



City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission

Tim Parham, Chair
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:	Eileen Canola, David Goldberg, Grace Kim, Rick Mohler, Tim Parham, Marj Press, Kelly Rider, Julio Sanchez, Amy Shumann, Jamie Stroble
Commissioners Absent:	Michael Austin, Sandra Fried, Veronica Guenther, Lauren Squires, Patti Wilma
Commission Staff:	Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Connie Combs, Policy Analyst
Guests:	Carrie Avila-Mooney, Cathal Ridge, and Sloan Dawson, Sound Transit; Diana Canzoneri and Rosa Ammon-Ciaglo, Office of Planning and Community Development

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

Chair Tim Parham called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and announced several upcoming Commission meetings.

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the November 8, 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Eileen Canola seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, announced several upcoming community events. She stated that the City Council recently passed two Comprehensive Plan Amendments, including one text amendment and a change to the Future Land Use Map (FLUM). The Planning Commission had recommended approval of the text change but did not support approval of the FLUM change. The City Council did not take action on an amendment related to establishing a transportation impact fee program. Executive Director Murdock announced that Commissioners David Goldberg, Rick Mohler, and Julio Sanchez were reappointed by the City Council. The Commission's

leadership elections are on hold pending two Commissioner reappointments from the Mayor. The Commission's Neighborhoods for All report has received positive press. Executive Director Murdock thanked the Commissioners who provided input on the report.

Update: Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Level 3 Alternatives

Carrie Avila-Mooney, Cathal Ridge, and Sloan Dawson, Sound Transit

If you would like to view the Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Level 3 Alternatives presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.

Ms. Avila-Mooney provided an overview of the Sound Transit 3 Representative Project and the alternatives development process. She provided a summary of recent and ongoing community engagement and collaboration events, including neighborhood forums as well as Stakeholder Advisory Group and Elected Leadership Group meetings. The scoping period for the project's Environmental Impact Statement will start in February. Mr. Ridge introduced the three end-to-end alternatives that will be analyzed in Level 3. A range of criteria, including costs and ridership, will be used to evaluate the various project configurations. The evaluation criteria will include more detailed results in Level 3 than in previous phases. The Sound Transit Board will identify a Preferred Alternative in Spring 2019. Ms. Avila-Mooney described the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) work on which Sound Transit has partnered with the City of Seattle. She described the RET scope and how this work has informed the project so far.

Clarifying Questions

- Commissioners asked whether the RET's focus on meaningful engagement of communities of color includes issues related to economic development. Ms. Avila-Mooney stated that Sound Transit is trying to engage communities on the scope of the RET. This includes a focus on economic development and keeping small businesses viable. The agency will be conducting door-to-door outreach to small businesses. Commissioners stated that small business owners will most likely not show up to agency workshops or stakeholder meetings unless they are compensated for their time.
- Commissioners asked for clarification on the likely depths of the cut-and-cover and mined Chinatown/International District (C/ID) stations. Mr. Ridge stated that the cut-and-cover station would likely be approximately 45 feet deep and the mined station would be up to 200 feet deep. A mined station at this location would only be accessible by elevators.
- Commissioners inquired about how the three end-to-end alternatives were developed. Mr. Ridge stated that Sound Transit has heard a lot of enthusiasm for tunnels in West Seattle and Ballard, as well as alternative locations for the C/ID station. The agency put these options together to analyze how they perform and compare with the other alternatives. He also stated that conversations about third-party funding are ongoing. Commissioners asked how any potential mix-and-match options will be portrayed during the Level 3 alternatives evaluation. Mr. Ridge stated that the way Sound Transit shares that information will depend on what options people want to see.
- Commissioners asked about the status of 3-D visualizations for the Level 3 alternatives, stating that it is critically important that the alternatives are displayed in 3-D for as many people as possible to

view. Mr. Ridge stated that 3-D renderings were provided in Level 2. These will be updated for Level 3.

- Commissioners asked about the status of the 4th Avenue C/ID station options and potential partnerships with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) at that location. Mr. Ridge stated that SDOT has indicated that they do not have any current plan to replace the 4th avenue viaduct at that location. SDOT is also waiting for a new Director to be appointed.
- Commissioners asked if there is a cost difference for the new downtown tunnel along 5th or 6th Avenue. Mr. Ridge stated that is being analyzed. There are a lot of tall buildings along that corridor that will determine the feasibility and cost of the tunnel alternatives.
- Commissioners asked if Sound Transit has received any pushback from Nucor Steel on the West Seattle Bridge alignment. Mr. Ridge stated that the Representative Alignment is close to the Nucor plant. Nucor has some concerns about the project's impact on truck traffic. An earlier alternative was closer to the steel plant, but that alternative was screened out.
- Commissioners asked if Sound Transit's outreach efforts include reaching out to those socioeconomic groups who will be impacted most. Ms. Avila-Mooney stated that the agency's goal is not just outreach, but engagement. Sound Transit hopes to determine the most important groups to help inform the engagement process. Commissioners asked if the outreach efforts have resulted in participation only from familiar faces and similar voices, or have they been successful in engaging diverse perspectives. Ms. Avila-Mooney replied saying that they have seen both. Community leaders have been involved and are staying involved. Sound Transit has also been using new engagement methods, including door to door outreach, with some good results.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners encouraged Sound Transit to keep many alternative options at this point because a lot of outreach is still needed. Commissioners encouraged Sound Transit to analyze potential cost saving opportunities associated with the more expensive alternatives, including transit integration and pedestrian access.
- Commissioners expressed concern about the proposed new stations at both SODO and Stadium despite very low ridership numbers at the existing stations. C/ID and Westlake will serve as transfer points. Commissioners recommended that any cost savings from eliminating new stations could help pay for other, more expensive, parts of the project.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for keeping all the C/ID options on the table for further consideration. Commissioners stated a preference for the cut-and-cover options at this location to create a convenient transfer hub. The C/ID station will be a gateway into the city. Access and transfers should be as simple and intuitive as possible.
- Commissioners expressed significant concerns about any deep mined C/ID station. This type of station could be up to 200 feet deep and only accessible by elevators.
- Commissioners stated that the voters agreed to build the ST3 West Seattle and Ballard project. The Planning Commission needs to advocate for how to make it great. Commissioners encouraged Sound Transit to work in coordination with the Imagine Greater Downtown project.
- Commissioners stated that tunnel alternatives introduce unpredictability. Sound Transit should make the system user-friendly, including ease of transfers and access to destinations after leaving

the stations. Commissioners expressed concerns about the likelihood of the City of Seattle as a third-party funding source.

Commissioners thanked the Sound Transit staff for the briefing.

Update: Equitable Development Monitoring

Diana Canzoneri and Rosa Ammon-Ciaglo, Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD)

If you would like to view the Equitable Development Monitoring presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.

Ms. Canzoneri provided a quick refresher on the Equitable Development Monitoring program. The purpose of this monitoring program is to provide essential information to policy makers that can be used in decision-making.

Ms. Canzoneri described the program's phased approach and timeline. OPCD will be publishing an annual report on two sets of indicators: long-term community indicators to gauge achievement of equitable outcomes and short-term measures to provide indicators of heightened displacement risk. The Phase 1 report will include community indicators that can be measured with existing data. The Phase 1 report will be published in the early part of 2019. Phase 2 will refine the outcome-oriented community indicators, with the benefit of additional community engagement and will begin to incorporate the heightened displacement risk metrics. OPCD will hire a consultant to recommend heightened displacement risk indicators for the Phase 2 work. Phase 3 will systematize the report to make it as useful as possible.

Ms. Canzoneri stated that selecting meaningful indicators and criteria has been an iterative process, informed by the Planning Commission and the Equitable Development Advisory Board. OPCD has worked in consultation with other City departments and external agency partners, such as the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). OPCD staff has reviewed other studies and examples of indicator efforts. In addition to advising on the indicators, the Planning Commission will be developing recommendations for City officials based on findings of the annual monitoring reports.

Ms. Ammon-Ciaglo provided an overview of the program's community engagement efforts. Ongoing work is focused on areas with high risk of displacement. OPCD has convened focus groups with community liaisons and referred to past community action plans to avoid going back to the same communities asking for the same information. OPCD also engaged the community through intercept interviews at New Holly, the Lao Festival, and Yesler Terrace.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners asked at what level the indicators be analyzed. Ms. Canzoneri answered that the indicators will be at the census tract level.
- Commissioners asked for more information about the Mobility and Access indicator and questioned whether a 45-minute transit commute is the correct indicator for jobs accessible by transit. Ms.

Canzoneri stated that transit schedules and transportation mobility models were used for this indicator. OPCD is coordinating with PSRC to include data from census tracts on a regional level.

- Commissioners expressed interest in including pedestrian safety and recent crash data from SDOT in the Mobility and Access indicator.
- Commissioners encouraged use of the Equitable Development Monitoring maps and data to focus resources to the communities with the greatest needs (e.g. those that have been overlooked and under-resourced). Commissioners asked if it is possible to look at how much the City is spending in each of the census tracts studied. Commissioners also suggested analyzing property tax rates in these census tracts to determine how they are changing over time.
- Commissioners encouraged inclusion of schools and parks in the monitoring indicators. The Commission's recent "Neighborhoods For All" report noted that the location of many high performing schools and parks are in neighborhoods with single family zoning designations.
- Commissioners recommended a regional approach for the Equitable Development Monitoring program, recognizing that both King County and PSRC are also working on similar efforts.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Canzoneri and Ms. Ammon-Ciaglo for their briefing.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.