



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Rick Mohler and Jamie Stroble, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, May 26, 2022
Approved Meeting Minutes

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- Commissioners Present:** Mark Braseth, McCaela Daffern, Roque Deherrera, David Goldberg, Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Rick Mohler, Austin Moreman, Alanna Peterson, Jamie Stroble
- Commissioners Absent:** Patience Malaba, Radhika Nair, Dhyana Quintanar, Julio Sanchez, Lauren Squires
- Commission Staff:** Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Olivia Baker, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission Coordinator

Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/when-we-meet/minutes-and-agendas>

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Co-Chair Jamie Stroble called the meeting to order at 7:37 am. Co-Chair Stroble offered the following land acknowledgement:

'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, we'd like to actively recognize that we are on Indigenous land, the traditional and current territories of the Coast Salish people who have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We acknowledge the role that traditional western-centric planning practices have played in harming, displacing, and attempting to erase Native communities. We commit to identifying racist practices and strive to center restorative land stewardship rather than unsustainable and extractive use of the land.'

Co-Chair Stroble asked fellow Commissioners to review the Color Brave Space norms. She reminded the Commissioners that they have collectively agreed to abide by these norms.

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the May 12, 2022, meeting minutes. Commissioner Roque Deherrera seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Executive Director, provided a brief review of the format for the online meeting and noted that due to the online format, public comment must be submitted in writing at least eight hours before the start of the Commission meeting. She stated that the Governor recently rescinded the emergency declaration pertaining to public meetings. The Planning Commission will begin to offer hybrid in-person/remote meetings in June.

Discussion and Agreement: Draft Repurposing the Right-of-Way Issue Brief

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, provided an overview of the Commission's draft Repurposing the Right-of-Way issue brief. He shared the outline of the draft issue brief as follows:

- I. Vision
- II. Background (An Urgent Need for Action)
- III. Addressing Equity When Repurposing the Right-of-Way
- IV. Opportunities for the Comprehensive Plan Major Update and Seattle Transportation Plan
- V. Repurposing the Right-of-Way to Prioritize Other Modes and Community Amenities
- VI. Conclusion (new)

Mr. Hoey read the following draft Vision statement: "The Seattle Planning Commission envisions a future in which the public street right-of-way prioritizes transit, non-motorized transportation, activated spaces for social interaction, community gatherings, and other uses that benefit the public and the environment. This transition will allocate more space to people-oriented uses than the movement and storage of automobiles as our population grows, which is critical for climate mitigation and adaptation. Repurposing the right-of-way to better balance different uses and create vibrant community spaces will increase equity, safety, and quality of life for Seattleites of all ages, income levels, and abilities, while also advancing the City's climate resiliency and sustainability goals."

He reviewed additional edits since the last meeting under the Addressing Equity When Repurposing the Right-of-Way, Opportunities for the Comprehensive Plan Major Update and Seattle Transportation Plan and Repurposing the Right-of-Way to Prioritize Other Modes and Community Amenities sections.

Commissioners took five minutes to review the draft issue brief before the discussion. Mr. Hoey stated that the goal for today's discussion is come to agreement on the topics in the brief and what the Commission has to say about those topics. The next steps are to provide the issue brief with a final edit for consistency and readability, format the final text with graphics, and bring the final issue brief back to the Commission at a future meeting for final approval.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners recommended stronger anti-displacement language in the equity section. The issue brief currently focuses on car ownership, not on why car ownership is necessary because of lack of housing affordability in proximity to jobs.
- Commissioners expressed the importance of access to cultural hubs such as Little Saigon.

- Commissioners cautioned against conflating low-income and BIPOC communities. Not all BIPOC communities are low-income.
- Commissioners expressed concern that the current Vision statement is not vibrant, should be more relatable to the public, and should be more about people rather than 'people-oriented' things.
- Commissioners suggested the following language: "Grow social, cultural, and economic opportunities such as streateries and other vending activities."
- Commissioners recommended highlighting a wide variety of opportunities for the right-of-way other than only a shift away from automobile use.
- Commissioners expressed concern that the Seattle Department of Transportation typically changes use of the right-of-way only when a major development project is permitted. This limits the areas where transformation of the right-of-way is possible to where development is occurring and perpetuates displacement.
- Commissioners stated that repurposing the right-of-way should not rely only on new development. New funding sources will be needed for a more complete transformation.
- Commissioners recommended that the Seattle Transportation Plan and the next transportation levy should be informed by the values expressed in this issue brief.
- Commissioners suggested expanding the ways how the City generates revenue from the right-of-way. This may be an idea for a future Land Use and Transportation Committee agenda or additional issue brief.
- Commissioners suggested the following more proactive Vision statement: "Beyond its use for mobility, the right of way is a social and cultural space, an environmental and recreational resource, and an opportunity for economic development. It links all of us together."

Briefing: 2022-2023 Comprehensive Plan Amendments Docketing Process

Mr. Hoey provided an overview of the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments docketing process. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan can only be amended once per year. The Major Update to the Comprehensive Plan happens every 8 years. Procedures and criteria for consideration of proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan as part of the annual "docket" are established in City Council Resolution 31807. All proposed amendments are reviewed against these criteria, not on the merits of those amendments.

Applications to amend the Comprehensive Plan are submitted to the City Council in May. The Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) and the Planning Commission review the proposed amendments for docket setting according to the criteria in Resolution 31807. The Planning Commission and OPCD independently determine whether the amendments meet the criteria and submit their recommendations to the City Council Land Use Committee. That committee holds a public hearing and vote to set the docket.

Mr. Hoey stated that five proposed amendments have been submitted for consideration this year. The Planning Commission will review those amendments, discuss the staff draft docketing recommendations at the June 9 meeting, review its draft docketing recommendations letter at the June 23 meeting, and take action on its final docketing recommendations letter at the July 14 meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.