



# MOUNT BAKER STATION AREA DEVELOPMENT

## Goals and Priorities Engagement Summary

June 2021

The City of Seattle Office of Housing (OH) and Sound Transit (ST) conducted community outreach in February and March 2021 for the Mount Baker Station Area Development. We asked for top priorities and preferences on how the future new development next to the Mount Baker Link light rail station could look and feel.

### Themes

**Safety and security** Concerns about personal safety from crime and danger to pedestrians in the station area was a key theme.

*"Safety is a huge factor."*

**Vibrant and welcoming space** Attracting people with businesses, restaurants, events, or activities is a priority.

*"It would be nice to see the Mt Baker site be a place that people... desire to travel to... for something to eat... to spend time with family friends, a safe space for gathering or waiting."*

**Open space** Support for natural open spaces to walk or sit in, and areas for gatherings and activities.

**Housing affordability** Strong support for affordable housing, with some responses prioritizing housing over open space.

### Engagement by the numbers

**850+** responses to the online survey

**300+** emails sent through agency and community listservs

**8** media outlets with advertisements, including ethnic media

**7** Community Liaisons surveyed dozens of community members who spoke Amharic, Khmer, Mandarin, Oromo, Spanish, Somali, Tigrinya, and Vietnamese

**5** community-based organizations provided input



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## Online survey highlights

Participants ranked their priorities for different aspects of the new development.

**Overall site priorities** Better walking/biking connections (49%) and support for small businesses and services owned by or for communities of color (47%) were top priorities.

**Open space** Top priorities were plaza space for markets and events (59%), space for street vendors and food trucks (43%), and natural areas and gardens (43%).

**Other physical features** Top priorities were wide sidewalks (43%), convenient pick-up and drop-off areas (36%), and seating, tables, and lighting (33%).

**Access to station** Connections north across S McClellan Street (65%), and connections west to Beacon Hill (61%) were the top responses for how the new development could improve access to the light rail station.

## Community Liaison conversations

We heard a strong preference for low-income housing in the Somali community, as gentrification has pushed many to live outside Seattle. There was also interest in space for events, daycare, and offices and co-working spaces for community organizations.

Among the Chinese (Mandarin-speaking) community, preferences for homeownership, public safety, safe walking/bicycling routes, open space, and small business space for people of color.

## Community-based organizations

OH and ST talked with organizations including Asian Counseling and Referral Services, Refugee Women's Alliance, CIRCC, Mount Baker Hub Alliance, and Franklin High School for thoughts and priorities. We heard:

Concerns about **personal security** near Mount Baker Link light rail station.

Strong interest in **safe walking and biking paths** to and from the light rail station.

Emphasis on affordable housing, especially family-sized units with **2 or 3 bedrooms**.

Gentrification concerns, and desire for **more support for small and diverse businesses**.

A desire for **open space and play areas** for young people in the station area.

Opportunity to integrate community and young people into the creation of the **art and architecture** of the new development.

## Questions?

For additional information, accommodations, or accessibility information, contact Bin Jung at [bin.jung@seattle.gov](mailto:bin.jung@seattle.gov)



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