



**City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**



**UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON**
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS

**City of Seattle - University of Washington
Community Advisory Committee**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes
Meeting # 141
June 9, 2015
UW Tower
4333 Brooklyn Avenue
Seattle, WA 98105
22nd Floor**

Members

- Matthew Fox (Co Chair)**
University District Community Council
- Yvonne Sanchez**
Eastlake Community Council
- Jan Arntz**
University of Washington Staff
- Alex Bolton**
University of Washington At-Large
- Jean Amick**
Laurelhurst Community club
- Dave Eckert**
Roosevelt Neighbor's Alliance
- Ashley Emery**
University of Washington Faculty
- Brett Frosaker**
Ravenna Bryant Community Assoc
- Daniel Nguyen**
University of Washington Students
- Lionel Job**
Montlake Community club
- Eric Larson**
Roosevelt Neighbor's Alliance
- Douglas Campbell**
University District Partnership
- Cameron Miller**
Wallingford Community council
- Barbara Quinn**
University Park Community Club
- Betty Swift**
Portage Bay/Roanoke Community council
- Alternates**
- Jorgen Bader**
University District Community Council
- Kerry Kahl**
University of Washington Staff
- Ray Larson**
University of Washington At-Large
- Heather Newman**
Laurelhurst Community Club
- Tom Roth**
Ravenna Springs Community Council
- Ruedi Risler**
University Park Community Council
- Sharon Scully**
University District Community Council
- Larry Sinnott**
Ravenna Bryant Community Association
- Matthew Stubbs**
University of Washington
- Ex-Officio Members**
- Steve Sheppard – DON**
City of Seattle, Dept. of Neighborhoods
- Theresa Doherty – UW**
University of Washington, Office of Regional Affairs

Members and Alternates Present

Matt Fox	Betty Swift	Eric Larson
Kerry Kahl	Emma Slager	Douglas Campbell
Brett Forsaker	Barbara Quinn	Sally Clark

Staff and Others Present

Steve Sheppard	Theresa Doherty
Kristine Kenney	Steve Harrison

(See sign-in sheet)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Matthew Fox opened the meeting. Brief introductions followed. Theresa Doherty introduced Sally Clark as the new UW Director of Regional and Community Relations.

II. Housekeeping

Mr. Fox stated that he wished to propose about a modification to the closing paragraph of the March 2015 meeting notes regarding the West Campus utility plant discussion. He stated that he felt that that the language regarding the design of the plant had been sanitized and made less that compelling and did not accurately capture the high level of concern voiced by members.

Steve Sheppard stated that he could add a language that better describes what the members' intent were. He offered brief language changes and the March meeting notes were adopted as amended.

The City of Seattle-University of Washington Community Advisory Committee advises both on the community impact of planning and development activities at the University of Washington and surrounding area. For more information on CUCAC activities call either: Steve Sheppard – City of Seattle (206) 684-0302 or Theresa Doherty – University of Washington (206) 221-2603.

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III. Update on SR 520 – Montlake Lid Revisions

Lyle Bicknell, principal and urban designer and a faculty member of UW was introduced to provide presentation and an update on the SR 520 Montlake Lid Revisions.

Mr. Bicknell mentioned that the Montlake Lid Revision is currently in the design phase and it is moving in a positive direction. He stated that he is looking forward for feedback from this committee.

Mr. Bicknell provided a diagram showing the construction area and noted that the the west approach has just began construction. He noted that the decision to build SR 520 n its present location over 50 years ago created challenges to the surrounding areas. It eliminated existing shorelines, parklands and wetlands, divided the Montlake neighborhood and increased traffic impacts generally in the area. With this new expansion project, the goal is to undo some of these negative impacts and utilize this opportunity knit the neighborhood back together. The current scheme was developed in 2012. It includes a very extensive landscaped lid. That design is a major improvement to the area but also continues to have some weaknesses. These weaknesses include: 1) no actual pedestrian or bicycle connections, 2) a 40 ft. wall that somewhat compromises the quality of public space; and 3) pedestrian undercrossing that presents some challenges, and diminished the quality of pedestrian and bicycle connection. Mr. Bicknell stated that designers concluded that they could do better, thus this effort to substantially revise the past plan.

The solution is a smaller lid that focuses on quality over quantity. This solution includes moving the ventilation and thus construct a land bridge that crosses the entire landform and re-connects the surrounding neighborhood. It is also both ADA, bike and pedestrian friendly. There were also significant modifications at several of the key street intersections to improve both safety and ease of crossing. Another major change is relocation a portion of the pedestrian pathway to go under the elevated roadway, thus connecting better with the water and making it aesthetically more pleasing, and connections to the to the existing transit stops and station and to the sidewalks and greenway systems. Are also significantly improved.

Instead of a proposed second bridge for vehicle traffic, a bridge for pedestrians and cyclist only are in the works. He commented that from a Seattle perspective this is about promoting great connections and reuniting the surrounding neighborhoods.

The cost of the Seattle portion of the bridge is \$1.57 billion and the state legislature is struggling to find the funding.

(Editor's Note: Funding for this portion of the project was apparently included in the recently signed transportation bill and this improvement will now likely go forward.

The City's interest is to have this project completed as a whole and not break out multiple portions and fund them incrementally the project is about five to six years of construction to complete.

Mr. Fox noted that the underpass solution was very similar to that utilized at Enatai Beach under I-90 that solution is s surprisingly good and a pleasant experience.

Members noted that both current and projected vehicle traffic on Montlake Boulevard is heavy and presents major problems. They asked if the project team was working with SDOT to address this issue. Mr. Bicknell responded that this project is not aimed at fixing the Montlake Boulevard traffic that is beyond the scope of this project. Some of the pedestrian signal improvements may very peripherally affect this situation.

Members asked if there is a possibility of providing a dedicated bus line on the Montlake Bridge to serve the light rail station. Mr. Bicknell responded that it is certainly possible and they are looking at specific recommendations to address this issue.

A comment was made regarding the comparison between the first versions of the lid versus the current version. Mr. Bicknell said that the current lid is reduced in size but still be the largest lid in the system.

Mr. Bicknell emphasized the project is in its conceptual stage and the focus of the project is to bring the highest quality of material, landscape and maintenance that would resonate to the adjacent neighborhood and that the direction of the project is moving at a right path.

IV. Update on Northgate Link – Kate Lichenstein

Ms. Kate Lichenstein, project manager with Sound Transit was introduced to provide a presentation and a status update on the Northgate Link Station.

The Northgate link is implementing the 2nd phase of the Sound Transit 2 system plan that was approved by the voters on 2008 that adds a regional express light rail service extension. The Northgate link is funded through Sound Transit 2 and it is a 4.3-mile extension, from the University to Northgate. It will have three stations, two underground and one elevated. Currently, the project is in the tunneling and station excavation for the University and Roosevelt stations. The final design of the actual stations will be in 2016-17 timeframe with construction and light rail systems testing from 2019-20. The scheduled opening date is targeted on 2021.

Ms. Lichenstein introduced Paige Cureton, Community Outreach Specialist for the University District Station, to provide more details about the Northgate link project. The Northgate link tunneling is about 50% complete and it has burrowed about 9,700 feet. The tunnel burrowing is progressing at a rate of about 40 ft. per day. It is on schedule. There will be three stations for the Northgate link, and the University District Station design is in its early phases. The excavation process will begin in August and the tunnel burrowing machine will reach the station in early fall. Letters were sent to property owners informing them of the construction process. In addition, ongoing public outreach will continue with information provided at the University District Street Fairs by Sound Transit and at various public meetings. Updates about the project are also available in the Sound Transit website and through construction alerts and newsletters that are being distributed throughout the area.

Members noted that transit oriented development is planned above the University District Station but not above the station in Roosevelt. Ms. Lichenstein responded that costs were too high at the Roosevelt Station and that there was neither sufficient benefit nor neighborhood advocacy to proceed.

V. Round Robin Discussion – Sally Clark

Ms. Sally Clark introduced herself as the replacement for Theresa Doherty and primary University Staff attending CUCAC. She stated that her goal is make sure that this committee is being used effectively and getting the information, the committee needs. Until about nine weeks ago, she noted that served as a Seattle City Council member. She will be various community organizations in the area to introduce herself as the liaison between the University and community.

Members asked for clarification concerning the schedule for the re-opening of those sections of the Burke-Gilman trail Ms. Clark responded that she would try to find out.

Members also asked about the Pondera Extension, and Ms. Clark responded that Phase One bids will be taken within the next three to four weeks Phase Two will include the work on Pondera. This will include grade separation and utilities relocations. Cost estimates are proving to be very expensive and the design is being reevaluated for that reason.

Douglas Campbell introduced two members of the University District Partnership (UDP) board. Elizabeth McCoury, the new Executive Director of UDP mentioned that she will make a presentation to the CUCAC during summer along with Andrew McMasters who serves as the co-chair.

VI. Adjournment

No further business being before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.