

Neighborhood Plan Update Phase II Workshop with Members of the African American, Native American, Filipino American, Tigrinya and Vietnamese Communities

June 25, 2009
Filipino Community Center

Part I: Places and Connections

Exercise to discuss gaps and opportunities for improving pedestrian, bike and transit connectivity. (Where do you live/work/shop and mode of travel)

Many concerns about pedestrian crossings on MLK. Cross walk signal timing doesn't allow pedestrians to get across the entire span of MLK and the median between the train tracks is narrow. It doesn't feel safe to have to wait in the median for the next cycle when the trains run by.

- **Need improved transportation hubs around community services.** In particular services that support seniors, such as ACRS and the Filipino Community Center.
- **Chief Sealth Trail is an important pedestrian pathway.** However, it doesn't have lighting at night.
- **General concerns about public safety.** An interest in seeing increased SPD presence, in particular bicycle and foot patrols.

(See Notes below under Emerging Priorities and Opportunities)

Part II: Building a Great Town Center

Exercise to explore relationships between number of households, retail destinations, parks and walkability. (Creating a town center, housing density, building heights, etc)

- Mixed income is desired. Especially ensuring housing for low-middle income people. There is also a desire for market rate housing to support the local businesses
- No 12-story buildings! Some say no 8-story buildings
- Strong desire to preserve the single-family nature of the neighborhood.
- Need good transition between large buildings and single-family homes.
- May be potential for some upzone, to 8 stories, if community benefits in exchange. In particular, desire for parks and open space.
- Concerns about the shadowing and "canyon" effect of tall buildings with higher zoning. Desire to maintain the open feeling of the neighborhood.
- There is a need for youth programs and facilities.

Part III: Emerging Priorities and Opportunities

Capturing new ideas or major concepts (new themes and remaining issues)

- Filipino Community Center plans to expand. Othello station is far away. Would like to work with Metro to improve bus transportation and bus connections. The Filipino Community Center is located near Graham and expected its visitors would use that light rail station, however, the Graham station was eliminated. In addition, Metro has eliminated the 48, and terminated the 42 at the Edmunds station and the 8 runs only once an hour.

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- Similarly there was concern from a resident in the area of MLK and Graham about making bus connections to get home – she gets home from work at 1am.
- MLK Business Association is concerned about real estate prices and the affordability of commercial spaces.
- Pedestrian friendly town center at Othello is a long-term vision. A place that supports walking and biking to shopping and services.
- Bus shelters for places serving seniors are important.
- Narrow light rail median is an issue for pedestrian safety. Cross walk timing doesn't allow people to cross entire span of MLK and the median feels narrow especially for the volume of children when school lets out.
- Pedestrian safety crossing the tracks is a high concern especially since many seniors and children walk in this neighborhood. There are specific intersections of greater concern (marked on map) -- with higher senior / youth traffic, but the concern holds for the entire alignment in the Valley.
- Bus routes and light rail stops do not connect well for senior citizens using Filipino Community Center and ACRS.
- The #7 bus is a critical line.
- There are a number of places that lack sidewalks. (Raymond to Graham)
- The left turn traveling west on Graham to South on MLK is very difficult because the lanes are not clearly marked.
- The curb on the left side of the roadway of MLK delineating the light rail track needs increased visibility, such as reflectors.
- Many seniors walk along Graham, Othello and Holly from Rainier to MLK. There is a concern with both traffic and public safety.
- What kind of security will there be at stations for people waiting late at night.
- The Chief Sealth Trail is a pedestrian route between New Holly and Safeway/commercial district. However, it does not have any lighting at night.
- There needs to be better visibility to alert drivers and pedestrians that trains are coming. Blinking lights. The current lights are small and hard to see.
- There are public safety issues at the Filipino Community Center. Increased SPD presence is needed, especially getting the police out of their cars. Bike patrols and foot patrols.
- 37th is narrow given the number of vehicles that use it for parking.