

## Uptown UDF Charette

June 14, 2014

### Set #1 Notes

#### Connectivity

- Incremental, implementable
  - Strategy
  - Connect icons via Broad/Terry
  - Mark on the landscape
  - In place (R.O.W.)
  - The Miracle Mile
  - Thomas Street – see it
  - Traverse
  - Residents vs. Visitors
  - Need to get to overall
  - Focus Hierarchy – cars vs. people
  - The ‘Watershed’ – the divide
  - Bikes – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- It's here already with some help.

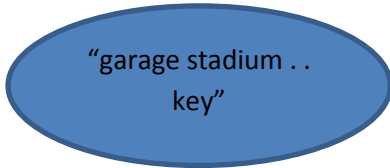
Mercer  
Renaissance

Mercer & Roy  
Renewal

- Transpo NODE: p.o. site?
- E-W connect (SLU to First Ave.)
- Harrison the Workhorse
- Thomas the Green
- Taylor & QA & Olympic
- **The memorable intersections**
- ICONIC DOTS – counterbalance, etc.
- **BIGGEST GAPS: Lower Mercer, Broad, Denny, etc.**
- ADDRESS TRANSIT
  - Transit hubs
  - SC as connector, not barrier

## SEATTLE CENTER

Make sure they meet potential ↓



KEY remains key

1. Economic study →re: SODO multi purpose  
Wild card
2. Landmark

\*Parking strategy needs to support Uptown.

Decentralize vs. Center

OLD IDEA – Seattle Center as “Park”

Strategic moves to open edge

Neighborhood needed to grow up!

- Western Edge
  - See as iconic \*
  - Key Arena a barrier
  - Use as a zoo evening – will transform
- Northern Edge
  - 3 portals – 2<sup>nd</sup> & Thomas
  - Sidney Harbor – Break it down
- Eastern Edge
  - Uptown Δ’s neighborhood
  - T & H & J + what are those intersections?
  - KCTS block in play?
  - Green stadium N-S or E-W.
  - “Field” + Active Edges

\*2014 SDOT  
5<sup>th</sup> & Broad/Thomas  
South for Traffic

South side – Pacific Science Center  
Δ Critically Important

### Edges should take on neighborhood character

\*Republican Warren Breezeway

#### Living in UPTOWN/Economic

- Maximizing corners
- Daily amenities awesome
- Schools, libraries, clinics
- **SLU will save**
- **Expand to the waterfront**
- Population vs. building types
- KCTS as school
- Innovation District
  - “SIZZLE”
- Place for partnerships
- If you change mission – V.I.D.
- **Mercer Roy Corridor**
  - Perfect overlay with transportation strategies
  - How to preserve and create 3-story character north of Mercer
  - Master plan/study for blocks at Seattle Center
  - Critical “Capital Web” investments
  - \*Governance! Bagshaw
    - Local UPTOWN governance
  
- **“Uptown Park” – the Flank**
- Can’t do piecemeal
- Raise zoning height – allows **mix**

- Better buildings

## **PUBLIC REALM**

- Main Street of QA E-W & N-S couplet
  - The Flat Zone
- Scale is the Issue
- How does neighborhood get to influence housing
- DOGS, P-Patch
- Contaminated sites
- Call it a Strategic Plan always
- Key preservation vs. Growth/Change
- Areas to be preserved – a finer grain
- Uptown a ‘cluster’, a ‘collection’ vs. a ‘place’
- Seattle Center as a subdivision
  - KCTS
  - KEXP
- Need for Pedestrian Overlay
- 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. (+ Harrison) – Transit node
  - 4-lanes

- Roy/QA intersection – implications to NHs
- Key bike connection issue – connectivity to upper QA
- GAP to water (Mercer downhill)
- Connection to downtown
- SLU to Thomas St. bridge
- Through Seattle Center
- Bike path through Center (avoid traffic)
- Walk \*E (south of Mercer, west side)
- Through Center
- Down from Hiland Stairs
- Enclose commercial nodes
- Wayfind thru Center to Thomas/SLU connectivity
- Lights create long waits for peds and traffic
- Signal timing very important – to ped/bike movement
- Walk thru SC NW to SE is not inviting

## **E.C. Dev**

### **Nodes**

- 1st N to Roy/S to Republican
  - 1<sup>st</sup> south to Denny
  - Thomas connection to SLU
  - Roy St
  - Parking study needed
- 
- SC SE Quadrant tourist focus→how encourage them to go north to commercial districts
  - Retail→tourist, NH, mainstream
  - Design new retail for small tenants w/new construction
  - Keep buildings of character
  - Scale buildings – reduce bulk thru thoughtful design
  - Higher standard for architecture
  - Keep different scale of retail

### **Living in Uptown**

- Are we using SC to the greatest extent possible?
- Access of retail and goods – permeability of SC
- Active uses/not just event uses – 24/7 for safety → housing and uses for all ages and stages of life
- Lack of family housing (2+ bedroom)
- Good education is asset
- Safe spaces (visibility/sight lines)
- Need more programming for nh residents
- Physical barriers – create perception that not a lot of activities are going on
- Activate wide sidewalks along perimeter of the Center
- Main concern – NW & NE corner blocks
- Diversity of residents – millennials, seniors, how to stay in the neighborhood, balance of services, proximity to jobs, proximity to Center, cost of housing, mix of affordable housing for all family sizes
- Review policies that encourage a variety of housing
- Young workers do use cars, Car2Go, etc.
- Still a connector to downtown
- Should there be a family housing emphasis (discussion)
- Do we want to preserve quality older (brick) buildings

### Subareas

- Historic mix
- Triangle → incentive growth
 

Connector to SLU
Keep less commercial and more residential feel
- Mercer underutilized
- Thomas a great Green Space
- Permeability of light on Mercer (not like Ballard)
- Elliott/15<sup>th</sup> walking experience is terrible
- Better solution for bikes down Mercer Pl
- Bike/ped connection thru park to Prospect bridge
- 10 acre urban forest – under emphasized
- Park → sub area for the UDF
- SW triangle – more of a mixed use, xxx – not all residential dev
- Belltown edge – dev. Identity
- Lower QA should be an entertainment district
  - o Some agreement
    - o Not a natural mix w/residential
- Need streetscape xxx-centered streets
- Family oriented housing w/SC
- Allow dev in SC for viability of housing
- Republican Gateway into SC

- Minimize walls - improve entry to SC
- Expression of art, “get to the edge”
- Remove bulkheads around KEXP site
- Bikeshare at Key Arena open space
- Connection thru Mercer Garage/new street?
- Relocate KCTS? (discussion) – move to adj. parking lot
- Need welcome/access for peds to the Needle from the SEC
- Bike safe access thru the Center
- More welcoming at the edges of Center
- Enterprise zone is an opportunity
- Is there room for P/P/P on the SC
- Are there protected views xxx to the Needle→bring to next workshop
- UW look at NEC property
- SDOT relook at Roy St design
- View triangles/signage/trees/lanes to turn lanes

### **Set #3 Notes**

#### **Living in Uptown**

- Why UDF?
  - Infrastructure
  - Under-developed sites
  - Diversity – people staying over time
  - Seattle Center – Changing demographics
  - Lake to Bay – Planning critical to connect w/development and Seattle Center
- Diversity
  - Economic levels – singles/families/age  
Others – range of economic opportunities important
  - Amenities for families – easy connections to Seattle Center
  - Housing size
  - Need family playground – Add to what we have given, cost of new park (like McClure playground)
  - Need neighborhood that is safe, convenient, more housing choice
  - Needs identity; in transition - great residential streets needed; neighborhood park – sub-neighborhood areas blending into one
  - Diversity of age important
  - Proximity important – couple of neighborhood parks
  - Should encourage people who work to want to live here
  - School – Center school small, and we need access to school options

- Great neighborhood can attract market for various types of units – still should consider incentivizing larger new units
- Best schools need to be downtown
- Need to leverage “back to center city” interest
- Sub-area:
  - West of 1<sup>st</sup>
  - NE area
- Affordable housing xxx – needs nonprofits involved also

## **PEDESTRIAN ROUTES – PUBLIC REALM**

### Sub-Areas:

- Uptown Park/NE area
- Small parks – need to make sure people know about what we have now – also need few more (Uptown Park)
- Need social interaction opportunities in parks
- Triangle area key for future links w/SLU/Belltown – routes to Center
- Triangle – potential for retail core with proximity to Amazon hi-rises
- Seattle Center parking needs and need parking mgmt. study of Center area – help determine how best to provide needed parking in the future - need to meet needs of Center, residents, retail, employers – shared parking opportunities
- **Ped desig. area**
  - **Along 1<sup>st</sup>/QA**
  - **Uptown Park should be res. oriented**
- Should note problem areas:
  - Denny a problem/barrier
  - Ped street crossings need to be consistent
- Sea Center – edge issues
  - NW corner needs work to open up
  - Work on Republican NW area to create better pathway to/from Center
  - Signage important
  - N side of Center – opportunity to use walkways better – connect walkways to streets on N edge
  - Porosity of edge needs to be intentional
  - Clarify bike “rules” in Center – they are not prohibited now
- Master planning process
  - Retreat in June with Commission – Commission will identify process for moving forward – will be opportunities for public involvement
  - Should note “walls” and work to remove/change
    - NW
    - Pac Science Center South
    - Arena plaza xxx
  - Belltown interested in looking at Denny (want UDF process) – future opport to connect with Belltown

## **CONNECTIVITY**

- Grid connecting important



- Ped improvements needed throughout neighborhood
- \*Planning for future transit
- \*Connecting bike/ped to adj neighs
- \*Connections at edge of Center
- \*Lake to Bay trails – grid
- \*Bike + ped improvement @5<sup>th</sup> & Mercer will draw many more there
- \*N end of Thomas St bridge link in couple of directions

### **ECONOMIC VITALITY**

- Zoning – good reasons to increase height  
heart of uptown/Roy – Mercer
- Economic driver corridors→QA Ave. & Roy/Mercer
- Need to care about small businesses – consider subsidies/incentivizing to ensure locational possibilities
- Keep potential for creativity factor
- Support artist space
- Think about extent to which long-term residents want to live in higher density corridors within Uptown
- Think about 85' zoning - incentive