



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Mary Johnston
Chair

Julie Bassuk

Graham Black

Brendan Connolly

Malika Kirkling

Laurel Kunkler

Julie Parrett

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

January 20, 2011

Convened 8:30 am
Adjourned 4:00 pm

Projects Reviewed

Mercer West II
Neighborhood Planning and Station Area Planning
Seattle Fun Forest
SR520 Improvement and HOV Corridor Project

Commissioners Present

Mary Johnston, Chair
Julie Bassuk
Graham Black
Malika Kirkling
Laurel Kunkler
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige

Incoming Commissioners Present

Osama Quotah

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino
Tera Hatfield



**Department of Planning
and Development**
700 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
PO Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349
FAX 206-233-7883



January 20, 2011	Project:	Mercer West II
	Phase:	Design Update
	Last Reviewed:	N/A
	Presenters:	Eric Tweit, SDOT Eric O'Brien, SDOT
	Attendees:	Susan Bartlett, KPFF Amy Cragg, GGN Kate Elliott, KCHA, AmeriCorps Dennis Haskell, SRG Patricia Hopper, Arts and Cultural Affairs Monica Moravec, KPFF Robert Pennington, Mercer West Neighborhood

Time: 9am – 10am

SUMMARY

The Commission thanked the SDOT team for their clear presentation of Mercer West II. The Commissioners appreciated the team's examination of individual districts and specific conditions, emphasizing the drastic need for improved pedestrian conditions along this important corridor. For the next meeting, the Commissioners would like to see sustainability issues addressed at different points along the corridor as well as a clear demarcation of bicycle route changes and transitions. The Commissioners would also like the opportunity to address and comment on drafts of the design guidelines as well as see more contextual photographs for the project. Commissioners provided the following recommendations:

- The boulevard character of East Mercer should continue to West Mercer area. Explore dynamic district character and conditions. Design the transitions between these districts while retaining consistency of the corridor.
- Focus and push the pedestrian urban design elements, especially in the Uptown-West Mercer Place section, concentrating on the pedestrian-oriented live-work character of the neighborhood. Mercer West is not just a transportation corridor, but is also an important pedestrian corridor.
- Provide examples of how cars would be routed to the tunnel from Interbay if not via Mercer Place.
- Facilitate pedestrian crossings within the corridor and highlight new pedestrian connections across Aurora.
- Design the underpass pedestrian environment for pedestrians not cars. Raising the underpass sidewalk, even just three feet, could signal cars to increase speeds and could create a hostile pedestrian environment.
- Study and incorporate other possible gateways in addition to the underpass, such as more minor gateways between districts.
- Artwork, such as lighting, should take advantage of construction and other elements, throughout the corridor, as well as the underpass.
- Artwork should relate to the lighting throughout the corridor complimenting, but not competing with, existing lighting concepts [such as McCaw Hall and Counterbalance Park].

- **Clarify bicycle routes, such as the Mercer to Roy transition, highlighting how, when and why the routes transition from lanes to sharrows to other route types. Provide clear cues to bicyclists regarding these route changes and transitions.**

Commissioner Kunkler was not present and did not participate in the summary.