



**City of Seattle**  
Seattle Planning Commission

Michael Austin, Chair  
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

**SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Thursday, March 14, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

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<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	Michael Austin, Sandra Fried, David Goldberg, Marj Press, Kelly Rider, Julio Sanchez, Amy Shumann, Jamie Stroble
<b>Commissioners Absent:</b>	Veronica Guenther, Grace Kim, Rick Mohler, Tim Parham, Lauren Squires, Patti Wilma
<b>Commission Staff:</b>	Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Connie Combs, Policy Analyst
<b>Guests:</b>	Jesseca Brand, Department of Neighborhoods

*Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.*

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Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/when-we-meet/minutes-and-agendas>

**Chair's Report & Minutes Approval**

Chair Michael Austin called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and announced several upcoming Commission meetings.

**ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the February 28, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Sandra Fried seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.**

**Announcements**

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission Executive Director, announced several upcoming community events, including a White Privilege symposium and a public meeting about the future of the Armory property in Interbay. She announced that the final City Council vote on the citywide Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) legislation is on March 18. She thanked the Commissioners who attended the recent Sound Transit workshops in Delridge and Chinatown/International District (C/ID). The Commission's Neighborhoods For All outreach events are scheduled for April 27 and May 4. She

encouraged Commissioners to attend a working lunch with the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) Advisory Board to help develop the draft Equitable Development Indicators.

**Public Comment: Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Scoping Letter**

There was no public comment.

**Action: Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Scoping Letter**

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, presented the draft scoping letter. The draft letter incorporated comments and discussion from the Commission's February 28 meeting. Mr. Hoey thanked three Commissioners who volunteered to review and edit the final draft letter. The letter includes comments organized by theme (Land Use, Race and Social Equity, Aesthetic and Quality-of-Life Impacts, Access to Stations) and segment-specific considerations.

***If you would like to view the Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Scoping Letter presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.***

*Commission Discussion*

- Commissioners suggested a revision to highlight both the short- and long-term construction impacts related to a potential cut-and-cover tunnel C/ID station on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.
- Commissioners recommended a revision to recognize Sound Transit's ongoing partnership with the City of Seattle on the application of the Racial Equity Toolkit.

**ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Scoping Letter with the suggested revisions. Commissioner Jamie Stroble seconded the motion. The motion to approve the letter as revised passed.**

**Discussion: Sound Transit Chinatown/International District Station**

Mr. Hoey facilitated a discussion on Sound Transit's plans for the C/ID and Delridge stations. He presented an overview of the current alternatives for each of the station areas. He summarized previous comments from the Commission on these two stations. He also provided a summary of the recent Delridge and C/ID community workshops.

***If you would like to view the Sound Transit Chinatown/International District Station presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.***

*Commission Discussion*

- Commissioners expressed additional concerns with the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S cut-and-cover station alternative, including property acquisitions needed for construction staging areas and potential impacts to Metro trolley bus routes.
- Commissioners stated that selection of a C/ID station alternative on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue would require a commitment from the Seattle Department of Transportation to replace the viaduct at that location. Commissioners encouraged the City to prioritize that project.

- Commissioners reiterated previous comments about the need for Sound Transit to coordinate with the City of Seattle to avoid multiple impacts to the C/ID resulting from construction on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S and subsequent replacement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Viaduct at a later date.
- Commissioners encouraged Sound Transit to incorporate the community-driven Jackson Hub study into their plans for the C/ID station. This approach would create linkages between the public realm and green spaces in the community.
- Commissioners stated a desire for a community benefits analysis for both the C/ID and Delridge Station areas
- Commissioners expressed interest in researching sources analyzing transit guideway and station height impacts.

### **Discussion: Draft Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Level 3 Recommendations**

Mr. Hoey facilitated a discussion on the Commission's comments on Sound Transit's West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Level 3 alternatives. He presented a summary of previous comments from the Commission on these two stations.

***If you would like to view the Draft Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Level 3 Recommendations presentation, it is included in the supporting documents found in the minutes section of our website.***

#### *Commission Discussion*

- Commissioners noted that the West Seattle Tunnel alternative in Alaska Junction leads to a lower guideway in Delridge. Commissioners shared perspectives from West Seattle community meetings where residents expressed opposition to elevated guideways in Alaska Junction.
- Commissioners expressed interest in obtaining more information on potential impacts to the West Seattle Greenbelt from the proposed alternative that would cross the Duwamish River on the south side of the West Seattle bridge.
- Commissioners stated that a second station in SODO will change land use in the neighborhood.
- Commissioners stated the City has a responsibility for activating the future station areas. The City can use the lessons learned from past Sound Transit projects to improve station area planning.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.**