



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Department of Construction and Inspections
Nathan Torgelson, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
THE SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTIONS**

Application Number: 3019675
Applicant Name: Robert Humble
Address of Proposal: 6215 20th Avenue Northwest

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL

Land Use Application to allow a 3-story structure containing 6 rowhouse units. Parking for 7 vehicles to be provided. Existing structure to be demolished.

The following approval is required:

SEPA Environmental Threshold Determination (SMC Chapter 25.05)

SEATTLE DCI SEPA DETERMINATION:

Determination of Non-significance

- No mitigating conditions of approval are imposed.
- Pursuant to SEPA substantive authority provided in SMC 25.06.660, the proposal has been conditioned to mitigate environmental impacts

SITE AND VICINITY

Site Location: 6215 20th Avenue Northwest
Zoning: Lowrise One (LR-1), Airport Height District,
Ballard Hub Urban Village Overlay

Parcel Size: 7,800 sq. ft.
Existing Use: Single Family Home
ECA: None



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The existing 1,910 sq. ft. 4-story building is generally located on the west side of 20th Avenue Northwest just south of Northwest 62nd Street. The subject site and surrounding properties are zoned Lowrise One. Surrounding zoning includes Neighborhood Commercial, Single Family, and Lowrise Two zones.

The applicant is proposing demolition of the existing single family home to accommodate 6 new rowhouses and 7 parking spaces. The 6 new townhomes triggers SEPA review for crossing the unit count threshold (4) for the first time.

Public Comment:

The public comment period ended on August 30, 2015 and no comments were received.

ANALYSIS – SEPA

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the Seattle State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11, and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance (Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 25.05).

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant dated 3/12/2015. The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (Seattle DCI) has annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the project file submitted by the applicant or agents; and any pertinent comments which may have been received regarding this proposed action have been considered. The information in the checklist, the supplemental information, and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665 D) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, and certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states in part: "*where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*" subject to some limitations.

Under such limitations/circumstances, mitigation can be considered. Thus, a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate.

Short-term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected: transport of materials to and from the site; increased noise and vibration from construction operations and equipment; increased traffic and parking demand from construction personnel traveling to and from the work site; and consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances will reduce or eliminate most adverse short-term impacts to the environment.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Construction activities including construction worker commutes, truck trips, the operation of construction equipment and machinery, and the manufacture of the construction materials themselves result in increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, they are not expected to be significant due to the relatively minor contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from this project.

No further conditioning or mitigation is warranted pursuant to specific environmental policies or the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

Long -term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal including: greenhouse gas emissions; parking; potential blockage of designated sites from the Scenic Routes nearby; possible increased traffic in the area. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances is adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation of most long-term impacts and no further conditioning is warranted by SEPA policies.

Parking

The proposed development includes 7 rowhouses and 7 parking spaces. The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Parking Manual indicates that the estimated demand for this use is for 10 parking spaces (7 units x 1.38 parking spaces per unit).

The ITE Parking Manual is based on suburban assumptions that often do not include nearby on-street parking, pedestrian-oriented environments, bicycle facilities, or mass transportation. Transit options and some services are within blocks of the proposed development, and it is reasonable to expect that the residents, employees and visitors of the proposed project would likely incorporate walking, cycling, or transit in their transportation options. Therefore, it is likely that the proposed on-site parking will accommodate all or nearly all of the anticipated parking demand at this site.

Any impacts to on-street parking are anticipated to be minimal. Therefore no conditioning or mitigation is warranted per SMC 25.05.675.M.

DECISION – SEPA

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

- Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.030(2) (c).

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355 and Early review DNS process in SMC 25.05.355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

CONDITIONS – SEPA

None required.

Crystal Torres, Land Use Planner
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

Date: March 17, 2016

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ISSUANCE OF YOUR MASTER USE PERMIT

Master Use Permit Expiration and Issuance

The appealable land use decision on your Master Use Permit (MUP) application has now been published. At the conclusion of the appeal period, your permit will be considered “approved for issuance”. (If your decision is appealed, your permit will be considered “approved for issuance” on the fourth day following the City Hearing Examiner’s decision.) Projects requiring a Council land use action shall be considered “approved for issuance” following the Council’s decision.

The “approved for issuance” date marks the beginning of the **three year life** of the MUP approval, whether or not there are outstanding corrections to be made or pre-issuance conditions to be met. The permit must be issued by Seattle DCI within that three years or it will expire and be cancelled (SMC 23-76-028). (Projects with a shoreline component have a **two year life**. Additional information regarding the effective date of shoreline permits may be found at 23.60.074.)

All outstanding corrections must be made, any pre-issuance conditions met and all outstanding fees paid before the permit is issued. You will be notified when your permit has issued.

Questions regarding the issuance and expiration of your permit may be addressed to the Public Resource Center at prc@seattle.gov or to our message line at 206-684-8467.