

University Area Transportation Action Strategy

University District Chamber of
Commerce Luncheon

May 15, 2007



An Update to the 2002 University Area Transportation Study

The **Transportation Action Strategy (TAS)** will expand upon the analysis and outreach efforts of the initial study and adopt the same overarching goals:

- To build on existing planning to provide a comprehensive, multimodal transportation plan for the area
- To serve as a blueprint for financing and prioritizing capital improvements in the University Area for the next 25 years



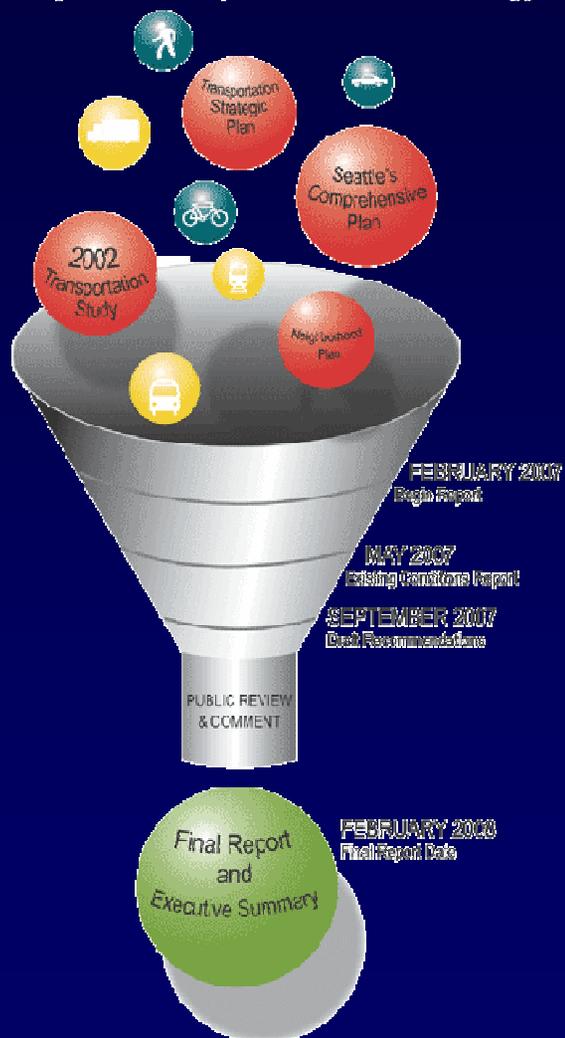
Why An Update?

- **More information related to major projects**
 - Sound Transit station areas different than those assumed in previous study
 - Further refinement of 520 alternatives
- **Incomplete traffic forecasts in 2002 UATS**
 - New 2030 time horizon consistent with other studies
- **Developer Mitigation Payment Program**
 - SDOT and DPD developing new voluntary program
- **Few project recommendations moving forward**
 - Need to infuse new energy
 - Update and refine implementation strategy



Action Strategy Timeline

University Area Transportation Action Strategy



February – May

Data Collection and Initial Outreach to Stakeholders

May – June

University Street Fair

Existing and Future Conditions Report

Continued Stakeholder Outreach

Begin Project Concepts Development

September – October

Draft Project Recommendations and Public Comment

January – February 2008

Final Report and Executive Summary

University Area Projects Since 2002



Several projects were already in the pipeline when the original study was being developed and have now been implemented:

- The University Ave and NE 50th St Rehabilitation Project
- 35th Ave NE and NE 65th St Improvements

Other projects that have also been completed include:

- Comprehensive parking assessment and pay station implementation (University District)
- New traffic light and traffic cameras on Montlake Blvd near 45th St
- New sidewalk on NE 65th St at 8th Ave NE
- Repaving of NE 45th St from I-5 to 15th Ave (almost complete)

Projects with identified funding to be implemented in the near future include:

- New sidewalks on 30th Ave at Blakely St and NE 55th St (2007-2008)
- 45th St Viaduct improvements and seismic upgrade (2009)
- Curb bulb & drainage improvements to 58th and Ravenna Blvd (2007)



Also Since 2002



Bridging the Gap

Critical new funding for pavement projects, bridge repair, maintenance, and new bicycle and pedestrian facilities



Complete Streets Policy

As part of Bridging the Gap, the City and SDOT adopted a “complete streets” approach, where all projects except for routine maintenance and spot repairs must seek improvements for all modes of transportation where feasible

Preliminary Issues & Potential Project Areas

In general, we're finding that the transportation system within the University Area works fairly well, but that better connections to other neighborhoods and regional destinations are what is needed most. And with significant new growth occurring and expected in this area, we should continue to build a system that encourages pedestrian and bicycle travel for short trips within the study area.

- Burke Gilman Trail arterial crossings
- Brooklyn Ave for bicycles and greening
- North end of University Bridge/ Upper and Lower NE 40th St
- North of 50th along University Way NE
- Roosevelt Way and 11th/12th Ave Couplet
- Transit connections to University Village and East Campus area
- Transit improvements to Pacific St / Pacific Place
- 15th Ave pedestrian crossing and transit improvements
- NE 45th St congestion and pedestrian experience

Where We Are

- ➔ **Forecasting Future Conditions and Refining Existing Conditions Maps**
- ➔ **Street Fair Outreach and Stakeholder Follow- Ups**
- ➔ **Website Information and Resource Development**

Next Steps

- ↓ **Release Existing & Future Conditions Report in May or June**
- ↓ **Begin concepts development and modelling of alternatives**



Questions/Discussion

