

SPAB August 2016 meeting minutes

Board Member Attendees: Joanne Donohue, Ryan Bondroff, Gordon Padelford, Beau Morton, Afra Mashhadi, Angela Davis, Paul Muldoon

Actions: Joanne to draft comments letter for draft Pedestrian Master Plan and send draft to Board for comments prior to submittal. See items 4 and 8

1. Introductions

2. **Minutes Approval:** Approved voice vote (Angela on phone)

3. **Public comment:**

4. **PMP Update (Presenter: Ian Macek Presentation File: PMP_SPAB_08 10 16v2.pdf):**

Ian: Public comment till August 22nd.

Ian: Will return in October with review of comments.

Discussion/Questions

Joanne: How many errors did public find? Ian, Mercer Place is the only correction

Gordon: How does the EDs transition plan fit into the Ped Plan? Ian, it's a separate process

Gordon: Plan will be informed by this? Ian, Yes, Most cities transition plans are separate from their master plans.

Ryan: How many comments? Ian, one comment concerning Mercer Place sidewalk condition not represented correctly, the plan showed sidewalks where they did not exist

5. **City of Seattle Design Review Program** (Presenter: Sara Zora - SDOT/Lisa Rutzick - SDCI Presentation File: SDCI_SDOT SPAB 8_2016.pdf):

Design review program started 20 years ago

Provide flexibility

Improve Communications across stakeholders

Entire City is subject to design review 7 districts/7 design review boards (volunteer board

Citywide design guidelines that cover all areas of downtown, downtown has separate guidelines

Also neighborhood overlays (there are 14)

Last update of guidelines in 2014

Review of Citywide Design Guidelines Related to Pedestrian Realm:

Context and Site

Public Life

Walkways and Connections

Outdoor uses and activities

Walkability/Access for all

Discussion/Questions

Ryan: In Seattle what I'm hoping we are not talking about that Seattle remains more open in its boundaries and does not become more Manhattanized? Response: Designed to set guidelines for designers to work within

Angela: When a developer is looking at a space will the developer be made aware of community involvement? Lisa: All the guidelines are part of the land use code so developer has to work with them

Ryan: Do the guidelines include ADA? Response: Yes ADA is in Building Code which are standards that developer has to meet

Design Review Process:

Zoning triggers design review

Design review departures: Examples of areas of departure that cannot be granted

Floor Area Ratio

Height

Parking

See Code for Complete list

Three types of design review

Full Design Review

Administrative Design review

Streamlined Design review

Lisa walked through full design review

Administrative is the same steps except no Board or public meeting

Discussion/Questions

Angela: If something is being considered in an area that was not being considered equitably in the past, when the public is not responding what steps are taken? Lisa: described the public notice process and highlighted that if someone is not able to attend a meeting they still have the opportunity to submit comments in writing.

Angela: Why does the City or SDOT not consider why there is not any public review? What I hear is that there is a policy and procedure that is open but only for the public that knows the process already? Lisa: legitimate point how to reach the people we are not reaching. We are running the program through the equity tool kit and will be looking at those issues. Thinking that through the update of the program we will have

Ryan: I appreciate Angela's point as an example I received a notice with not enough time to attend the meeting. Was not able to get information on the project or the area. Lisa: reviewed steps that they take and offered provide her phone # for follow-up.

Presentation provided additional links for follow-up: Lisa suggested that the App Shaping Seattle would be very useful

SDOT Development Review Team

Lisa (followed the outline

reviewed Goals:

SDOT involvement in design review (emphasis on getting involved in the early stages of design process)

SDPT reviews development proposal based on:

Land Use Code Requirements

Discussion/Questions

Gordon: Right of Way Improvement Manual has a range of acceptable sidewalk variances?

Sara: start with land use goals but want the largest sidewalk dimension process

Gordon: Fair to say Right of Way Improvement Manual is thou shalt Design Guidelines are thou should? Response: yes

Right of Way Improvement Manual

Discussion/Questions

Ryan: About the width of the sidewalk, is it determined before someone starts to build?

Response: yes, standard if 5.5' planting strip and 6' sidewalk, where traffic demands wider sidewalks we require wider sidewalks

Existing Modal

Beau: Is this team based on a model from another city? Liz: modeled on SDCI's approach

6. **One Center City** (Presenter: Eric Tweit - SDOT Presentation File: OneCenterCity spab20160810.pdf)

This was the Center City Mobility Plan.

List areas included:

Overview:

Twenty Year Transportation and Public Realm Vision for how we move through, connect to and Experience the Center City

Why: Growth in Center City Neighborhoods (55,000 new jobs and 28,000 new households) Downtown and surrounding Center City neighborhoods

Evolving center City:

Plan will take into account

Transportation system changes (including King County Metro's plan which will be incorporated it with the City's plan)

Unprecedented investment development

Other considerations include new technologies such as autonomous vehicles

Feeling is that most of growth will have to be accommodated through non auto trips

Discussion/Questions

Afra as part of this have you looked at dialog with employers to encourage them to take steps to get employees not to drive? Eric, Yes, outlined some of the steps they are taking

Gordon, is the 2035 goal that causes for citywide goal of 25% or less auto use been abandoned? Eric, Not determined, as part of plan looking at goal

Integrated Plan

Graphic of Plan Elements and guiding plans

Mentioned vision zero as one of the overriding elements of the plan

Common values that will be incorporated into the plan

Draft set of guiding principles

Public Engagement

Want to engage new voices get diverse perspectives

Want the process to be transparent

Reviewed Outreach and Engagement steps

Potential Near-term Strategies

Schedule

Kick off September

Vision Goals and Values Fall

Near-term strategies - Winter

Potential futures- early 2017

Discussion/Questions

Angela, Will the advisory group be helping the City understand the communication dynamics within the communities and how to get better engagement? Concern is that the City needs to come into the community and demonstrate that the community is being respected and embraced. Eric, the advisory group will help but recognize that they can't give us all the guidance. Throughout this our outreach is not limited to the oversight group will be engaging the dept of neighborhoods and others to support the outreach effort

7. **South Lander Street Bridge Project** (presenter: Jessica Murphy Presentation File: Lander_PPT_SPAB_Aug10.v2.pdf)

Reviewed status of project

Goal completely separate all modes of travel from the rail lines

Currently average closure time for street due to train is 4.5 hours/day

Key issue is pedestrian/vehicles crossing against signal occurring 485 occurrences per day

September will be at 30% design

Proposed 4 lanes with either a small sidewalk on both sides or large sidewalk on one side

Next steps:

Open house Sept 22nd 4 - 6 pm

Online Sept 19 - 30

Discussions/Questions - No discussion or questions

8. **Other Board Business/Discussion**

Joanne discussed options for commenting on the Pedestrian Master Plan. Comments are due August 22nd.

Afra, asked for examples of what sort of feedback we would want to give:

Joanne, one example would be areas where we feel language needs to be strengthened in the plan particularly in the section Implementing Strategies and Actions

Joanne agreed to take the lead and work with a co author

Ryan asked if we could request additional accessible sidewalks. Joanne, don't see why we can't. Beau might ask for increased funding for that arealk.

Brief discussion on Asset Management Plan

Adjourned 8:05 pm