

CENTRAL WATERFRONT: CHRONOLOGY OF GOALS, PRINCIPLES, PLANS AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) was already studying the Alaskan Way Viaduct when, in 2001, the Nisqually earthquake revealed vulnerabilities in the structure. Shortly thereafter, the State began planning for how to repair or replace the Viaduct.

The City simultaneously began planning for how the Central Waterfront might be redeveloped in conjunction with changes to or replacement of the Viaduct. One component of this redevelopment is replacement of the Elliott Bay Seawall. The City assumed responsibility for the Seawall, largely funded by a voter-approved bond measure, and Phase I of the Seawall project (Yesler Way to Virginia Street) is scheduled for completion in 2016. This paper only tangentially references the Seawall project.

This paper lists a chronology of *some* of the key steps taken by the City to develop goals, principles, and plans for Waterfront redevelopment. In this chronology, *some* of the advisory groups that were created to help spearhead and guide that effort are highlighted by underlining.

Report 2003

- titled “Central Waterfront: Planning for the Future,” 2003 Public Forum Summary – Joint Report by Seattle Design Commission and Seattle Planning Commission

Resolution 30664 adopted April 26, 2004

- adopted Framework Principles for Development of a Central Waterfront Plan

Resolution 30724 adopted January 10, 2005

- adopted Guiding Principles for decisions related to the Viaduct / Seawall Project

Concept Plan published June 29, 2006

- the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) published a Waterfront Concept Plan

Ordinance 122406 passed May 29, 2007

- directed the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to develop an Urban Mobility Plan to address potential transportation impacts of the Viaduct and Seawall projects
- provided guiding principles for the Urban Mobility Plan
- requested that SDOT work with WSDOT to develop a stakeholder involvement process

[Letter of Agreement](#) January 13, 2009

- titled “A Letter of Agreement Between the State of Washington, King County, and the City of Seattle – Consensus on the Recommended Alternative for Replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall”
- mentioned a promenade along the central waterfront and other city street improvements

[Memorandum of Agreement](#) October 24, 2009

- titled “Memorandum of Agreement No. GCA 6366 for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program Bored Tunnel Alternative,” signed by Mayor Nickels and Governor Gregoire
- documented State and City responsibilities, implementation steps, and funding, all to be addressed in future agreements
- mentioned a realigned Alaskan Way and a new promenade or public space along the central waterfront

[Ordinance 123142](#) passed November 2, 2009

- established the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee (CWPC)
- specified CWPC functions, authority, staffing, etc.
- appointed 37 members listed in Attachment 1
- stated that the CWPC shall sunset on December 31, 2010
- directed DPD to develop a project framework reflecting specified principles

[Ordinance 123212](#) passed December 14, 2009

- amended Ordinance 123142 to increase the size of the CWPC to 41 members
- appointed four additional members of the CWPC

[Resolution 31264](#) adopted January 31, 2011

- established a Central Waterfront Committee (CWC) to continue the work of the Central Waterfront Partnerships Committee (CWPC)
- specified the CWC’s functions as defined in the CWC Charter, attached to the resolution
- specified the CWC membership to consist of those appointed to the CWPC under Ordinance 123142
- provided that members who resign may be replaced
- created an Executive Committee of the CWC co-chairs and the chairs of any subcommittees and department representatives
- included Central Waterfront Guiding Principles, developed by the CWPC, attached to the resolution and affirmed by the Mayor and Council, to be considered together with principles adopted previously

[Clerk Files](#) confirmed January 17, 2012

- Clerk Files (C.F.s) 311974 – 311982 confirmed members of the CWC

[Resolution 31399](#) adopted August 13, 2012

- supported the overall direction of the CWC’s Strategic Plan, Action Plan, and Recommendations (all filed in [C.F. 312468](#))
- supported the Framework Plan developed by City staff and consultants (also in [C.F. 312468](#)) as a long-term vision
- supported the Concept Design developed by City staff and consultants (also in [C.F. 312468](#)) as a departure point for moving design efforts forward
- stated the intention to form a local improvement district (LID) by spring 2014
- supported entering into agreements by the end of 2012 with the Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority (PDA) and the Seattle Aquarium
- supported creation of the not-for-profit Friends of the Seattle Waterfront
- requested (of the Executive) resources to be included in the 2013-2014 budget, an annual work program, a plan to secure operating and maintenance (O&M) funds, and identification of “early win” projects

[Resolution 31543](#) adopted October 6, 2014

- dissolved the Central Waterfront Committee (CWC)
- established a new Central Waterfront Steering Committee (Steering Committee)
- described functions of the Steering Committee
- listed members of the Steering Committee, and set terms
- included the Guiding Principles from Resolution 31264, which will continue to guide the project