Chapter 3.0
Plan Recommendations

3.1 About the Plan Recommendations

Each neighborhood plan being prepared by communities throughout Seattle has its big ideas; its dreams for the future; its essential elements. The City of Seattle's Neighborhood Planning Office calls these things "key integrated plan strategies." We call them the Rainier Beach 2014 Plan Cornerstones. These cornerstone elements represent the basic and main part, or the foundation, of the plan. They should be considered highest-priority elements, but not the only components of the Plan.

Following a highly successful and well-documented Phase I outreach process, the Planning Committee worked in four different subcommittees to generate ideas in the areas of land use and housing, education and community services, economic development, and transportation. The future construction of the regional light rail system along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (with a station at Henderson Street) provided an initial Focal point for all groups. In mid-August 1998, key Planning Committee members met to share the work and findings from various subcommittees. At this meeting, the group defined Cornerstone concepts and individual plan elements in Housing & Land Use, Community Education, Economic Development, and Transportation and Transit Facilities.

Discussion/Issues, Goals, and Recommendations Format. In an effort to provide a basis for plan recommendations, the following chapter provides: (a) an issues discussion that describes the existing setting, vision, and level of importance of each category, (b) a statement of goals that act as the catalyst for plan recommendations, and (c) a set of recommendations that intend to address the issues and satisfy the objectives of the overall goals for each plan component.

3.2 Vision of the Future

The Rainier Beach community wants to become a pleasant and safe neighborhood. Bringing this about is our challenge and responsibility. The attributes of our area, its diversity and natural beauty, need to be sustained. By setting forth a positive resident- and business- friendly image, we can create **an** *enjoyable, affordable,* **and prosperous** *community.*

3.3 Plan Cornerstones

The Cornerstones of the plan are either geographically defined or focus around an important topic such as community education. Overall, three major cornerstone elements have emerged through the subcommittee work of the Rainier Beach 20[4 neighborhood planning process:

C-1 Henderson Street Building A Better Boulevard. Development of a set of recommendations to link the community commercial and civic core to the future light rail station at Henderson & MLK, Jr. Way.

c-2 'Beach Square: Commercial Core Revitalization. Transportation, Economic Development, Land Use, and Streetscape concepts to rejuvenate the commercial shopping center of Rainier Beach.

C-3 Community Education: The Building Block for the Future. Promote education as a means of improving the present and future For Rainier Beach's youth, adults, and seniors.

C-1 Henderson Street: Building A Better Boulevard

Issue Discussion. Today, Rainier Beach can be seen through two different looking glasses: one of a neighborhood with tranquil views, beauty, friendliness, and a positive vibe, and another, perceiving it as a place beset with urban decay, crime, and lack of basic City services. Stretching less than half a mile from Rainier Avenue S to MLK, Jr. Way, present day Henderson Street and its immediate surroundings articulate these two viewpoints dramatically. Located in the heart of the neighborhood, the street houses community-serving uses and provides a vista to Lake Washington, yet also is a hotspot, poorly maintained, and unfriendly to pedestrians.

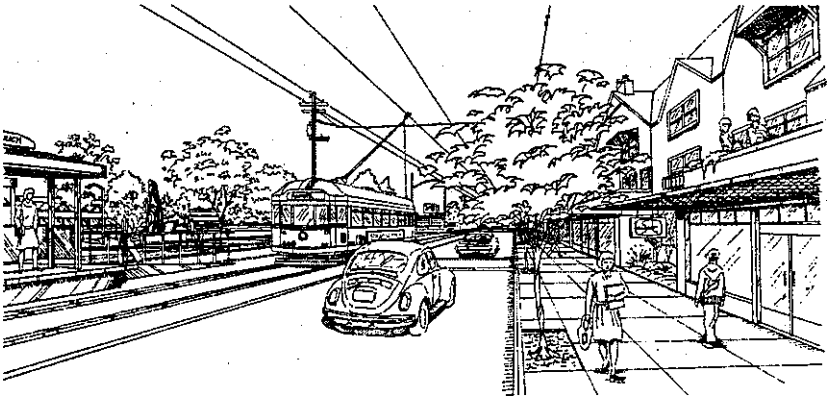


Figure 6: Illustration of Henderson Street Improvements
A combination of transportation, streetscape, housing. and economic development proposals will enhance Henderson Street

The community-at-large has identified its importance to Rainier Beach as a focal point for housing and economic redevelopment, but perhaps more importantly as a multi-use, transportation gateway connecting the proposed regional light rail station at MLK, Jr. Way to the community's commercial and civic core at Rainier Avenue S. The future vision focuses on building a better boulevard, accessible and attractive to transit riders, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, while also facilitating opportunities to redevelop adjacent housing and commercial uses.

In the future, Henderson Street will be a well-lit, tree-lined street with ample sidewalk space. It will have distinctive features like well-articulated crosswalks, street furniture, and other urban amenities to define its sense of place. It will be the confluence of various pedestrian and bicycle routes. It will be the end line of transportation systems that will connect to other parts of the Rainier Valley and/or Renton, further increasing mobility for local residents. Complementing this grand boulevard will be townhome and mixed-use housing, as well as pockets of commercial uses. Henderson Street will be the conduit that ties together new development capitalizing on the presence of the light rail station at MLK, Jr. Way, and the community's shopping and civic core at Rainier Avenue S and Henderson Street. It will be the place in Rainier Beach to stroll, shop, meet friends, attend community functions, and catch a train to SeaTac International Airport, Downtown Seattle, or other neighborhoods within the Rainier Valley.

Goal C-1.1 Transportation Improvements. Support development of the MLK at Henderson light rail transit station, but in so doing, ensure that capital investments result in the sustainable redesign and redevelopment of Henderson Street into a pedestrian boulevard accommodating bicyclists, walkers, and transit riders.

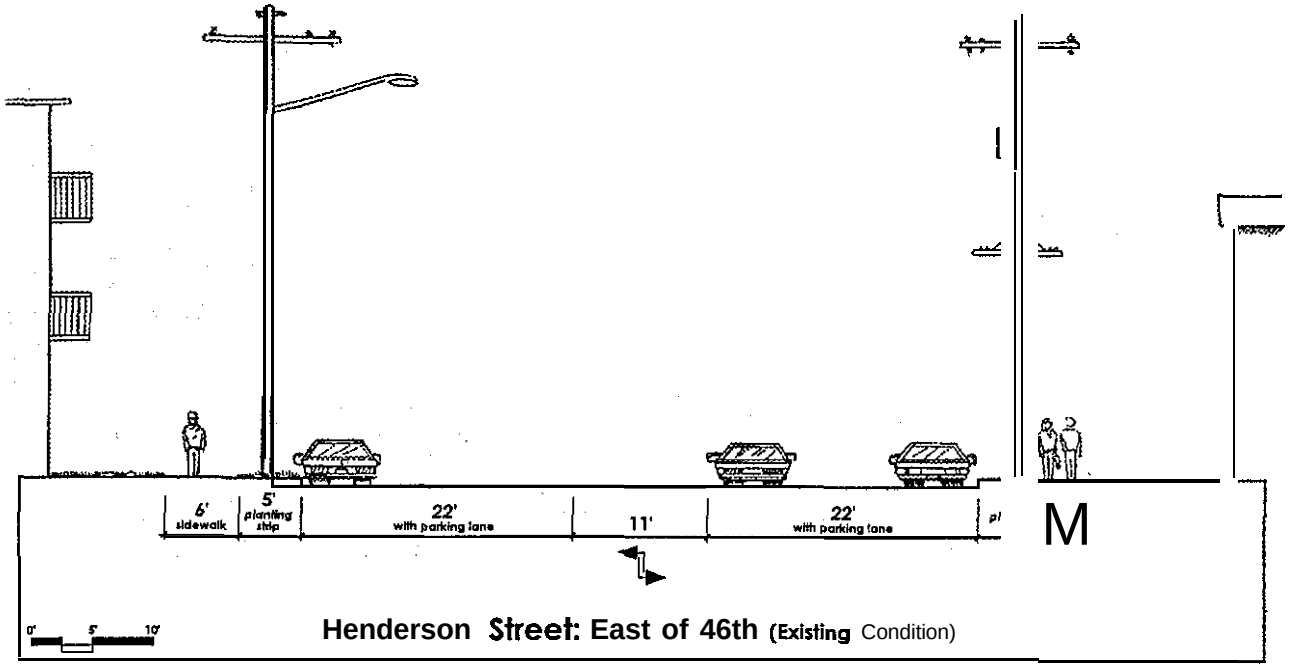
C-1.1.1 Henderson Street Improvements. Designate Henderson as a key pedestrian street and reconfigure the arterial to primarily service non-automobile transportation modes. In addition to providing, at minimum, 12 to 14-foot sidewalks with planting strips, ensure inclusion of a full-width (S feet) painted bicycle lane. Also, allow for development of a local trolley system in the median (or other local circulator system), and stagger on-street parking to eliminate it from some locations. Develop a range of alternatives to explore the feasibility of the street's function (Figure 7).

c-1.1.2 Light Rail Alignment. Although Sound Transit will explore a range of alignment alternatives, recognize that this neighborhood plan's recommendations support an at-grade alignment and station at MLK & Henderson.

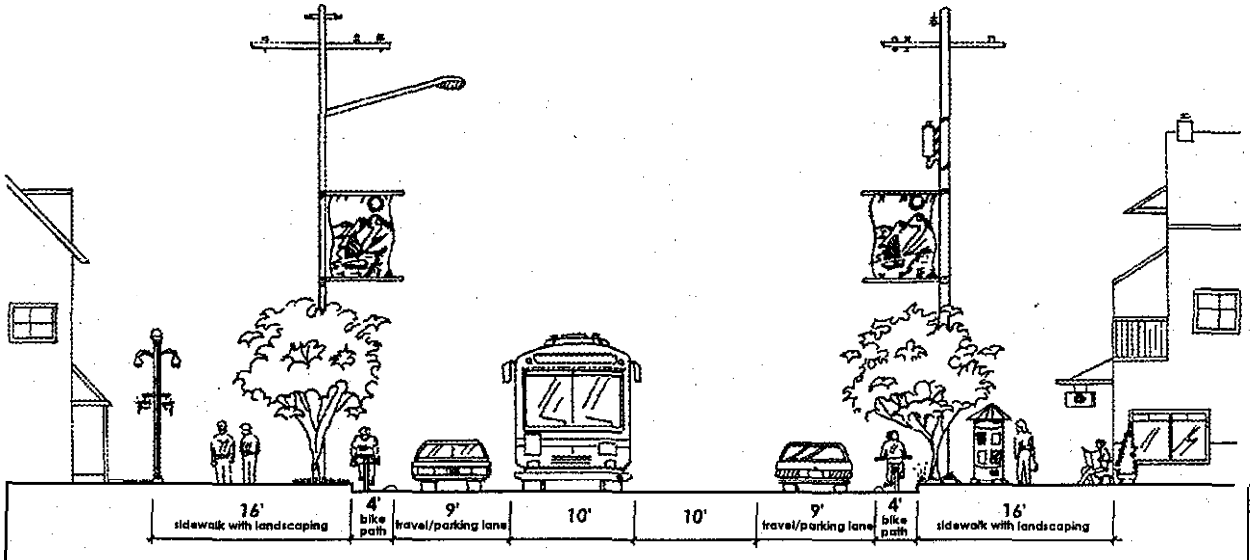
C-1.1.3 Station Area Development. Designate all streets within one-quarter mile of the light rail station as key pedestrian streets, providing for adequate sidewalk facilities such as curbs, gutters, and drains (minimum 6-foot sidewalk width). Recognize that the light rail station will also be served by a bus transfer facility; ensure that clear and well-marked pedestrian areas are provided with that facility.

C-1.1.4 Local Circulator System. Implement one and/or all of the following alternatives to ensure successful and efficient local access to the transit station:

- Henderson Street Trolley. Explore the potential and feasibility of developing a state-of-the-art trolley line to travel on Henderson from the light rail station to points south and/or north along Rainier Avenue S.
- East-West Circulators. Provide local circulator buses (in the future using alternate fuel systems) to connect to the light rail system, thereby ensuring a more seamless system.



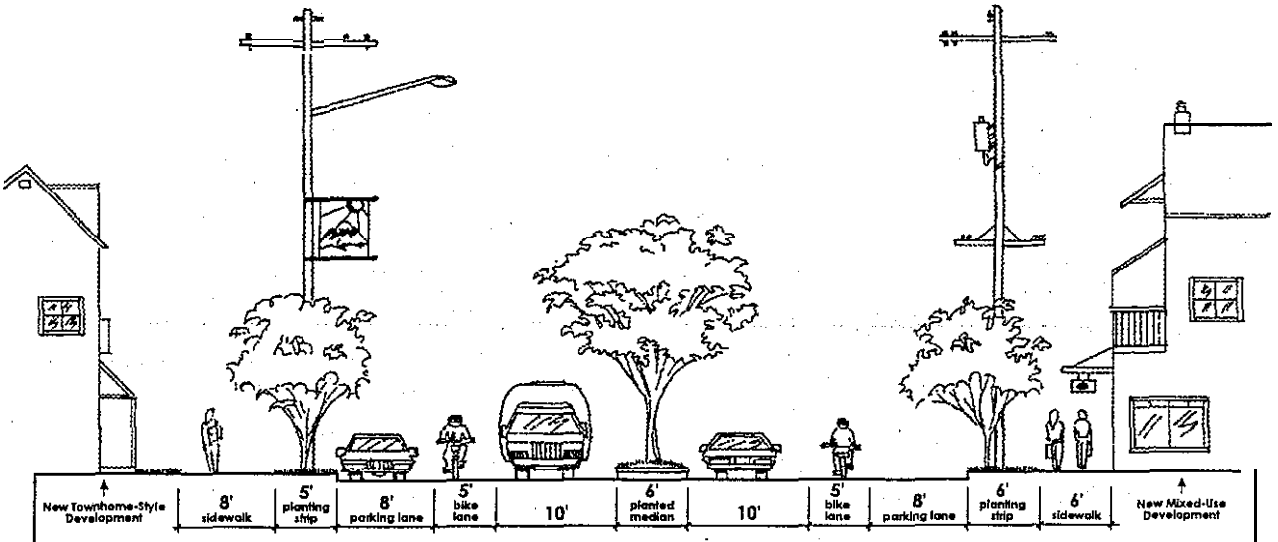
Henderson Street: East of 46th (Existing Condition)



Henderson Street with Pedestrian/Bicycle Emphasis

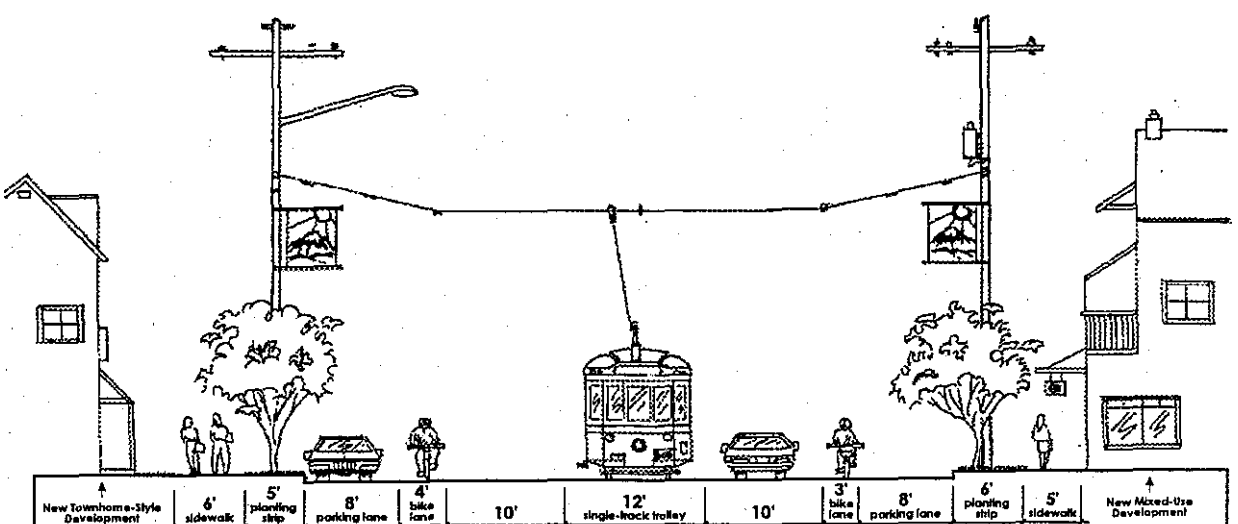
Wider, landscaped sidewalks would promote pedestrian connection to the rail system. Bicyclists would have their own dedicated travel lane, and on-street parking would be allowed except during peak hours (at which time it could become a carpool or bus lane). Lighting, banners, and other community amenities would be part of the streetscape.

FIGURE 7
Henderson Street Alternatives
Section View



Henderson Street with Fixed-Route Shuttle System

The fixed-rout. shuttlewould travel along east-westarterials, connecting peoplefrom Beacon Hill and Rainier Beach to the re gnal stransit system. More right-of-wy would b. available to enhance HendersonStreet, ut the technology and service would betypical of shuttle buses.



Henderson Street with *Single* Track Trolley Service

The trolleyould connect between theMLK/Henderson LINK Light Rail Station to Rainier and Hen erson, then north along Rainier to Columbia City. Limitations Include available right-ol+vay for siding tracks, station platform area, and station access.

FIGURE 7
Henderson Street Alternatives
Section View

C-1.1.5 Bus Transit Center. Require Metro and Sound Transit to design unattractive, pedestrian-friendly, and well landscaped facility that fits with the overall character envisioned for Henderson Street by the Rainier Beach community. Provide an appropriate number of bus bays to serve transit needsyet avoid creating a "sea" of paved surfaces. Ensure Sound Transit and Metro also mitigate the impacts of such facilities on surrounding residences.

C - LL 6 Bicycle Trails. Designate, paint, and sign bicycle lanes on Renton Avenue S from the City limit to its intersection with MLK, Jr. Way MLK, Jr. Way for its entire length from the City limit to the northern tip of the Central Area (East Madison Street); and Henderson Street (as described above). Also, develop the Chief Sealth Trail along the power line right-of-way, creating possible grade separations where it meets Henderson Street and MLK, Jr. Way.

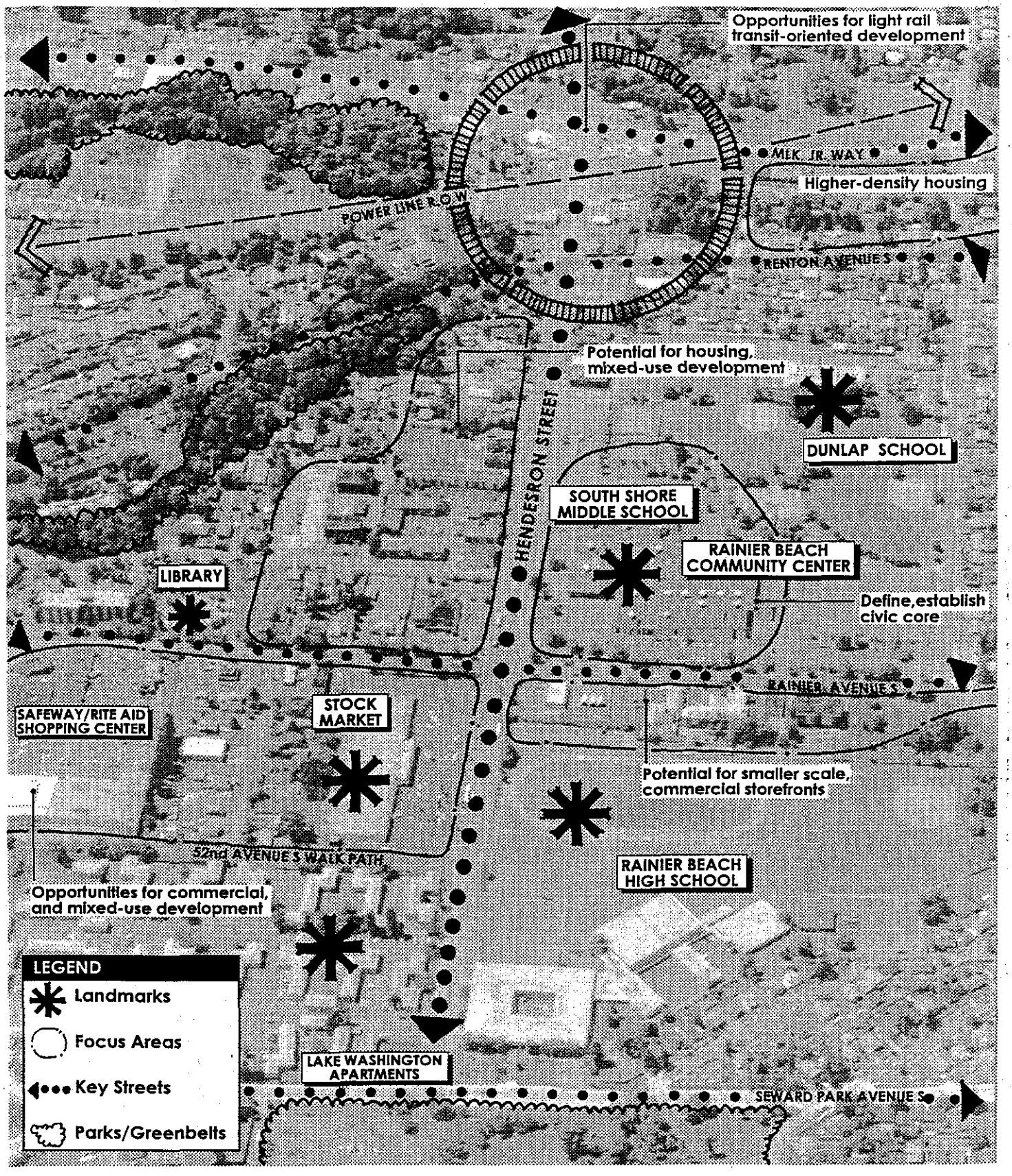
C-1.1.7 Station Parking. Request for the City's elected officials and Sound Transit Board Members to strongly advocate for a Boeing Access Road station to ensure that the Rainier Beach station does" not attract park-n-ride traffic. There shall benopark-n-rideat the Rainier Beach Station.

C-I.I.8 Station Area Parking. Explore the potential for some shared parking facilities as part of new development inandaround the station area, but only in limited numbers (less than 50). Designate a residential parking zone (RPZ) to restrict hide-n-ride parking; the RPZ shall extend out one-half mile from the station area.

Goal C-1.2 Streetscape. As the conduit between the light rail station at MLK, Jr. Way and the commercial/civic core at Rainier Avenue S, develop streetscape proposals that will improve the safety and aesthetic quality of the street. The objective will be to create a boulevard that creates a sense of place and community pride along Henderson Street, while seemingly shortening the, perceived distance between-the light rail station location and the commercial and civic area.

c-1.2.1 Henderson Street Improvements. Implement the following streetscape elements:

- In coordination with lane reconfiguration of Henderson Street, ensure ample sidewalk width and planting strips along both sides of the street. Combined, the sidewalk and planting strip should be 12 to 14 feet minimum.
- Designate one evergreen and one flowering street tree to deselected and designed into the streetscape planting plan.
- To ensure pedestrian safety, add well-articulated crosswalks (north-south) at all intersections on Henderson Street. At the major intersections of Rainier Avenue S, Renton Avenue S,and MLK, Jr. Way, provide for decorative crosswalks in all directions. Determine the crosswalk treatment as part of preparing a full, detailed streetscape plan that may be part of or independent of the MLK at Henderson Station Area Plan.



Rainier Beach Neighborhood 2014

A ◆ PLAN ◆ FOR ◆ THE ◆ FUTURE

FIGURE 8
Henderson Street
Corridor Site Analysis

. Provide for street furniture amenities, including waste baskets, seating in and around the station area and civic core, bicycle racks, tree grates, "wayfinding" signage, and community bulletin boards/kiosks. When feasible, incorporate such elements as part of a 1% for Art program,

- Provide well-illuminated lighting to ensure public safety along the street. As part of the streetscape plan, determine funding feasibility for unique lightposts for the entire length of Henderson Street.

C-1.2.2 MLK, Jr. Way. Require specific design standards for Sound Transit's light rail alignment. For the MLK, Jr. Way route, particularly from Boeing Access Road to Henderson, provide a tree-lined right-of-way as a welcoming gateway into the City of Seattle and Rainier Beach. Ensure this arterial also has designated bicycle lanes. Do not allow a storage track for light rail vehicles north of Henderson Street.

C-1.2.3 Light Rail Station as Gateway. Design the light rail station at MLK and Henderson as a gateway into the City and Rainier Beach. Develop unique street paving and intersection patterns. Design unique station platforms celebrating Rainier Beach' s diversity. And incorporate public art made by local Rainier Valley artists in the overall station design.

Goal C-1.3 **Quality Housing** Stock. Target areas in the Henderson Street corridor (as mapped in the Corridor Site Analysis map on the previous page) to accommodate the 740 new households anticipated by theyear 2014. Develop strategies and make necessary land use and standards recommendations to take advantage of transit-oriented development opportunities, yet promote the community's overall housing vision of primarily mixed-use and townhome-style development.

C-1.3.1 Use Villa Park Townhomes, just south of Director Street west of the Rainier Beach Library, as an example of the desired physical development pattern for Rainier Beach housing higher density units designed in a townhome, courtyard setting.

C-1.3.2 Develop a special zoning overlay, and prepare design and development standards, for the Henderson Street corridor that will promote higher density townhome and single-family small lot development.

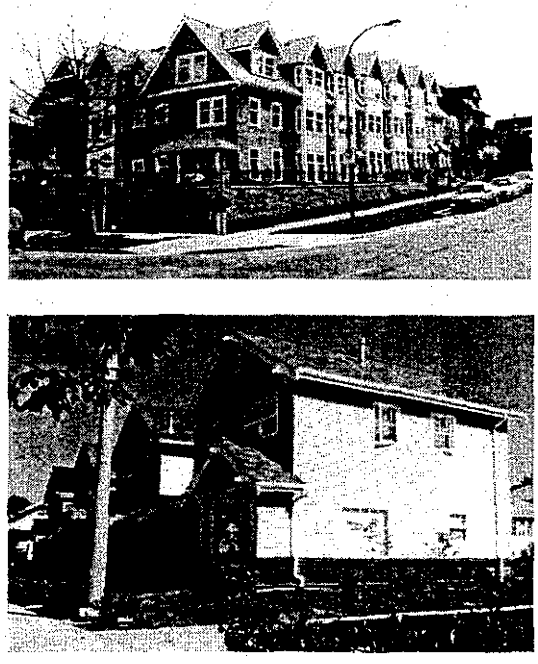


Figure 9: Housing Ideas for Henderson
Examples of **townhome** and higher density single f **amily** housing

C-1.3.3 As the City develops a specific Station Area Plan for the MLK at Henderson light rail station, respect and recognize that the neighborhood plan supports the following land use and zoning objectives for housing development:

- Downzone the existing midrise zoning (MR) that fronts Henderson Street to a low-to moderate-density multifamily zone (L1, L2, or L3). Also explore the potential for changing the zoning designation to NCR-40, allowing for possible mixed-use development. This would be for properties facing Henderson Street only.
- Support the potential for higher-density development around the light rail station. As a transition to the neighborhood commercial zoning at Renton Avenue S and Henderson, change the CI-40 around the station area to NCR or NC3, thereby allowing mixed-use development and higher-density housing.
- Support the proposal to allow single-purpose residential buildings in all neighborhood commercial zones (NC) within the urban village boundary.
- Preserve all surrounding single-family (SF5000) zones as resources for small-lot affordable homeownership opportunities.

Goal C-1.4 Economic Revitalization. Support opportunities to create higher-density housing and transit-supported, ground floor commercial development in the immediate vicinity of the proposed light rail station at MLKand Henderson. Develop public/private partnerships to ensure successful, well-integrated development around thestation. Also, create incentives that will lead to "attracting community-desired commercial uses in the existing shopping core on the southeast Quadrant of Rainier Avenue Sand Henderson Street.

C-1.4.1 Support land use and zoning proposals as outlined in the housing discussion.

C-1.4.2 Seek opportunities for public/private joint development opportunities between the private sector and the City of Seattle, Southeast Effective Development, and any other emerging local Community Development Corporations or affordable housing providers.

c-1.4.3 Develop strategies that wi II spur economic development before and after construction of the regionaillight rail system, including developer density bonuses, design departures from the land use code, easing ofparking restrictions, transfer ofdevelopment rights (from other commercial areas to the station area only), and capital investments of public infrastructure.

Goal C-1.5 Expanding the Civic Core. Build upon the successful presence of the Rainier Beach Community Center, Rainier Beach Library, Rainier Beach High School, and South Shore Middle School to more strongly define the civic core that helps anchor the Rainier Avenue S and Henderson Street, area.

C-1.5.1 Support proposals to expand and Improve the Rainier Beach Library.

C-1.5.2 Support the Rainier Beach High School Football Stadium and Performing Arts and Cultural Center. Seek opportunities for community joint use of these facilities.

C-1.5.3 Expand programs for youth recreation and education at the Community Center, as determined by the Site Advisory Council.

C-1.5.4 Expand the existing Community Center/Middle School facility to include a multi-use service center for job placement, apprenticeship training, adult education, computer lab, and mini-City Hall functions. Site the facility to face Henderson Street as a storefront use.

C-1.5.5 Through either the City of Seattle's and/or Sound Transit's 1% for Art programs, design and build a public gathering place at the northwest corner of Rainier and Henderson, creating a physical focal point for community pride and sense of place.

C-2 "Beach" Square: Commercial Core Revitalization

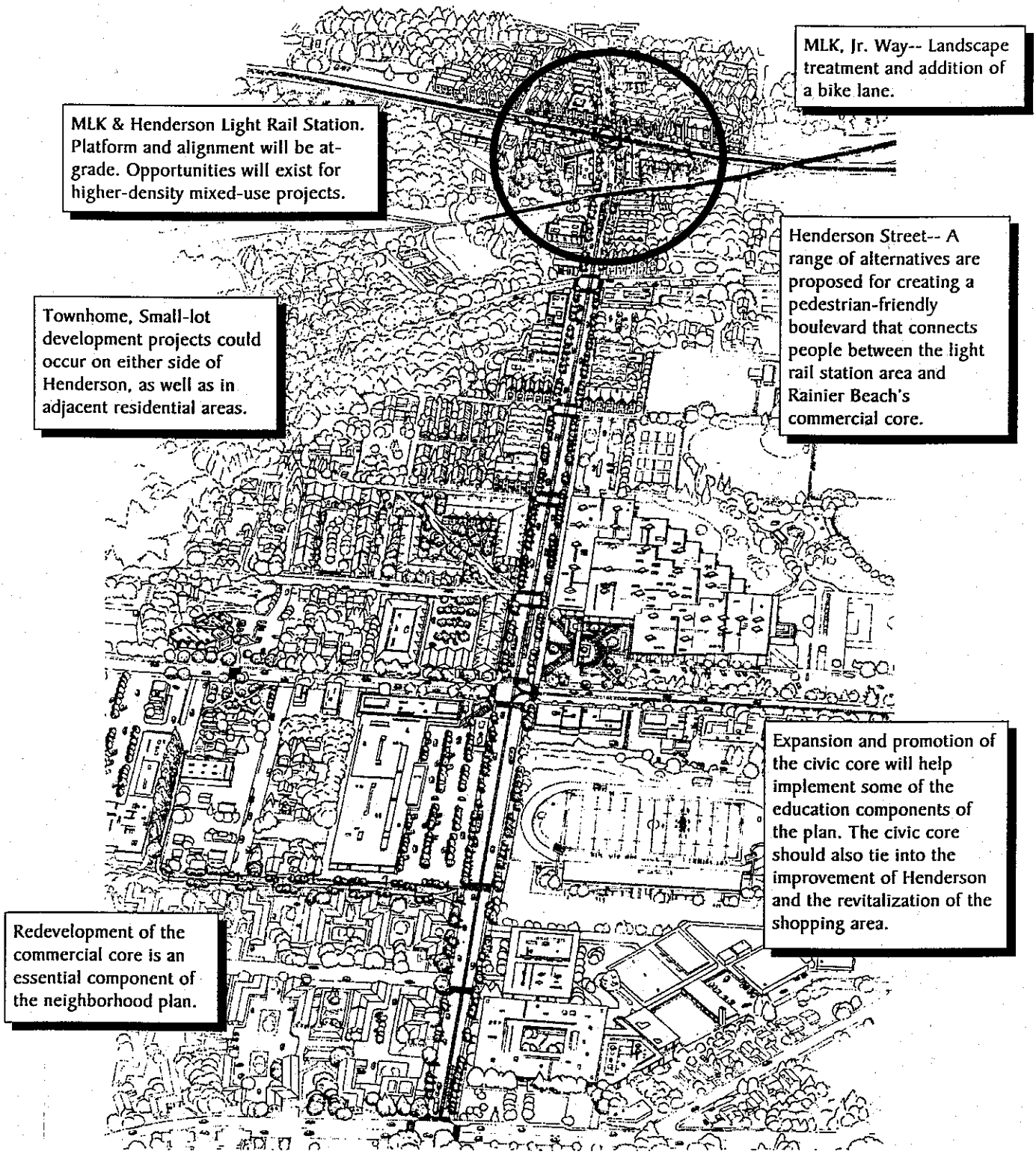
Issue Discussion. Today, the blocks bounded by Henderson Street to the north, Seward Park Avenue S to the east and Rainier Avenue S on both the west and south make up the core of the Rainier Beach shopping area. It consists primarily of auto-oriented uses like supermarkets and large-scale pharmacy/sundry stores, as well small neighborhood convenience services **such** as banks and eating establishments. Several parcels around this "square" are vacant or have the potential for redevelopment. In the immediate surrounding areas are the refurbished Lake Washington Apartments, Rainier Beach High School, South Shore Middle School and Rainier Beach Community Center, the Rainier Beach Public Library, the Lake Washington Waterfront, and single-family neighborhoods.

In many respects, this square represents the crossroads of the community . . geographical ly, socially, and economically. Its revitalization has been identified as a critical component to the recovery and prosperity of this portion of Rainier Beach. As a cornerstone element of the neighborhood plan, the recommended actions for`` Beach Square" address economic development, transportation/streetscape, pedestrian connections, housing, and land use issues.

Goal C-2.1 Economic Development. Recognize the redevelopment of the commercial core shopping area, south of Henderson Street between Rainier Avenue Sand Seward Park Avenue S, as integral to creating a pedestrian-friendly retail core attractive to local residents: establishing a stronger local employment base for area youth; and strengthening the physical and social environment of Rainier, Beach.

Improve the physical appearance of the business district, both in the public right-of-way and the facades of buildings. Determine appropriates streetscape improvements, existing maintenance requirements, desired pedestrian-oriented capital facilities, and promotion of existing programs that could benefit local business and property owners.

Figure 10- Illustrative Vision of the Future Henderson Street Boulevard



C-2.1.1 Business Retention and Recruitment. Provide unphysical and economic environment in which existing businesses can grow and thrive, and to which new business **will be** attracted. The following ideas arerecommended for further consideration:

A. Potential Zoning Changes- Neighborhood Commercial. Consider relaxing the requirement for ground-floor retail uses in neighborhood commercial zones, by allowing existing NC zones to be adapted to the urban village designation of NCR zones. Also, while this plan does not promote any specific zoning changes, allow potential new development to change general commercial (CI/C2) zoning to neighborhood commercial (NC/NCR), if the proposed development contributes to the vision ofa pedestrian-oriented urban village,

B. Potential Zoning Changes- Pedestrian Overlay. Asthearea develops inthe future and begins exhibiting apedestrian-oriented "development pattern, City Council shall consider adoption of a P2 overlay zone to further encourage pedestrian uses and building amenities.

c. Design Guidelines. To enhance pedestrian orientation and architectural variety, design guidelines and development standards should be created to promote elements that will encourage storefront shopping, walking, and interaction among residents, business owners, and area visitors.

D. Collaboration Among Providers. Business retention and recruitment should focus on building a strong, collaborative effort. As part of plan implementation, area merchants, the Rainier Chamber of Commerce, and SEED, with the assistance of the Seattle Office of Economic Development, should collaborate for marketing, promotion, and special events. This includes utilizing existing programs to reach out to merchants for marketing, financial issues, and other business operation concerns. Additional efforts should be taken to improve the physical environment to make Rainier Beach a more attractive place to do business and shop, and this means coordinating the proposed streetscape and pedestrian connection recommendations.

Goal C-2.2 Transportation/Streetscape. Calm traffic and provide a clearer sense of entry and exist to the shopping area. Develop streetscape proposals to slow speeds through the Rainier Avenue S "curve", facilitate the crossing of streets by pedestrians, and establish a safer **and** more orderly street environment.

C-2.2.1 Reconfigure Rainier Avenue S between 54th Avenue S to Cloverdale Street to (1) retain the existing number of lanes in each direction, (2) develop a landscaped median to slow traffic and create a more pedestrian-oriented street, and(3) allow on-street parking during off-peak hours.

C.2.2.2 Restrict the flow of traffic from the shopping center to two, well-defined entries. One should relocated just south of the Librayand Director Street, andanother would beat 52nd Avenue S, tying into the proposed pedestrian walking path, Mapes Walk, for this street (refer to C-2.3).

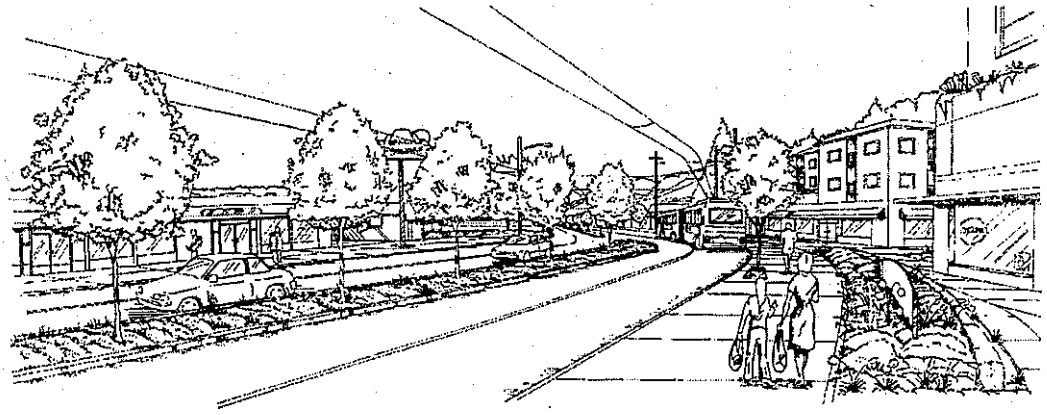


Figure 11: Proposed **Landscaped** Median for Rainier **Avenue S at Beach Square**

C-2.2.3 Improve pedestrian crossings (perhaps providing decorative elements) at Director Street, Sturtevant/51st, and 52nd/54th. These crossings should not have pedestrian-activated signals, but rather be timed to allow for regular pedestrian intervals.

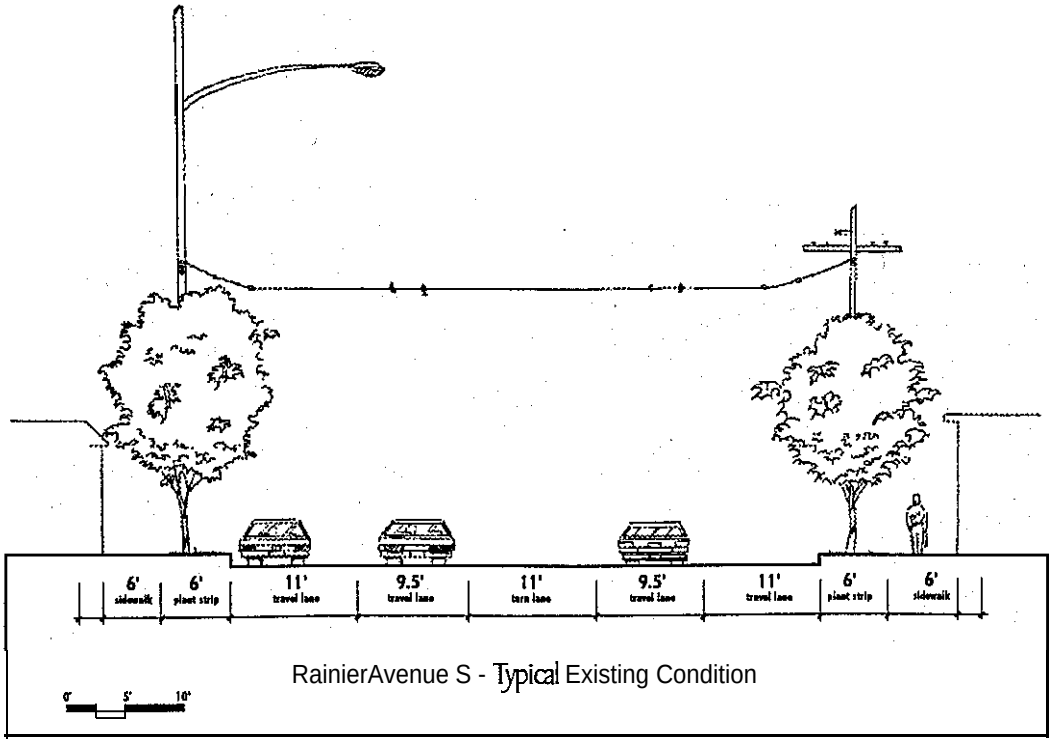
Goal C-2.3 Pedestrian Connections. Seek opportunities for creating new, safe, and efficient connections between the surrounding residential neighborhoods and the shopping center, as well as to nearby civic uses.

C-2.3.1 **Library Crossing.** Support the development of a crossing across Rainier Avenue S between the shopping center and the Library. Consider the development of a decorative, paved crosswalk at this location.

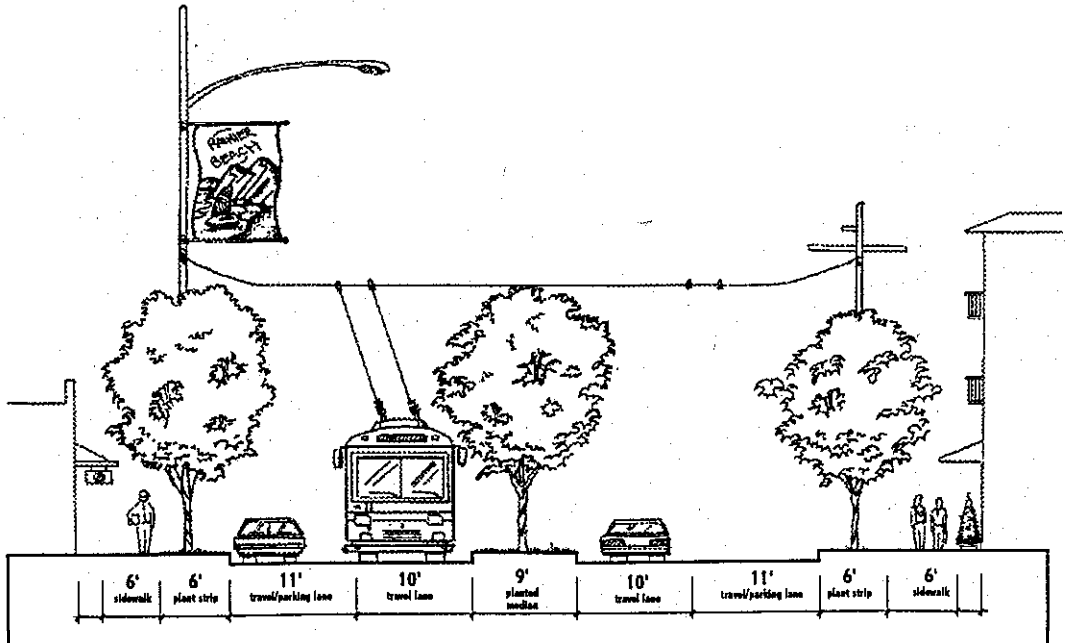
C-2.3.2 **Internal Circulation in the Shopping Area.** AS part of any new development, require a pedestrian plan that delineates specific pedestrian paths and crossings. Also require that trees be planted in the parking area. Successful examples which should be referenced include University Village and Starbucks Center.

C-2.3.3 **Mapes/52nd Avenue S Walk. Improve** 52nd Avenue S into a safe and attractive pedestrian connection that bisects the Beach Square area. It would connect various residential neighborhoods to Rainier Beach's shopping and civic core. Concepts which should be implemented include:

- improve path with benches, lighting, and signage.
- Provide clear directional signage to key landmarks and destinations.
- Add landscaping that complements the riparian and overgrown segments of the path.
- Encourage participation among local businesses.
- Tie into improving Fisher/Director Streets.
- Tie into Lake Washington Apartments Play area and Community Hall.



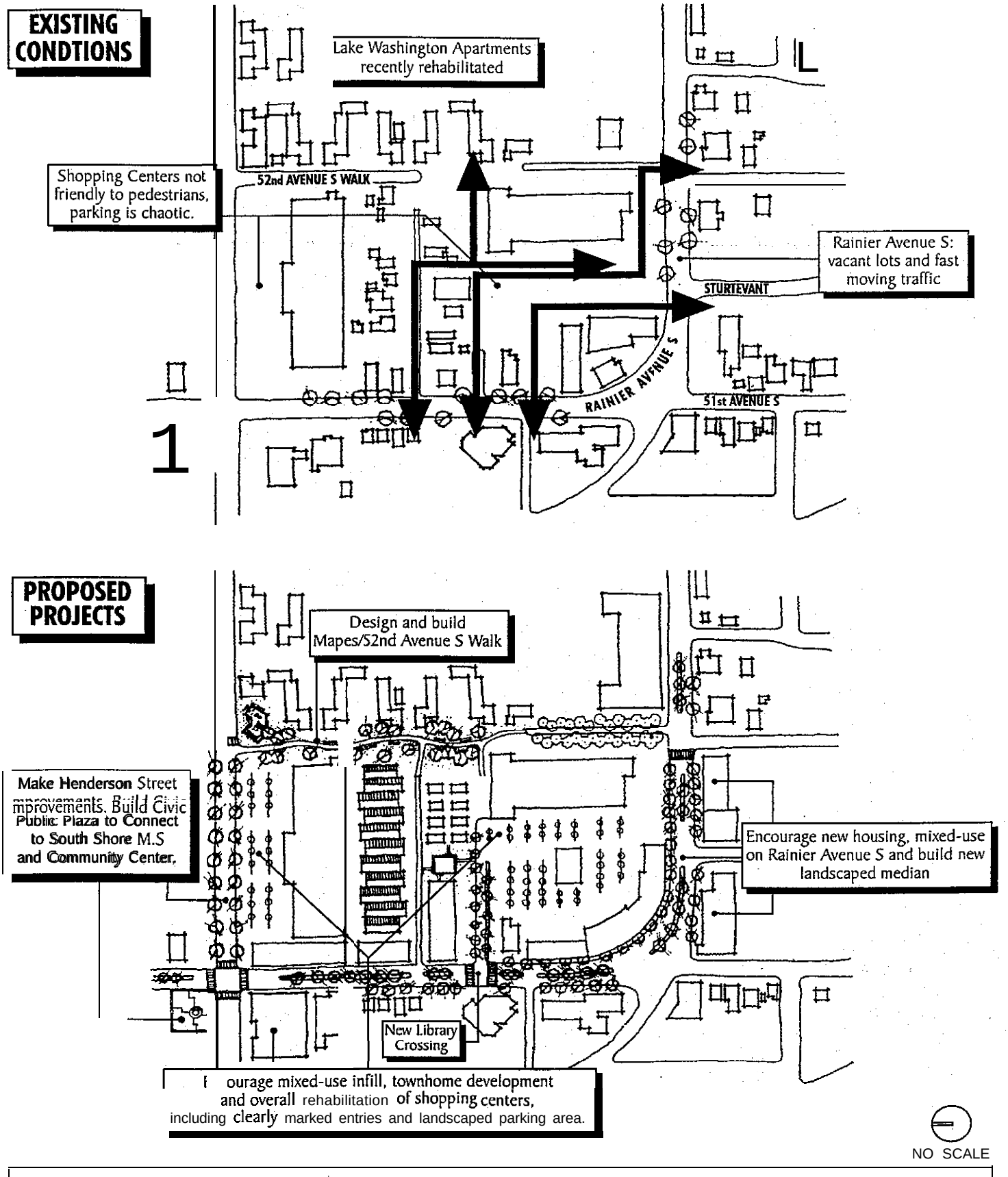
RainierAvenue S - Typical Existing Condition



Rainier Avenue S - Proposed Improvements

Designate on-street parking from Henderson to 54th Avenue S, add planted median. i.till street trees, add commmunity identity elements like signage and banners, provide for pedestrian crossing between Shopping Center and Library

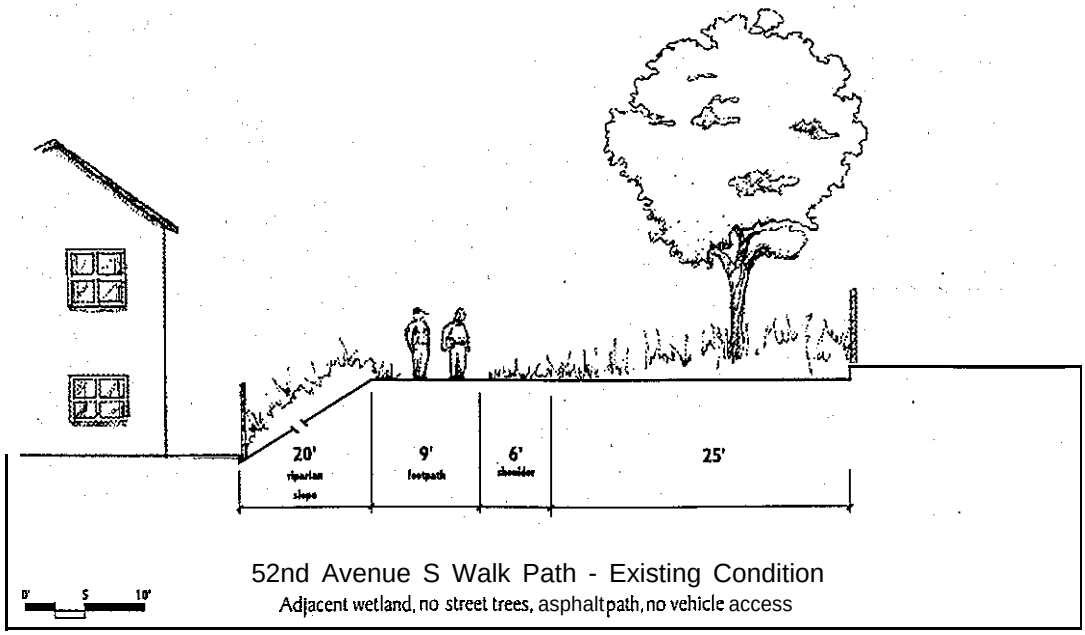
FIGURE 12
Rainier Avenue S
Proposed Improvements

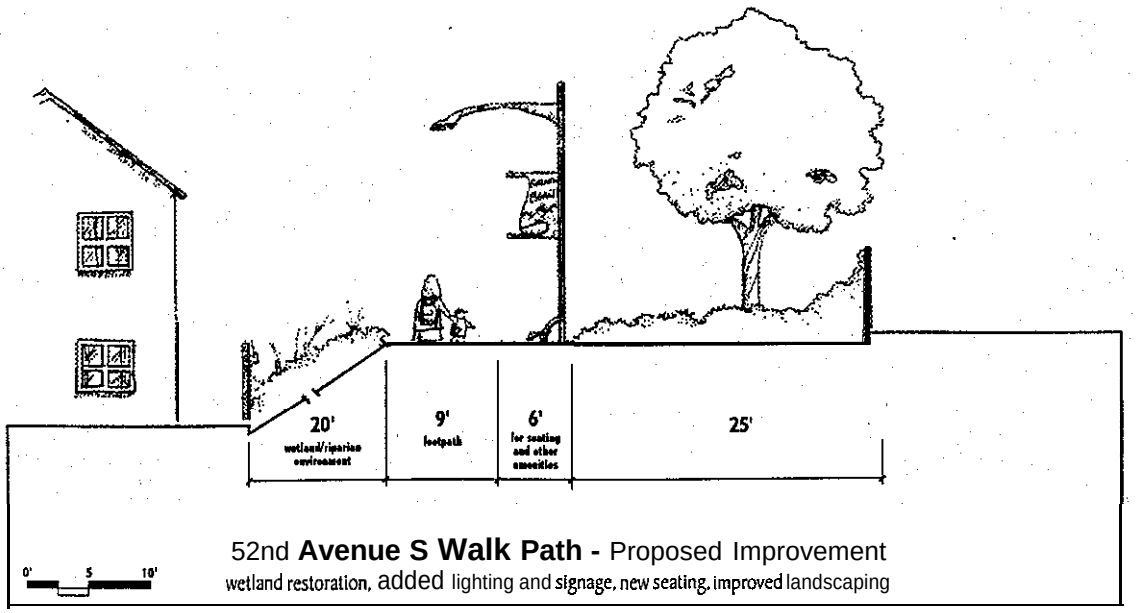


Rainier Beach Neighborhood 2014

A ◆ P LA N ◆ FO R ◆ THE ◆ F U T U R E

FIGURE 13
Beach Square- Economic Revitalization of Commercial Core


20'
riparian slope
9'
footpath
6'
shoulder
25'
0'
5
10'
52nd Avenue S Walk Path - Existing Condition
Adjacent wetland, no street trees, asphalt path, no vehicle access


20'
wetland/riparian environment
9'
footpath
6'
for seating and other amenities
25'
0'
5
10'
52nd Avenue S Walk Path - Proposed Improvement
wetland restoration, added lighting and signage, new seating, improved landscaping

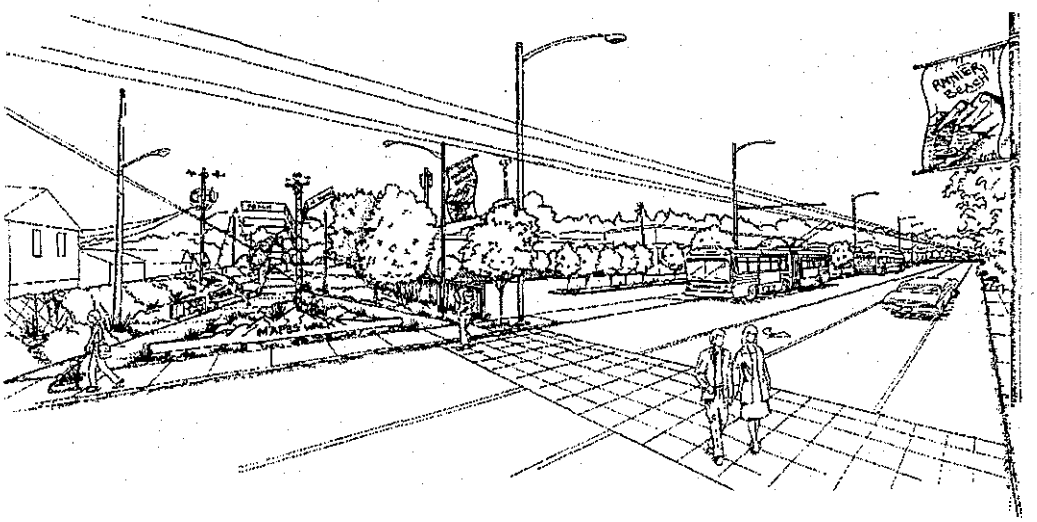


Figure 15: Illustration of Potential Mapes/52nd Avenue S Improvements

Goal C-2.4 **Housing.** Promote the development of housing, both single-purpose residential and mixed-use, on vacant and redevelopable parcels in "Beach Square." Do so as a means of putting "eyes on the street" at ail hours of the day, thereby creating a stronger sense of safety and personal security in the shopping area.

C-2.4.1 Allow for the development of mixed-use or single-purpose residential housing along Rainier Avenue S between 51st and S7th Avenues S. Should a development proposal of this kind be considered, the City should entertainment potential zoning changes to facilitate this type of infill development. This exception is limited to the area covered by the boundaries of this cornerstone element.

Goal C-2.5 **Land Use Issues. Address shoreline development issues along Seward Park Avenue S, including positions and alternatives on new development and tackling the topic of the Atlantic City Boat** Ramp and its impacts to the neighborhood.

C-2.5.1 Preserve all existing zoning designations along the Lake Washington shoreline (also refer to Plan recommendation LUH-4.3). Consider potential infill development proposals if they meet the following criteria

- The proposal's site plan" preserves public access to the waterfront.
- The proposal's site plan preserves views of Lake Washington.
- The proposal provides additional open space or public use of the site.
- The proposed use benefits the community with a desired neighborhood-sewing commercial use such as a restaurant.

C-2.5.2 Address neighborhood concerns regarding the overflow of boat trailers onto Henderson Street and Seward Park Avenue S. Require the City to consider the following alternatives:

A. Develop a shared use agreement with the School District to use the Rainier Beach High School parking lot for boat trailer storage. This would be for the summer months only when the school is not in peak operation. Generate revenue by charging a permit to park at this facility or on City streets. Support with police enforcement.

B. Raze the existing parking lot, and construct an underground structure to house the trailers. Landscape over the parking structure.

C. Eliminate the boat ramp, altogether, and return the parking area into more usable shoreline open space.

C-3 Community Education: The Building Block of the Future

Issue Discussion. "Outstanding public schools are essential to the vitality of our community. Strong public schools help families raise their children to become creative and productive community members, and they provide all of our children with the capacity to create destinies, dreams, and futures. .." This excerpt comes from a draft of the City of Seattle/Seattle School District Education Action Agenda, but it may as well serve as the mantra for Rainier Beach's third Plan Cornerstone: Community Education. Rainier Beach, unlike many other Seattle neighborhoods, has taken up the challenge of planning for life long learning. The community envisions a future where Rainier ***Beach will have an innovative, connected learning system that supports the integration of education into community life at all levels, and for all residents, resulting in the empowerment of the residents and the attainment of sustainable and beneficial changes in the community.***

✳

The Education and Jobs Committee began their work by conceptualizing a shared vision for what education would be [ikeinthree to fiveyears in the Rainier Beach community. Theheartofthe above vision statement (in bold italic), which was developed from the brainstorming sessions, focused on the established concepts of life long learning in the minds of teachers and students in schools, their parents, and adults in the general community. Thedefined goa[sand strategies outlined inthe plan are the initial actions in the long term implementation of a new model of thinking and practice in schools. The Education and Jobs Committee hopes that the City of Seattle would assist the community in "selling" the ideas to the administrators of the Seattle Public Schools so that together we can work from a vision to a reality in the future.

This long range plan cornerstone is based on five key tenets:

1. **The school serves best and the children are best served when the school is child centered and** learning focused. The only real justification for any reform or change is that somehow it would positively effect the life and learning of students. The student is the ultimate client and product in

the educational process and would benefit from a child-focused approach Over thepast tenyears, the school may have provided a haven for children from the harsh environment in which they live. A school may exist for healing and support, but ultimately it must stand for learning.

2. The primary **objective** of schools must **be to** develop **life** long **learners.** If one ever could, one cannot nowafford to stop learning. The survival of communities and societies demand it. Enhancing the personal investment of students unlearning is critical to the learning process. Most schools are committed to conveying general knowledge and skills, attitudes and values. What is not at issue is that children must not only learn to learn but must become lifelong learners. We live in a changing world. It is difficult to predict whether this or that piece of information will be useful in the future. It is critical in the course of schooling that everyone can and must develop a personal, life long investment in learning.

3. Schooling is learning in community. Schools are and must be concerned with self within community. The school is and has to be a very special place revolving around two key concepts- learning and community. If the community serves as an environment in which life long learning is practiced, then it reinforces the ideas taught in the school. Moreover, the community can provide opportunities for the student to experience the applicability of the learned material. Adult education provides the link with schools, homes and with each other that generates the vitality of a healthy community.

4. Parents need to **feel welcome in** the school. Some parents may have experienced limited success when 'they were in school and are therefore way of attending school events and getting involved with their children's schooling The first goal of the plan is to get parents "in the door" and to make them comfortable about being there.

5. Children's **thoughts** about school **are** influenced **bv** school **policies** and **practices.** Teachers define the purpose of school as learning or performing. Schools reflect and promote the perceptions of why the student is there. Principals and teachers should examine what they are saying to children about the nature of learning and schooling through the policies and practices they allow and promote.

The following goals and recommendations are specific to the identified elements of change in the schools and in the community that, once accomplished, would lead to the attainment of the vision for education in the Rainier Beach community. One goal that is not reflected in this document is a natural corollary of the work successfully completed within this plan - the sharing and dissemination of successful models and practices in education with other communities in the Rainier Valley and the City of Seattle as a whole.

NOTE: Those items with an asterisk (*) represent the priority items that should receive initial action. Still, all items listed are key activities which must be addressed to successfully achieve the stated goal.

Goal C-3.1 Focus on the provision of facilities that meet the needs of the students during and after school. The main strategy is to develop a plan for facility replacement and improvement for schools in the Rainier Beach area with the Seattle Public Schools and with the City of Seattle in the provision of additional resources to enhance the existing allocations to the region.

C-3.1.1* Upgrade, renovate and maintain the school facilities to accommodate current and projected educational programs to meet changing social, environmental and workforce needs.

C-3.1.2' Work closely with SPS regarding the distribution and allocation of dollars obtained through levies and other funding for Rainier Beach schools and develop a comprehensive facilities plan for the Rainier Beach community and obtain a commitment to the implementation of the plan from the stakeholders.

C-3.1.3* Provide school facilities for after school use to facilitate additional academic, remedial and enrichment programs foryouth.

C-3.1.4 Businesses, community residents and SPS will work together to include interested students in decisions and opportunities related to the facilities in order to promote school and community pride among the student body.

Goal C-3.2 Ensure and maintain the quality and access of education programs provided in the schools and the integration of the concepts of life long learning in the approach. A Community Advisory Group will "work collaboratively with the administration in identifying areas of change and improvement that will result increased access to opportunities for the students.

C-3.2.1* Develop a well established K through 20 education pathway that is linked and presents continuous and transitional learning in which every student is proficient at one level before they are moved to another.

C-3.2.2 Network with libraries, community colleges and vocational schools to create linkages and opportunities for participation for theyouth from elementary to high school.

C-3.2.3 The curriculum that is taught is schools be reflective of and sensitive to the diversity of the students that they serve.

C-3.2.4* Develop a Citizen Advisory Group to work with the administrators in the Rainier Beach schools on curricula and outcomes and evaluation methods ensuring accountability.

C-3.2.5 Ensure the development of programs that are specific to the needs of students from the Rainier Beach community.

C-3.2.6* Programs will be developed to aid students and families to prepare for college/vocational, post secondary beginning in the elementary school, including SAT classes and other preparatory or remedial programs.

C-3.2.7 Establish a Charter School in Rainier Beach community to serve a safety net for those students who are not successfully served by SPS.

C-3.2.8 A well developed and coordinated mentoring and tutoring program

Goal c-3.3 Parents and adults in the community will be welcomed and supported as they work with the School Administrators in improving schools in the Rainier Beach area.

C-3.3.1* The School Administrators/principals will take the initiative to engage in outreach activities, encourage involvement of the community in the schools and actively participate in community activities in which the school is located.

C-3.3.2* Identify the needs of parents in relation to attendance at PTA meetings and other functions and develop a plan for child care or transportation that would allow full participation.

c-3.3.3 A Volunteer Coordinator would be hired to pursue opportunities for participation by businesses, community residents and to arrange field trips etc. for the students.

c-3.3.4 Principals and school officials would be more accessible to parents and residents.

c-3.3.5' Develop programs that allow students to develop and perfect technical skills taught in the schools through collaboration of the schools administrators and local opportunities in the community.

Goal C-3.4 Provide life long learning opportunities for the adults in Rainier Beach. Of surveys completed by adults in the community, 62 percent indicated a strong interest in educational opportunities. The provision of a facility for both education and job related activities is critical *to the implementation* of this strategy. *Options* may include a school (after school use), an abandoned school for 24 hour use, a larger community center and/or renovation or construction of a facility.

C-3.4.1' Work with a Community College system and other educational institutions to establish a site in the Rainier Beach community that would provide ESL/ABE, vocational and pre-college programs that will include a well coordinated tutoring and mentoring program for adults as they engage in new areas of learning.

C-3.4.2* Establish a range of activities and opportunities for learning that includes cultural arts, music, personal and professional development.

c-3.4.3 Develop a system of rewards and perks for those residents who actively participate in the planning, development and implementation of programs.

c-3.4.4' Establish a drop in/resource center for residents of Rainier Beach that will serve as a One Stop facility for payment of bills, skills assessment, information and referral services, voter registration, information on community activities and community concerns, outreach and recruitment.

Goal c-3.5 Facilitate *and improve* the participation of parents and adults in the schools in the community. Most of the schools in the Rainier Beach community do not have an active PTA. Because of the large limited English speaking populations in the Rainier Beach area, special strategies for outreach and inclusion are essential to meet their needs culturally and logistically.

C-3.5.1' Organization of a PTA in all schools that will work closely with the school. Representatives of each PTA will serve on the Citizen Advisory Group for the region.

C-3.5.2* Parent training and development would be provided from kindergarten and a "buddy" system would be instituted to teach native and non-native parents hOw to advocate and support their children in schools.

C-3.5.3: Principals and teachers will actively participate in the development of PTAs and will lend their support and expertise in empowering the PTA to realize their furl potential.

Goal C-3.6 Churches and other influential organizations in the community will be actively recruited to participate in advocating for and in working to ensure sustainable system change in education for Rainier Beach.

C-3.6.1 Every church will have representation equal to IO% of their congregation on committees, councils and other groups engaged in working on behalf of the Rainier Beach community.

C-3.6.2' Appoint representatives to attend the meeting of the Council of Churches to communicate relevant community information to the Council and to gain their involvement and support.

C-3.6.3* Create a system of perks and rewards for those churches who become actively involved in the community.

C-3.6.4* Extend the community education programs into the church facilities to reinforce the church in the work and life of the community.

Goal c-3.7 Increase the opportunities for employment for Rainier Beach residents.

C-3.7.1 Create linkages with established employment programs that would result in the location of program sites in the community.

C-3.7.2" Representation and involvement in the site planning for a One Stop Employment Center to advocate for placement in Rainier Beach.

c-3.7.3* Negotiations and established commitments from businesses new and existing to hire from the community. Work with the City to establish commitments as part of the permitting and contracting process.

c-3.7.4 Promote apprenticeships and trades as a viable choice for employment to the residents, providing orientation sessions and training in basic skills required for admission.

c-3.7.5' Work proactively and in partnership with the surrounding industrial and high employment sites to market the Rainier Beach community as a valuable pool of workers to, e.g., the Duwamish Manufacturing Council, Kent, Tukwila, Port of Seattle, etc.