

Seattle Arena--Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) *When was the Draft EIS published?* Thursday, August 15.
- 2) *What is the length of the comment period?* 45 days; the comment period will end on Monday, September 30.
- 3) *How do I comment on the Draft EIS?* Submit a comment using the following link <http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/luib/Notice.aspx?BID=840&NID=15776> or mail it to the Department of Planning and Development, Attn: John Shaw, Senior Transportation Planner, 700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, P.O. Box 34019, Seattle, WA 98104-4019; or provide comments during one of the public hearings.
- 4) *When are public hearings on the DEIS scheduled?* Two public hearings are being scheduled: one on Tuesday, September 10, in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at Seattle City Hall; the other on Thursday, September 19, in the Fidalgo Room at Seattle Center. Both will start at 6 p.m.
- 5) *How many and what alternatives are included in the DEIS?* Five alternatives are analyzed:
 - a. No Action: The effect of no development on the site; required by SEPA.
 - b. Proposed Project: A 20,000 seat arena at 1700 1st Avenue South.
 - c. Alternative 3: An 18,000 seat arena at 1700 1st Avenue South.
 - d. Alternative 4: A 20,000 seat arena at the site of KeyArena in Seattle Center.
 - e. Alternative 5: A 20,000 seat arena at the site of Memorial Stadium adjacent to Seattle Center.
- 6) *Is the proposal a public or private project?* Since the proposed Arena was initiated by a private entity (ArenaCo), and would be constructed and operated by ArenaCo, it is a private project for the purposes of SEPA alternatives analysis. An EIS for a private proposal is typically limited to studying alternative proposals on the same site.

However, both the City and County also required the review of environmental impacts for a proposed arena at other locations in Seattle. Those alternative sites are the KeyArena at Seattle Center and Memorial Stadium adjacent to Seattle Center. The City and County's objective is to determine whether to participate in ArenaCo's private proposal to build and operate a Seattle Arena for NBA and NHL home teams.

- 7) *Were other sites considered for evaluation as alternatives in the DEIS?* Yes. Several screening criteria were used to identify potential alternative sites, including a minimum parcel size to accommodate a potential arena; zoning to allow a spectator sports facility; consideration of the likely impacts of relocating existing uses; accessibility to mass transit; vehicular accessibility; pedestrian and bicycle accessibility; an adequate parking supply; and compatibility with nearby uses. These are discussed further in Appendix A to the DEIS.

Seattle Arena--Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Frequently Asked Questions

- 8) *Why is retrofitting KeyArena not evaluated as an alternative?* The future Arena must be able to accommodate a minimum floor plate of 200' by 85' to allow for an NHL-regulation ice surface. Retrofitting KeyArena with such a floor plate would not allow a sufficient amount of spectator seating for an NHL arena and would not meet one of the key objectives for the private proposal.
- 9) *What is the City and County's interest in this proposal?* ArenaCo proposed that the City and County help fund the Seattle Arena. The City and County's objective is to determine whether to participate in ArenaCo's private proposal to build and operate the Arena for NBA and NHL home teams. To help inform future City and County decisions whether to participate in the ArenaCo private project, the City and County decided to compare the potential environmental impacts of ArenaCo's proposed project in SoDo with the potential environmental impacts of building and operating an arena at other locations. Both the City and County Councils will not take action on any financial commitments or otherwise make any decision to participate in the ArenaCo project until after a permit decision is published on the Arena proposal.
- 10) *What are the next steps after the comment period?* Following the comment period, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be prepared. The FEIS will include responses to comments submitted on the DEIS, and may include updates or revisions to the DEIS. Following publication of the FEIS, additional steps will include consideration of the proposed street vacation by the City Council and publication of the Master Use Permit decision for the Arena proposal.