

South Lake Union creating opportunity

Artist's rendition of a new Valley Street.



“By saying yes, we create jobs today and lay the foundation for even greater opportunities in the future.”

— Mayor Greg Nickels

“Our goal is to ultimately locate more than 2,500 employees at our new campus at South Lake Union. We’re excited about the positive changes coming to that neighborhood.”

Guy Ott
Vice President for Facilities & Operations
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

“We at Seattle Biomedical Research Institute are very enthusiastic about joining the South Lake Union community. We look forward to being part of the growing SLU biomed/biotech hub, and enjoying the great amenities the neighborhood and its businesses offer.”

Jim Gore
Chief Operating Officer
Seattle Biomedical Research Institute



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Photo courtesy of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership

South Lake Union

The Mayor's
Action Agenda for

“South Lake Union will be home to thousands of good-paying jobs in biotechnology and life sciences, employing people who will cure disease and save lives. Cities around the world would love to have these jobs. Let's work to create them here.”

— Mayor Greg Nickels

GOALS

Attract biotech jobs

Create a new waterfront park

Improve neighborhood amenities

Build a streetcar

Fix the “Mercer Mess”

Build infrastructure to promote new jobs



Artist's rendition of a new Mercer Boulevard.

“In South Lake Union, we will...

seize the moment

Attract biotech & other family-wage jobs



Seattle will use its home-grown assets—the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson, Seattle Biomedical Research Institute, and ZymoGenetics—as anchors to attract other biotech businesses.

The mayor's strategy

- Develop neighborhood amenities to attract new biotech firms.
- Update building code to accommodate unique needs of biotech buildings.
- Collaborate with industry to support its growth.

...to build a great place to work and live.”

—Mayor Greg Nickels

Improve neighborhood amenities

South Lake Union benefits from active neighborhood groups that are working to preserve its diverse character and mix of uses. The Mayor's Action Agenda responds to the 1998 Neighborhood Plan and achieves a balanced mix of business, housing, parks and transportation.

The mayor's strategy

- Work with developers to provide housing opportunities for people of all income levels.
- Invest \$2.25 million of City funds to build affordable housing.
- Encourage the use of sustainable building practices and energy conservation in new construction.

Deliver on a 100-year dream by creating a new waterfront park

Seattle has talked about having a waterfront park at the south end of Lake Union since the 1903 Olmsted Plan. It is also the top priority of the Neighborhood Plan. Now we can achieve that dream.

The mayor's strategy

- Involve neighbors and other stakeholders in park planning and design.
- Support fundraising efforts, including work with the Seattle Parks Foundation.
- Increase easy access to and from the park with streetcar and pedestrian connections.



Developing a waterfront park at this location near the Center for Wooden Boats on South Lake Union has been a Seattle dream since 1903.

A streetcar would directly connect the South Lake Union neighborhood with downtown Seattle.



Build a streetcar

Other cities have shown how streetcars can spark a transformation of a neighborhood. The Portland streetcar led to \$1 billion in investment along a line in the Pearl District. Streetcars do not require property acquisition or take traffic lanes and can be built quickly.

The mayor's strategy

- Develop a streetcar to connect jobs and housing, the new South Lake Union Park and downtown Seattle. Provide easy links to other transit systems at Westlake Center.
- Develop a funding package that combines Local Improvement District dollars and regional transit funding.

Build infrastructure to support new jobs

As a result of its slower development in the recent past, South Lake Union is a neighborhood that has received few utility upgrades. Electrical and water systems need investments today to stay ahead of tomorrow's development curve.

The mayor's strategy

- Integrate Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities in transportation and development plans to assure electricity and water to meet a growing demand.

Fix the “Mercer Mess”

The highway boundaries of I-5 and Aurora Avenue have isolated the neighborhood and snarled the road system. Today, thanks to possibilities offered by the Alaskan Way Viaduct reconstruction, transportation solutions can focus on movement within and connections to adjacent neighborhoods.

The mayor's strategy

- Support an Alaskan Way Viaduct Alternative that reconnects the South Lake Union street grid and promotes connections with Seattle Center.
- Continue study of two-way “boulevard” design for Mercer Avenue.
- Redesign Valley Street as pedestrian-oriented with easy connections to South Lake Union Park, waterfront restaurants and other retail.
- Advocate funding for Mercer Corridor Plan in the regional transportation funding package.

Pedestrian-oriented streetscapes encourage people to actively participate in their neighborhood.

