

## Citizens Advisory Committee Work Plan City of Seattle Shoreline Master Program Update

As discussed in the Citizen Advisory Committee's Charter, the City of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has worked with the Committee to prepare a work plan to accomplish the purposes of the Committee. DPD and facilitator consultants from Triangle Associates have prepared this draft work plan for consideration, revision and adoption by the Committee.

The Committee schedule accompanying this document provides an overview of the proposed work plan including the issues to be addressed, presentations to be provided, desired Committee work products, and SMP update milestones. This work plan is intended to provide more detail on the information in the schedule, including brief overviews of the issues to be addressed.

DPD and the facilitation team anticipate that Committee deliberations on each issue will occur in the following manner:

1. DPD prepares background materials, arranges presentations and develops fact sheets on the issue to inform Committee deliberations.
2. Committee discusses the issue and determines whether it wishes to provide informal and/or formal advice on that issue (via oral report, memorandum or advice paper).
3. If yes, Committee seeks a full or partial consensus position on the issue. This can take place through full Committee discussion and/or by designating Committee members to perform assignments and/or form ad hoc subcommittees or task teams to address specific topics (DPD and/or facilitation team personnel may be asked to participate in the creation or review of these products).
4. Committee reviews, revises and approves draft advice either as a consensus position or by articulating differing perspectives; presents it to DPD.
5. DPD responds in writing and with direct dialogue to written Committee recommendations, providing rationale for accepting, not accepting and/or suggesting modifications.

Below is a description of each issue recommended for discussion by the Committee. In selecting the issues to include in this work plan, DPD has sought to identify topics that are important to multiple stakeholder groups and that offer a range of possible solutions.

The order of topics on the timeline is arranged to correspond to key DPD documents that will be completed over the course of 2008, and to group related topics together. DPD and Triangle Associates sought to realistically anticipate how long discussion of each topic will take, but it is likely that the schedule and work plan will continue to be updated over the course of the Committee meetings.

## City of Seattle SMP Update Citizens Advisory Committee Work Plan

### May 2008

*Maggie Glowacki will present an overview of the SMP update process, including Department of Ecology requirements and progress to date. (WAC 173-26-171, 176, 181, 186, 201)*

#### **Charter**

The charter is intended to guide the Committee's deliberations, interactions and work products. It contains agreed-upon ground rules and operating procedures for working together in a group. It establishes the purpose of the group; clarifies roles and responsibilities; encourages discussion, decision-making and development of recommendations; and develops trust by setting guidelines that are fair, equitable and productive. The charter clarifies group procedures for conducting meetings, reporting results, resolving differences and accomplishing the task of the group. A draft charter created by the facilitation team and DPD will be provided to Committee members in advance of the first meeting. (See handout on Citizen Advisory Committees located in Section 1 of Shoreline Master Program binder.)

*The Committee will be asked to review the draft charter ahead of the meeting, bring any suggested revisions to the meeting, then discuss and adopt the draft charter at the meeting.*

#### **Work Plan**

The work plan presents issues to be addressed by the Committee as well as background materials and presentations, proposes Committee work products and provides SMP update milestones to put the Committee process into the larger context of the SMP update.

*The Committee will be asked to review the draft work plan (this document and the accompanying schedule) ahead of the meeting, bring any suggested revisions to the meeting, then discuss and adopt the draft work plan at the meeting.*

### June 2008

#### **Shoreline Vision**

In March, DPD and Triangle Associates hosted a series of seven public workshops to develop and articulate a community vision for the future of Seattle's shoreline areas. Participants discussed public access, natural resources, land use, and visions for future uses of the shoreline. An internet survey allowed workshop participants and those unable to attend the workshops an opportunity to provide additional input. Additionally, consultants for DPD conducted a randomized telephone survey of Seattle citizens. Similar to the workshops, the survey collected information on peoples' perceptions of the balance between competing shoreline uses. Together, the workshops and surveys led to the drafting of a Shoreline Vision Report (included in the Citizen Advisory Committee binder, Section 5).

*DPD will present on the shoreline visioning workshops and the Committee will review the results of the process. Michael Kern will facilitate a visioning exercise to establish common values/visions of the Committee.*

### **Environmental Designations**

Environmental Designations are a crucial part of the shoreline overlay zone, because they establish allowed uses and development standards for each area. The eleven current environmental designations include "Conservancy Preservation," "Conservancy Navigation," "Urban Industrial," and "Urban Residential." Each designation carries its own set of rules and regulations, in keeping with the Shoreline Master Program's broad goals.

Based on current environmental designations, an inventory of existing land uses and assessment of current ecological conditions along the shoreline, DPD will delineate draft environmental designations following Department of Ecology guidelines. (WAC 173-26-201, 3c pp 31 - 33, & WAC 173-26-211, pp 40-51)

*DPD will present the results of the shoreline ecological characterization and the land use inventory and will propose environmental designations. The Committee will provide feedback on the proposed designation boundaries.*

### **July 2008**

#### **No Net Loss of Ecological Function**

A new requirement in Ecology's Shoreline Master Program guidelines establishes a standard of "no net loss of ecological function." What does this mean and how do we achieve this in Seattle?

*Department of Ecology staff will present information on how local jurisdictions are to meet no net loss of ecological function for development in the shoreline environment.*

#### **Residential Development Standards**

Single-family residences are identified in the SMA guidelines as a priority use for shoreline areas, so long as they are developed in such a way as to prevent pollution and other ecological problems. Residential uses are the dominant land use along Seattle's Puget Sound and Lake Washington shorelines. (WAC 173-26-241, 1, 2, 3j, pp. 81, 82, 89 & 90)

*DPD will provide an outline of existing residential development standards as well as a list of issues that need to be addressed in the new SMP. The CAC will provide input on development standards for residential projects, including but not limited to consideration of setbacks, buffer areas, density, and shoreline armoring.*

#### **Vegetation Management**

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Vegetation in the shoreline area has effects on water quality, habitat value, and views. The Department of Ecology requires Seattle's updated SMP to contain provisions on the protection and management of vegetation. These provisions include restrictions on grading, clearing trees and other plants, vegetation restoration, and control of invasive weeds. (WAC 173-26-221, 5, pp 68-70)

*Betty Renkor from the Department of Ecology will present on vegetation conservation in shoreline areas. As part of the discussion on residential development, the Committee will consider regulations for vegetation management.*

### **Water Quality**

Like all waterfront land uses, waterfront residential development affects water quality. Impervious surfaces, building materials, and landscape management practices on shoreline properties can have direct impacts on contaminants entering Seattle's waters (WAC 173-26-221, 6, p 70)

*As part of the discussion on residential development, the Committee will consider regulations for issues relating to water quality.*

### **August 2008**

#### **Commercial and Industrial Development Standards**

State guidelines prioritize water-oriented commercial and industrial uses over non-water-oriented ones, while protecting shoreline ecological processes. They also require the City to update requirements for mitigation of environmental impacts from commercial and industrial development. (WAC 173-26-241, 1, 2, 3d, 3f, pp 81, 82, 84-87)

*DPD planner Scott Dvorak will present on the Mayor's Industrial Lands initiative and other planning efforts dedicated to maintaining industrial jobs. DPD will provide an outline of existing standards as well as a list of issues that need to be addressed in the new SMP. The CAC will propose revisions to development standards for commercial and industrial projects, including but not limited to consideration of water-oriented uses.*

#### **Vegetation Management**

See the description above of residential vegetation management.

*As part of the discussion on commercial and industrial development, we will consider regulations for vegetation management.*

#### **Commercial and Industrial Water Quality**

See the description above of residential water quality.

*As part of the discussion on commercial and industrial development, we will consider regulations for issues relating to water quality.*

### October 2008

#### **Shoreline modifications (dredging, bulkheads, overwater coverage)**

Although necessary for some water-dependent uses and public access, shoreline modifications can have serious impacts on aquatic habitat, negatively affecting threatened fish species. (WAC 173-26-231, pp. 71-80)

*Roger Tabor from U.S. Fish and Wildlife will present findings on the effects of overwater coverage on salmon. The Committee will discuss strategies for effectively regulating this and other shoreline modifications and provide recommendations.*

### November 2008

#### **Public Access and Views**

Public access is defined in the Shoreline Management Act as the ability of the public to reach, touch, and enjoy the water's edge. It also includes access for boat recreation and access to views of the water from adjacent locations. Seattle has many excellent public access areas, which serve as the main way most Seattleites reach the water. At the same time, public access can conflict with water-dependent uses and ecological function in some areas. (WAC 173-26-221, 4, pp 65-67)

*DPD will present the results of the public access inventory and the CAC will provide input on how to improve access and views through the Shoreline Master Program.*

### December 2008

#### **Best Management Practices**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are requirements for the construction and operation of facilities. For waterfront land uses, BMPs for erosion control, slope stabilization, and containment of hazardous materials are especially important.

*The CAC will provide input on which BMPs should be included in the Shoreline Master Program, as well as where they should be required and where they should be recommended.*

#### **Permitting Process**

Obtaining permits for shoreline development projects can be complicated, in part because local, state, and federal agencies have overlapping jurisdictions in shoreline areas. Applicants and the public often request simpler codes, more prescriptive standards, greater design flexibility, better environmental protection and improvement of public access, but these goals often work at cross purposes.

*DPD will provide an overview of the permitting process and a list of known issues that should be resolved in the SMP update. The Committee will be asked to provide*

*input on how Seattle can improve its permitting process, while realistically balancing goals and requirements for the Shoreline Master Program.*

**January or February 2009**

**Non-Conforming Structures and Uses**

Non-conforming structures and uses are existing structures and land uses that do not comply with the current Shoreline Master Program. They are properties and facilities grandfathered in from an earlier, less regulated era. Regulating maintenance and repairs for non-conforming facilities can be challenging, because the City must establish thresholds for how much work can be done on a non-conforming property before the development is required to meet the current development standards. This issue is of particular importance in the shoreline environment where non-conforming development may be causing environmental degradation.

*The CAC will be provided with a summary of current rules and will be asked to provide input on how the Shoreline Master Program should address non-conforming structures and uses. One issue to be discussed is the role of incentives to encourage a reduction in environmental impacts when a non-conforming structure is being maintained.*