



City of Seattle
Seattle Planning Commission

Michael Austin, Chair
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Meeting Minutes

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- Commissioners Present:** David Goldberg, Veronica Guenther, Grace Kim, Rick Mohler, Marj Press, Julio Sanchez, Amy Shumann, Jamie Stroble, Patti Wilma
- Commissioners Absent:** Michael Austin, Sandra Fried, Tim Parham, Kelly Rider, Lauren Squires
- Commission Staff:** Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Connie Combs, Policy Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission Coordinator
- Guests:** Jonathan Lewis, Seattle Department of Transportation; David Driskell and Diana Canzoneri, Office of Planning and Community Development; Justine Marcus, The Urban Displacement Project

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

Vice-Chair Patti Wilma called the meeting to order at 7:35 am and announced several upcoming Commission meetings.

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the March 14, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Grace Kim seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed. Commissioners Rick Mohler and Patti Wilma abstained.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, announced several upcoming community events. She reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming *Neighborhoods For All* open houses on April 27 and May 4. More information on these events will be coming soon. The Commissioners will be asked to help facilitate small group discussions.

Public Comment: Sound Transit Chinatown/International District and Delridge Stations Letter

There was no public comment.

Action: Sound Transit Chinatown/International District and Delridge Stations Letter

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, presented the draft letter. The draft letter incorporated comments and discussion from the Commission's March 14 meeting. Mr. Hoey thanked the Commissioners who reviewed and provided comments on the draft letter. He emphasized the importance of the Commission approving the letter so it could be sent to the Seattle members of the Sound Transit Elected Leadership Group in advance of their next meeting on the following day.

If you would like to view the Sound Transit Chinatown/International District and Delridge Stations Letter presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners requested that members of the Sound Transit Stakeholder Advisory Group be copied on the letter, as well as the Commission's upcoming Level 3 recommendations letter. Executive Director Murdock reminded the Commissioners that their recent scoping letter was directed to Sound Transit, while the Chinatown/International District and Delridge letter and the upcoming Level 3 recommendations letter would both be directed to the Seattle members of the Elected Leadership Group.

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to copy the Sound Transit Stakeholder Advisory Group on the Chinatown/International District and Delridge letter, noting this action would not necessarily set a precedent for copying individuals or groups on future letters. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with Commissioner Marj Press voting no.

- Commissioners revised the first paragraph on page 2 of the letter to read as follows: "The Commission recommends the Representative Project C/ID alignment be removed from further consideration due to our serious concerns regarding the proposed cut-and-cover construction along 5th Avenue S. Cut-and-cover construction at this location would have short- and long-term impacts including significant disruption to local businesses; property acquisitions for purposes of construction, staging, and ancillary facilities; and displacement of Metro bus routes. The construction impacts from a longer cut-and-cover tunnel on 5th Avenue S in the Representative Project would be significantly more disruptive to small businesses and the quality of life for C/ID residents than the other proposed alternatives at this location."

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the Sound Transit Chinatown/International District and Delridge Stations Letter with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Veronica Guenther seconded the motion. The motion to approve the letter as revised passed.

Briefing: Imagine Greater Downtown

David Driskell, Office of Planning and Community Development; Jonathan Lewis, Seattle Department of Transportation

Mr. Driskell and Mr. Lewis shared the most recent “Big Ideas” from the Imagine Greater Downtown project. The project’s goals are to make great places and enhance mobility in the ten Greater Downtown neighborhoods. The Big Ideas are based on input from the Imagine Greater Downtown Advisory Group, King County Metro, Sound Transit, and the Downtown Seattle Association. The next steps for the project include further analysis and exploration of key concepts and near-term priorities. The current phase of work is scheduled to be completed in June.

If you would like to view the Imagine Greater Downtown presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners noted the inclusion of Jackson Hub as one of the proposed concepts and asked for more information on the City’s role in developing the Jackson Hub vision. Mr. Driskell stated that the City will be working with partner agencies to articulate a vision in that area and outlining a next-step planning effort as part of the Imagine Greater Downtown vision document. Mr. Lewis noted that the Seattle Department of Transportation is talking with Sound Transit about that area. He stated it has become clear through the Sound Transit 3 process that there is not enough money to fully implement all of the community’s desires in all of the ST3 project areas. For the Jackson Hub area, the City will be working on a broader vision and partnering with Sound Transit to make sure the transit agencies’ work fits with a greater vision.
- Commissioners complimented the project team for the attractive, informative graphics included in their presentation.
- Commissioners requested more information on the concept of a “place street.” Mr. Lewis stated the concept is intended to represent a spectrum of options for improving the public realm.
- Commissioners noted the Imagine Greater Downtown vision does not explicitly mention the potential for bike lanes. Mr. Driskell stated the modal plans (such as the Bicycle Master Plan) are the baseline for implementation. Mr. Lewis stated an ongoing conversation includes where e-bikes and other micro-mobility options fit within that framework.
- Commissioners commented that the Imagine Greater Downtown project is an exciting integration of silos, including modal plans and city/regional partners that don’t normally work together.
- Commissioners asked who will endorse the final product. Mr. Lewis stated that the Executive Steering Committee will do so. The project team is exploring a mechanism for those executives to meet on an ongoing basis. This is not a formal plan to be adopted by the City Council, though there may be a resolution in support of it.
- Commissioners inquired about what is being done regarding the potential opportunity for re-connecting Aurora. Mr. Lewis stated that opportunity was addressed in the North Downtown Mobility Action Plan. Harrison and Thomas Streets will connect with Aurora. Opportunities include a green street and a pedestrian bridge over Aurora.
- Commissioners expressed a dislike for the name Jackson Hub and encouraged the City to be more creative when referring to that area.

- Commissioners encouraged the Imagine Greater Downtown team to consider the possibility of conflict between many segments of the community who will be using these parts of downtown.

Briefing: Equitable Development Indicators

Diana Canzoneri, Office of Planning and Community Development; Justine Marcus, The Urban Displacement Project

Ms. Canzoneri and Ms. Marcus provided an update on the development of Equitable Development Monitoring Program. Ms. Canzoneri presented some background information, including the role of the Commission in development of the indicators. Ms. Marcus described progress to date that the Urban Displacement Project (UDP) has made on their contracted scope to research, evaluate, and recommend potential indicators of heightened displacement risk for integration into the City's Equitable Development Monitoring Program. The UDP has reviewed academic literature and community feedback collected by OPCD and have also been meeting with City and County staff who can identify the data that is valuable to this effort. OPCD and UDP are in the process of reviewing the potential indicators that have been identified to this point. They will be presenting a final list of indicators in July. This will include an identification of data compiled to date and any data gaps that still exist.

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

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners asked how increases in infrequent discretionary businesses are monitored. Ms. Marcus stated that this data is collected using publicly available data sets. The data reflects regular business types and new business types. The City's Finance and Administrative Services Department keeps a database of all business licenses. These can be sorted by business types to determine what new types of businesses are opening in neighborhoods.
- Commissioners noted the role of evictions in the physical displacement data category. The demographics of evictions demonstrate a disproportionate impact on people of color. Ms. Marcus stated that UDP is talking with University of Washington researchers about data they are compiling and analyzing on evictions. There is currently no racial demographic data attached to administrative data on evictions. UDP is hoping to achieve more granularity in their recommendations related to eviction data.
- Commissioners asked whether the City will require departments to start collecting new kinds of data in the future. Ms. Marcus stated data gaps will be described in the final report. Some departments have been very generous with data, but some data simply isn't being collected at this point in time.
- Commissioners noted that above-average rent increases are a key indicator and asked about the source for this data. Ms. Marcus noted that the City has been lacking complete data since Dupre and Scott closed. A new company, Commercial Analytics, has recently published its first report. OPCD and the Office of Housing are reviewing it.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.