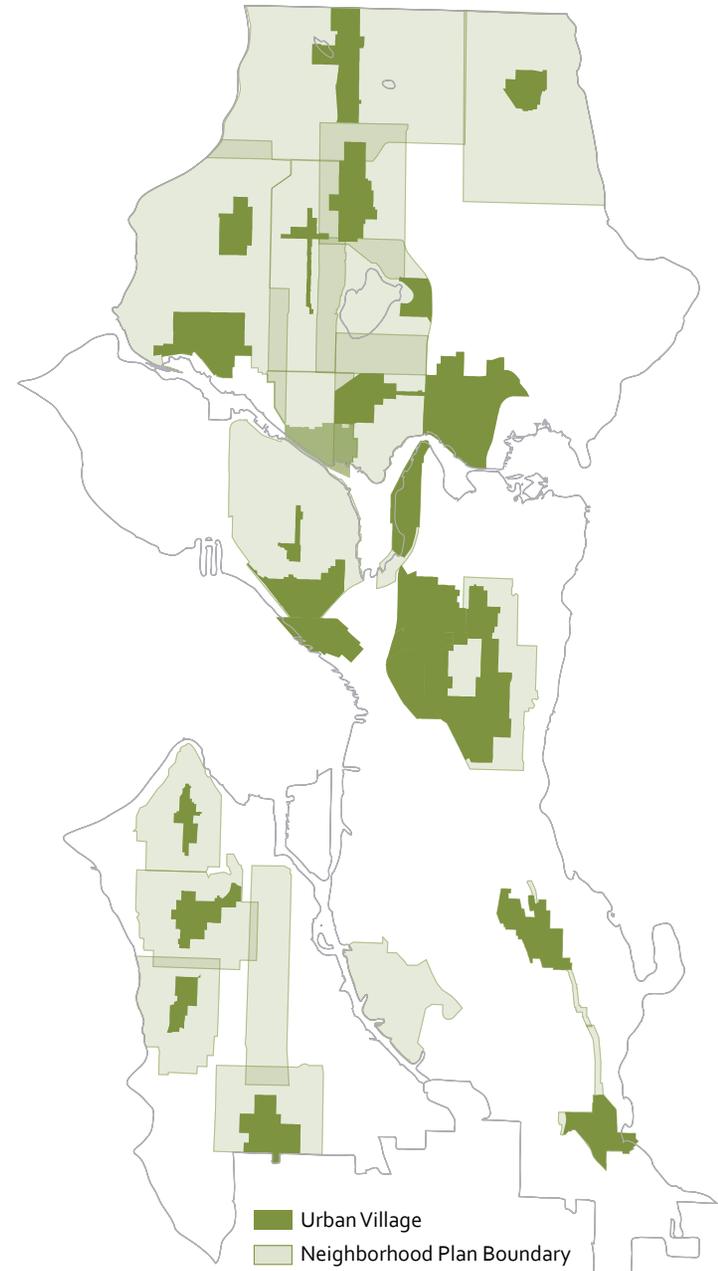
Admiral  
Aurora/Licton Springs  
Belltown  
Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake  
Capitol Hill  
Central Area  
Columbia City /Hillman City/Genesee  
Crown Hill & Ballard  
Delridge  
Eastlake  
First Hill  
Fremont

**Georgetown**  
Green Lake  
Greenwood/Phinney Ridge  
Lake City  
Morgan Junction  
Pike/Pine  
Queen Anne  
Rainier Beach  
University Community  
Wallingford  
West Seattle Junction  
Westwood/Highland Park

*Appendix A – Sample agenda*

*Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings*

*Appendix C – Notes and questionnaires submitted at meetings*



# GEORGETOWN

## General summary

There were six people participating in the neighborhood discussion excluding the NPAC and SPC hosts. The NPAC member noted that she is a long time resident and activist of the neighborhood and member of the Georgetown Community Council. Four additional members of the Georgetown Community Council were on hand as was a student at University of Washington working a thesis project in Georgetown. A Montlake resident was also in attendance observing.

## Highlights

- Excited about the improved neighborhood business district.
- Georgetown is experiencing an improved sense of community/neighborhood.
- Vision and strategies of existing neighborhood plan do not match current priorities.
- Participants were concerned that since there is no urban village designation Georgetown will have to work harder for capital improvements and/or funding.
- Community has concerns over environmental air/water/soil quality.
- Participants stressed that conversations between residential and industrial uses must continue.
- The community is concerned about traffic and mobility - freight, pedestrian, bicycles, and transit access through downtown.



## 1. Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted, (or since you've been there)?

- Environmental concern and awareness about air/water/soil quality.
  - Superfund site identified (major industrial pollution).
- Drainage issues.
- Art installations.
- Legal challenges around pollution.
- New businesses – especially smaller businesses and infill.
  - Restaurants .
  - Small groceries.
  - Retail.
- Described as “up and coming” and a “cool place to live”.
- Positive media and press – even national.
  - Sunset magazine.
  - NYTimes.
- Maintaining garden walk.
- Monthly art walks.
- Georgetown Arts Association.
- Cultural Overlay District process starting with the City.
- Web based info.
- Change in demographic – younger, more kids.
- Historic character is important.
- Georgetown was one of the first settlement – but there is a feeling like there is still a loss of residential history.
- Residents are thought of as second to industry – instead of equals.
- Increased celebration of “green.”
  - ROW plantings – especially in industrial buffer areas.
  - Gardens.
  - Trees.
  - Parks.
- Working with industrial businesses about truck impacts including parking.
- Expansion of neighborhood business district (partially zoned industrial) limited by allowed land uses.
- Nothing in plan about desire to change zoning.

## 2. What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about?

- Strength and feeling of community.
- Getting to know neighbors and businesses.
- Knowing all the neighbors.
- Walkable and bikeable.
- Things (services) are close and accessible.
- Connections to downtown.
- Proximity of Duwamish.
- New businesses – especially smaller, local owned.
- Improvements on roads – signals, crosswalks, sidewalks, walkways.
  - Airport Way parking changes allows parking for businesses and slows traffic.
  - Narrowing Vale and Bailey intersections.
- Living there.

## Most dissatisfied about?

- Coordination with industrial.
  - Participants feel like the industrial groups meet with the City departments and do not include residents.
  - Participants want to take out the threat of competition and create partnerships.
- Lack of connections to other neighborhoods.
- East/west connections.
- Transit connections to other parts of the City – especially North Seattle all transit must transfer downtown.
- All connections – especially pedestrian – to South Park and Beacon Hill.
- Access to Duwamish.
- Fire Station not included in the Plan area.
- Lack of dog park.
- Lack of community events at the Fire Station.
- Lack of large grocery store in Plan area.
- Lack of progress on 8th Ave/Carlton/E Marginal Way proposed improvements.
- Speed and volume of traffic – especially on Corson and Allison.
- Intersections with major arterials – especially E Marginal.
- East/west connections to transit.
- Residential edge conditions.
  - ◦ Trees especially near businesses.
  - ◦ Zoning.
  - ◦ Capital improvements.
  - ◦ Corson arterial – used as a truck route but is not identified as one by SDOT. It is a minor arterial.
- Connections to bike routes limited and use major arterials.
- Can feel like an island.
- Have to use a car – especially for groceries.

### 3. How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved? Are they still the priority?

- The current vision is NOT a priority.
- Two plans were created – one by residents and one by Manufacturing and Industrial Center (MIC) reps. They are in conflict.
- Vision statement focuses on MIC.
- Majority report (online Plan).
- Minority report available at library (submitted by MIC).
- Key strategies are not supported by specific recommendations.
- Adjust Plan area – need an urban village designation.
- Seattle Design District is no longer a priority.
- Code enforcement should be part of the Plan.
- Neighborhood anchor is still a priority – but urban village seems more appropriate.
- Promotion of history is still a priority.
- Stop perpetuating that the neighborhood is not safe – still important but not as high of a priority .
  - Neighborhood feels safer than it was when the plan was written.
  - Less prostitution and drug dealing but still a challenge.
  - Less eyes on street and maintenance in industrial areas.
- Want to maintain industrial – think that residential and industrial can coexist.
  - Fringe industrial – residential areas is an island.
- Still want to promote industrial and family wage jobs especially green industry and clean industry.
- Environmental issues still a priority – water/air/soil quality.

### 4. The city is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks. What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months? Are there any important gaps in the draft status report?

- Present data for City side by side with the data from Georgetown.
- Identify what years the data was averaged over. How many years?
- Clarify the source of the data sets.
- Land use information was not correct – specifically industrial vs. residential. Should use updated industrial lands survey that neighborhood verified. [Participants talked with David Goldberg and Ray Gastil about this item at the meeting.]
  - Zero percent industrial zoning is not correct.
  - Relook at charts in expanded status report info especially regarding the built environment.
- Identify existing vision statement from 1999 Plan.
- Status of Seattle Design District – seems to have fizzled but process is unclear.
- Car collisions with trains.
- Community Council Info.
- Recent community investments and neighborhood visioning that were not identified in the Plan.
  - 8th Ave Intersection with Marginal.
  - Airport Way.
  - Duwamish.
  - Open Space 2100.
  - Garden Walk.
  - Neighborhood Street Fund and Neighborhood Matching Fund 8th Ave Improvements.

i

Five Open Houses, 24 neighborhood discussions

1. June 22 at the South lake Union Armory; Uptown/ Queen Anne; Belltown; Eastlake; Capitol Hill; First Hill; Pike/Pine
2. July 8 Northgate Community Center Lake City, Aurora/Licton Springs, Broadview - Bitter Lake - Haller Lake, University Community (University District NW, Ravenna)
3. July 23 Phinney Neighborhood Center Greenwood/Phinney Ridge, Crown Hill & Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, Green Lake
4. July 27 Rainier Community Center Central Area (Madison-Miller, 23rd & Union - Jackson and 12th Avenue), Columbia City - Hillman City - Genesee, Rainier Beach
5. July 28 Delridge Community Center Admiral, West Seattle Junction, Morgan Junction, Delridge, Westwood/Highland Park, Georgetown

ii

Neighborhood	Planning Commission Host	NPAC Member Host
Admiral	Catherine Benotto	Mark Wainwright
Aurora/Licton Springs	Michelle Zeidman	Sharonn Meeks (Mark Wainwright unable to attend)
Belltown	Kay Knapton	Catherine Stanford
Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake	Linda Amato	Craig Benjamin
Capitol Hill	David Cutler	Heidi Oien
Central Area	Mark Johnson	Kate Stineback (Adrienne Bailey did not attend)
Crown Hill & Ballard	Leslie Miller	Ashley Harris
Columbia City/Hillman City/Genesee	Leslie Miller	Linda Amato of the SPC (Eddie Hill unable to attend)
Delridge	Chris Persons	Boaz Ashkenazy
Eastlake	Martin Kaplan	Brian Ramey
First Hill	Kevin McDonald	Sharonn Meeks
Fremont	Chris Fiori	Toby Thaler
Georgetown	Amalia Leighton	Judith Edwards
Green Lake	Jerry Finrow	Kate Joncas
Greenwood/Phinney Ridge	Linda Amato	Kate Stineback
Lake City	Colie Hough-Beck	Renee Staton
Morgan Junction	Jerry Finrow	Cindi Barker
Pike/Pine	Josh Brower	Dennis Saxman
Queen Anne	Matt Roewe	John Coney
Rainier Beach	Chris Persons	Christie Coxley
University Community	Mark Johnson	Jeannie Hale
Wallingford	Amalia Leighton	Irene Wall
West Seattle Junction	Kay Knapton	Sharon Meeks
Westwood/Highland Park	Kevin McDonald	Christie Coxley

## Neighborhood Open House

*June 22, 2009 - 6:00 – 8:00 pm*

*South Lake Union Armory – 860 Terry Ave. N.*

### Hosted by the Seattle Planning Commission & Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee Agenda

#### 1. Opening Session – 20 minutes

Introduction & Welcome – Josh Brower, NPAC Co-Chair

Opening Remarks – Councilmember Sally Clark

Orientation Video

#### 2. Six (6) Neighborhood Breakout Sessions – 75 minutes

Breakout sessions for Queen Anne, Belltown, Eastlake, Capitol Hill, First Hill, Pike/Pine

##### Presentation by SPC table host (5-7 minutes)

- Goals of the breakout session
- Presentation of background information on neighborhood plan and status update
- How to provide input (discussion, written questionnaire, easel pad, on-line questionnaire)
- Additional resources available

##### Facilitated discussion of question led by NPAC table host

1. Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted, (or since you've been there)?
2. What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you most pleased about? Most dissatisfied about?
3. How well are your Neighborhood Plan vision and key strategies being achieved? Are they still the priority?
4. The city is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks. What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months? Are there any important gaps in the draft status report?

#### 3. Closing Remarks and Next Steps – 5 minutes

Closing Remarks & Next Steps – Josh Brower, NPAC Co-Chair

## Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings

Tim Ahlers	Kara Ceriello	Patty Foley	Jim Jensen	Phil Mocek
Joy Anderson	Jose Cervantes	Nancy Folsom	Dale Johnson	Rob Mohn
Jennifer Anderson	Gordon Clowers	Becca Fona	Blair Johnson	Dave Montoure
Aurora Anunicacion	Clarice Coker	Tony Fragada	Matt Johnston	Jesse Moore
Katheryn Armstrong	Rene Commons	Eric Friedli	Giff Jones	Patti Muller
Jill Arnow	John Coney	Bill Fuzekas	Mary Jones	Lisa Muller
Boaz Ashkenazy	Colleen Cooke	Dennis Galvin	Roger Jones	Dan Mullins
Joanne Auterjung	Dorene Cornel	Herbert Getchell	Alan Justad	Mars Mure
Maris Avots	Michael Cornell	Lucille Getchell	Laura Kalleb	Jessica Nguyen
Emi Baldwin	George Counts	Joseph Gockowski	Erica Karlovits	Tri Nguyen
John Barbee	Stuart Crandall	Daniel Goddard	Elias Kass	Hong Nguyen
Scott Barkan	Sally Crone	John Golobiec	Narom Khath	Dan Nolte
Tod Barker	Web Crowell	Kirsten Graham	Phoeun Khim	Richard Nordstrom
Deb Barker	Michael Cuadra	Lynn Graves	Melanee King	John Nuler
Catherine Barker	Mike Dady	Matt Gray	Wesley Kirkman	Karen O'Brien
Rick Barrett	MJ Davidson	Elizabeth Guenara	Cheryl Klinker	Jeannie O'Brien
Zander Batchelder	Susan Davis	Justina Guyott	Chris Knapp	Dara O'Bryne
Vicki Baucom	DeEtte Day	Julia Hadley	Kay Knapton	Susan O'Connell
Ellen Beck	Christo de Klerk	Jeannie Hale	Amber Knox	Kristy O'Donnell
Craig Benjamin	William Decherd	Craig Hanway	Sam Knoz	Pennie O'Grady
Cory Bergman	Jim Del Cielo	Susan Harmon	Sybil Knudson	Sokunthea OK
Jane Bigby	Jon deLeeves	Kathy Harper	Karen Ko	Kenneth Olsen
Derek Birnie	Rory Denovan	Michael harthorne	Diane Kremingk	Vlad Oustimoritch
John Bito	Donn Devore	Ralph Heitt	Tom Lee	Chris Pasco
Allina Black	Brian Dougherty	Tom Henry	Dorothy Lengye	Betty Pata
Neel Blair	Lloyd Douglas	Eva Hermesmyer	Jeff Libby	Nina Pata
Mark Bloudek	Nancy Driver	Hai Hoffman	Ref Lindmark	Bert Patrick
Anna Bowers	Chanta Dumas	Dick Hogan	Peter Locke	Jeffrey Pelletier
Dave Boyd	Christa Dumpys	Charles Hogg	Julie Lubre	Andrea Petzel
Sheila Brown	Shannon Dunn	K Beth Hollingsworth	Wendy Luker	Beth Pflug
Jan Brucker	Tim Durkan	Raft Hollingsworth	Andrew M	Boyd Pickerell
Susie Burke	Ruth Dyksterhais	John Hoole	Matt Ma	Erik Pihl
Janice Burnell	Sherell Ehlers	Bert Hopkins	Glenn MacGilvra	Jeff Pittman
Gloria Butts	David Ellinger	Ron Hornuns	John Magnenat	Ed Pottharst
Priscilla Call	Julie Enevoldsen	Megan Horst	Mike Mariano	Jen Power
Pablo Cambinico	John Enger	Serin Houpton	Velma Maye	Tim Pretare
Leon Capelo	Alicia Fadul	Ryan Hughes	Vivian McLean	Susie Prets
Kevin Carrabine	David Fansler	Wendy Jans	Douglas McNutt	Mary Quackenbush
Eudora Lowery Carter	Abdy Farid	Joan Jeffery	Sandra Melo	Brian Ramey
Susan Casey	Bill Farmer	Sarah Jenkes	Susan Melrose	Craig Rankin
Chris Caster	Andrea Faste	Susan Jensen	Richard Min	Jordan Rash

## Appendix B – List of attendees from five open house meetings

Matt Rehder  
Mike Reinhardt  
Diane & Bob Rhea  
Marjorie Rhodes  
Scott Ringgold  
Amelia River  
Kirk Robbins  
Joan Robbins  
Delight Roberts  
Lee Roberts  
Ray Robinson  
Donna Roseveark  
Dennis Ross  
Jon Rudical  
Dennis Saxman  
Sue Scharff  
Dena Schule  
Shirley Schurman  
Deanise Schwarz  
Sharon Scully  
Rita Selin  
Dic Selin  
Philip Shach  
Sarah Shoup  
Sam Simone  
Steve Sindiong  
Susan Sisson  
Cindy Small  
Tamra Smilanich  
Marty Spiegel  
Catherine Stanford  
Catherine Stengord  
Kate Stineburk  
Ruth Stinton  
Conan Storlie  
Mike Stringer  
Adam Strutynski  
Christine Stuffels  
Jean Sundrorg  
Jeff Taylor  
Nicole Taylor

Tony To  
Viet Tran  
Alexandra Tu  
Ron Turner  
Cathy Tuttle  
Sarah Valenta  
Diana Vergis Vinh  
Jessica Vets  
Roger Wagoner  
Forrest Wald  
Irene Wall  
William Walsh  
Ed Wecloires  
Stuart Weiss  
Catherine Wentbrook  
Al Werner  
Julien Wheeler  
Patty Whisler  
Scott White  
Mary Whitmore  
Stephen Whitmore  
Thomas Whittemore  
Adrienne Wicks  
Kraig Wilhelmsin  
Adrian Wilkenson  
Vivian Williams  
Terry Williams  
Betty Williams  
Laura Wing-Whitebear  
Greg Winterstea  
Laura Wong-Whitebear  
Mikala Woodward  
Jason Woycke  
Sara Wysocki

# Status Check: How is Your Neighborhood Doing?

Please provide the following information and attach additional sheets if necessary.

Which neighborhood are you commenting on? GEORGETOWN

For how long have you...

less than 5 years    5-10 years    more than 10 years    does not apply

Name:

lived in this neighborhood?

owned a business in this neighborhood?

regularly visited this neighborhood?

worked in this neighborhood?

attended school in this neighborhood?

other (please describe)

Email Address:

@  
com

## Question 1

Most of the neighborhood plans were adopted about 10 years ago and are in their mid-life. How has your neighborhood changed in the last decade since the plan was adopted (or since you've been there)?

Increase in density - which is good. Cleaner & less crime. Eclectic and strong residential voice that is not reflected in the plan. ~~Strong~~ Instead of listing the residents as secondary to industry as the plan does now, residents are a strong partner with industry that can coexist and support one another.

## Question 2

What changes or aspects of your neighborhood are you...

most pleased about?

- transportation
- housing
- safety
- parks and open space
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, community centers)
- business district (e.g. stores, restaurants)
- buildings - new and existing
- other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

most dissatisfied about?

- transportation
- housing
- safety
- parks and open space
- public facilities (e.g. libraries, community centers)
- business district (e.g. stores, restaurants)
- buildings - new and existing
- other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

close to  
main  
station

Do you have any comments related to what you are pleased or dissatisfied about?

Good North/South Bus service. Desperately need East/West bus service especially in light of new Sand Transit Stations in Georgetown's lack of services. Save the old historic bldgs. while continuing in fill development.

I do not see code enforcement & permit processing as a concern.

Question 3

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

- very well
- somewhat well
- somewhat poorly
- very poorly
- don't know/neutral

please describe Some key strategies, such as Safer Georgetown has been achieved & no longer a key strategy. Creating a sustainable neighborhood community that supports Seattle & Georgetown is still a key strategy.

Seattle Design District does not support the Georgetown community, especially since it is a 9-5 industry that offers no services to residents.

Are they still the priority?

- yes, very much so
- some priorities have changed, some haven't
- no, not at all
- don't know/neutral

please describe was initially inhabited by native peoples - not industry. While Georgetown residents support industry it is not the only voice of the "Neighborhood." Georgetown needs to be an urban center, not a residential neighborhood anchor.

Question 4

The City is completing neighborhood plan status reports focusing on demographics, development patterns, housing affordability, public amenities and transportation networks.

What should there be more focus on (or less focus on) as the neighborhood status reports are completed in the coming months?

There should be more focus on...

Existing land use vs. zoning, especially in commercial areas zoned as industrial, preserving industrial land that is being used as industrial land and is supported by infrastructure.

There should be less focus on...

Industry as the voice of the Georgetown "Neighborhood"

Are there any important gaps in the draft status reports?

- No
- Yes (please describe)

Missing important community investments that were documented at public mtg. eg. ART & GARDEN walk (14 years) on Ave Park & Upgrade

Please return this questionnaire by Tuesday, August 11, 2009 to:

The Seattle Planning Commission  
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000  
PO Box 34019  
Seattle, WA 98124

You can also fill out the questionnaire on-line at:  
[http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood\\_Planning/StatusReports/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning/StatusReports/default.asp)