

SDOT & Throne Bathrooms

Presentation to the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board



Presentation Outline

- Project Timeline
- Introduction to Throne Bathrooms
- Current Locations
- Status and Reviews
- Community Outreach
- NFC Card Access
- Proposed Locations

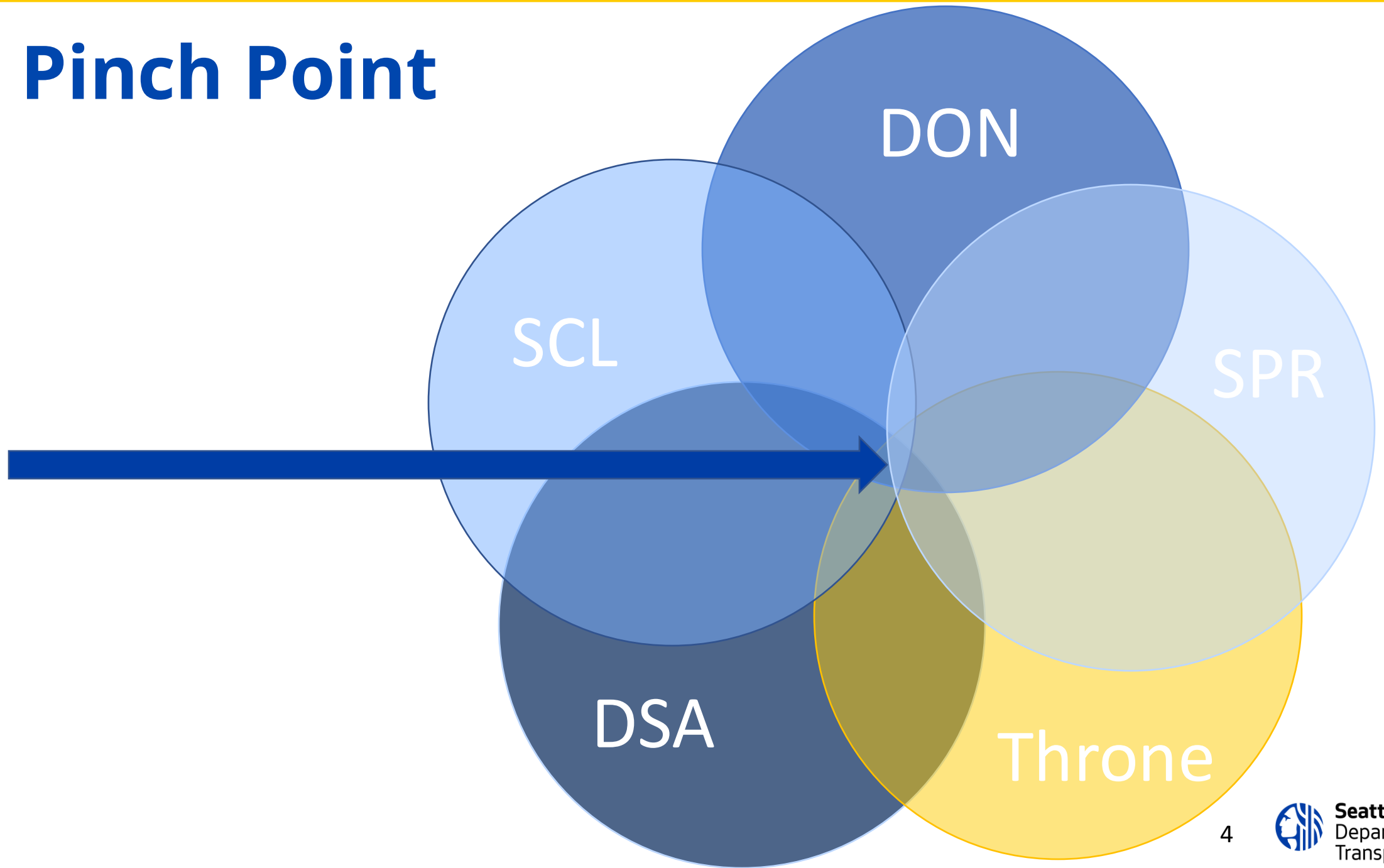


We're Back!

Purpose: Our team needs to **relocate 2-3** of the existing Throne bathrooms.

We are proposing more locations than we have bathrooms to be flexible while we are simultaneously consulting with the Preservation Board, Seattle City Light, DSA, Seattle Parks, and the Throne team. However, we still only have 4 bathrooms in total.

Pinch Point



Project Timeline

Date	Details
April 2025	SDOT considers opportunity for Throne usage
May 2025	SDOT connects with the Alliance for Pioneer Square (APS) to lead community outreach
September 2025	APS begins community outreach process
October 2025	SDOT selects potential sites for Throne locations
December 2025	Engages with Genna with Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board
February 2026	Application for the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board submitted
March 2026	Presentation to the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board
May 2026	Launch of all 4 bathrooms
June 2026	SDOT launches NFC cards to community groups. SDOT researches alternative locations for 2-3 of the Throne bathrooms. SDOT resubmits to the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board.
July 2026	Presentation to the Pioneer Square Historic Preservation Board
August 2026	Relocating 3 Throne bathrooms



Introduction to Throne Bathrooms



Throne: Best of Portable and Permanent

- **Fully functioning** toilet with running water and **24/7 remote monitoring**
- **Adaptable** design
 - Modular and self-contained
 - Easily be deployed/relocated if needed
 - Sewer or electrical hook ups not required
 - Responsive to changing conditions
- High **Quality**
 - User experience of permanent facilities
 - Running water, heat, and light within the units
 - **Touchless** features include the toilet, door to the entrance, and the sink
- **Successful** in many other cities



Throne: Accessible to All

- **Free** to the public
- Exceeds **ADA** requirements
- Throne manages a local **cleaning** crew
- **Cleaned as necessary** – the busier, the more frequent they are cleaned!
- Cleaning crews can respond to **maintenance requests** 24/7
- 21-remote sensors
- Monitors the **number of users** since the last service



Throne: Accountability

- End of experience cleanliness **survey**
- Open between **7 AM – 10 PM**
- 10-minute user **time limit**
- Digital access through scanning a **QR** code or through **texting** the number on the units

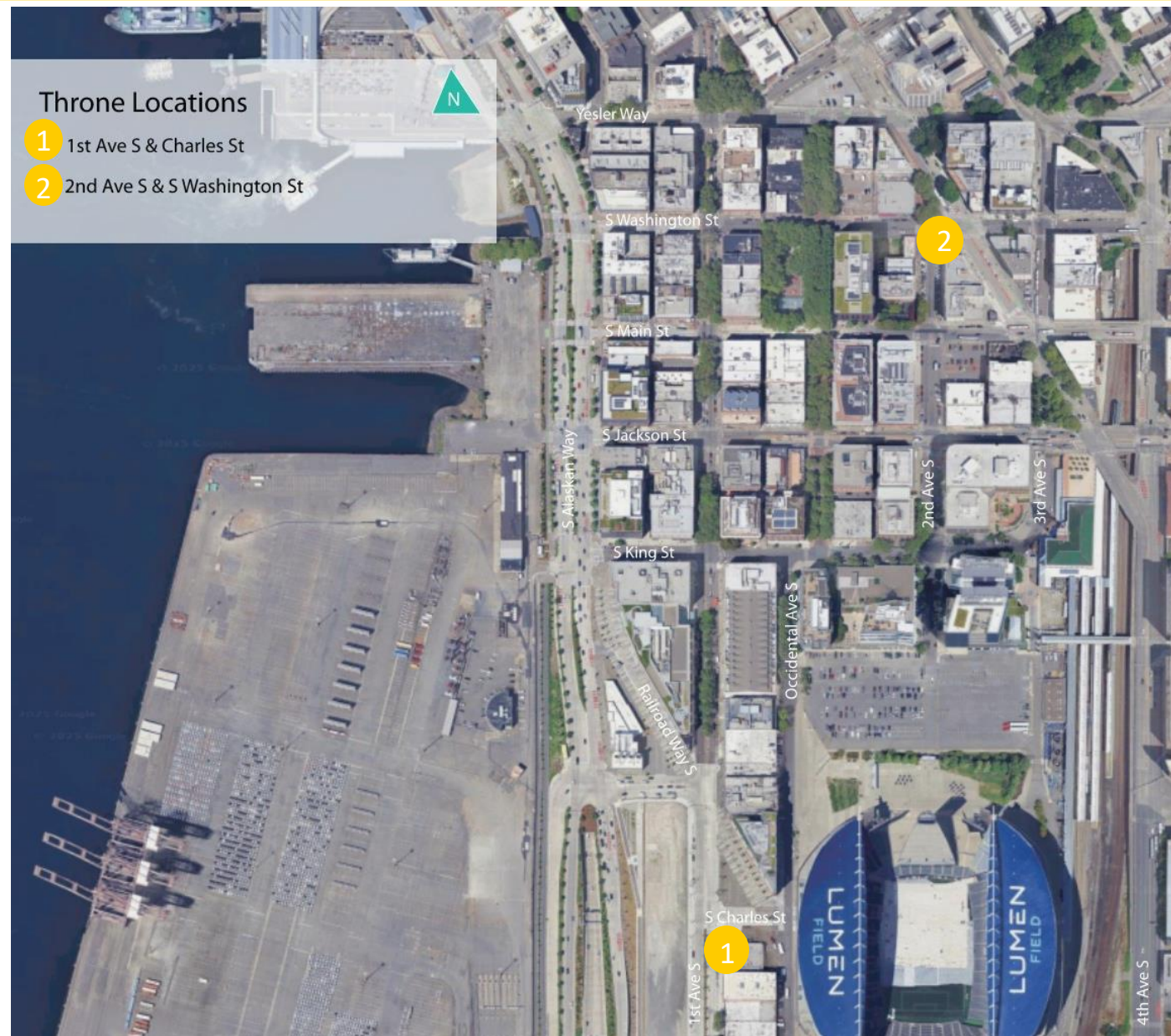


Current Locations



Current Throne Sites

- **4 bathrooms** total
- 2 bathrooms per location
- Addresses:
 - **1st Ave S & S Charles St**
 - **2nd Ave S & S Washington St**



Current Throne Sites



2nd Ave S & S Washington St



1st Ave S & S Charles St

Status & Reviews



Public Reaction Post Installation



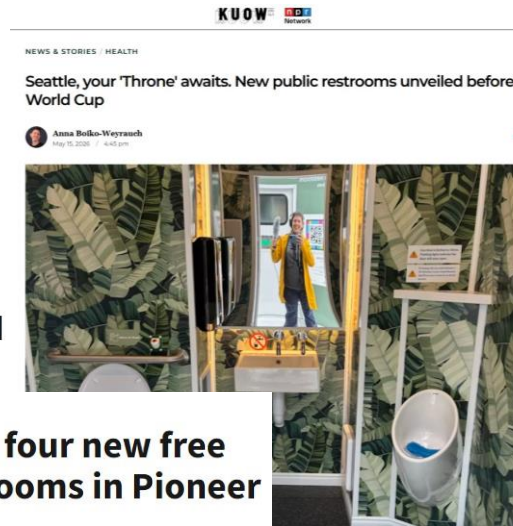
Public Health Parks and Public Space

Wilson Rolls Out Four New Public Bathrooms in Pioneer Square

By Doug Trumm - May 19, 2021 LOCAL NEWS



Seattle opens new free public bathrooms in Pioneer Square ahead of World Cup crowds



LOCAL

Seattle adds four new free public bathrooms in Pioneer Square



By Madeline Otilie, KIRO 7 News

May 15, 2026 at 6:19 pm PDT

The Seattle Times Project Homeless Newsletters Log In Subscribe

LOCAL BIZ NATION SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE HOMES OPINION | THE TICKET JOBS EXPLORE
Politics Law & Justice Watchdog Mental Health Education Lab Project Homeless Traffic Lab Eastside Climate Lab Obituaries

Business | Local News | Local Politics | Northwest | Project Homeless | Puget Sound | World Cup Seattle

With World Cup, Seattle tests public restrooms in Pioneer Square

May 15, 2026 at 6:00 am | Updated May 15, 2026 at 6:00 am

Listen to article Make us a preferred source



First 4 Weeks: Total Uses

Over **9,000** users in the first 4 weeks

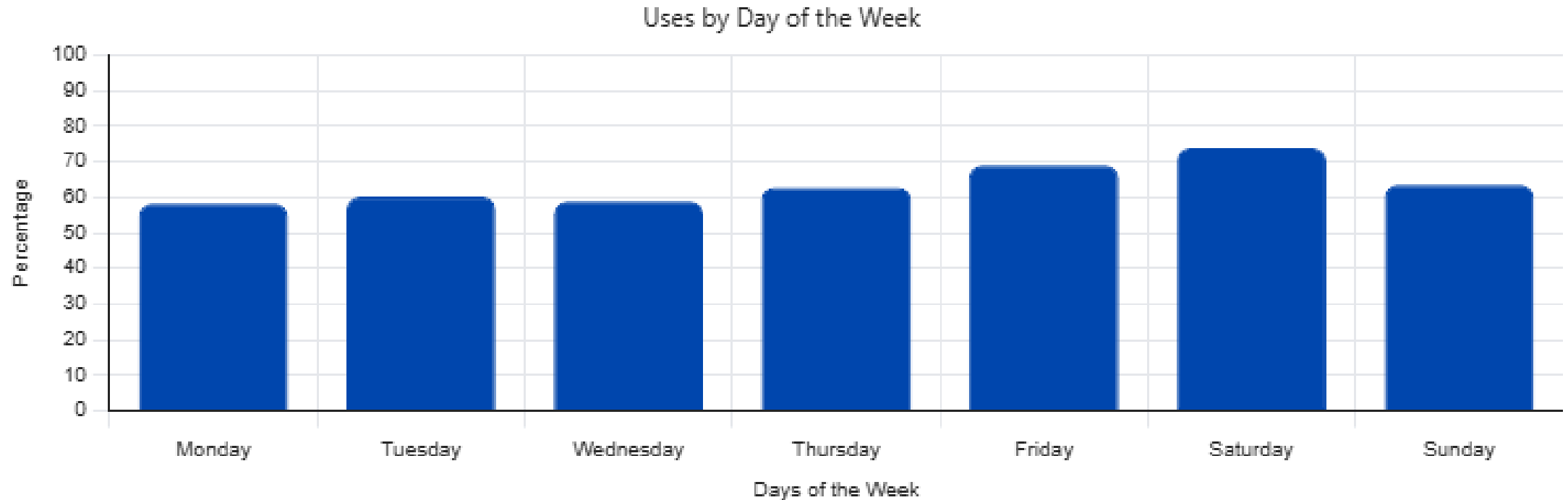
Total Usage

- 2nd and Washington S Throne
- 2nd and Washington N Throne
- 1st and Charles S Throne 21.8%
- 1st and Charles N Throne 18.5%



First 4 Weeks: Usage Across Locations

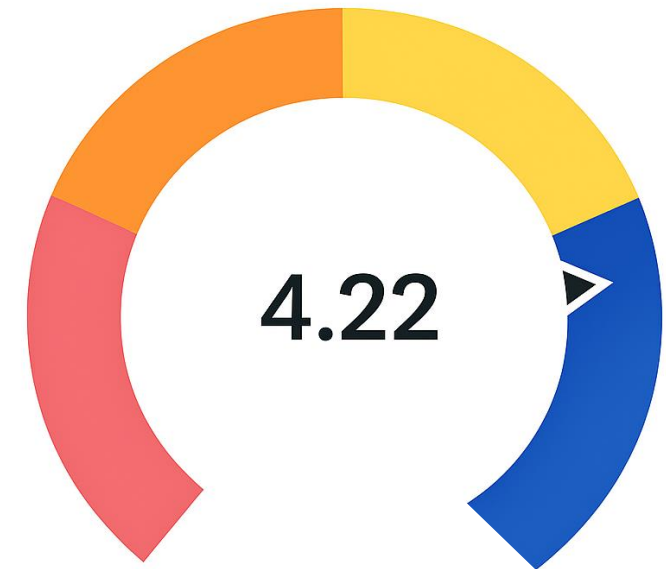
Use of the Throne bathrooms is **consistant across the week**



First 4 Weeks: Cleanliness Rating

High Cleanliness Score: **4.22** / 5

Average Clean Score



First 4 Weeks: Reviews

5 Stars: "Please keep these in the city after the World Cup. Fantastic way to keep our city clean and welcoming."

5 Stars: "The caretaker is a good guy "

5 Stars: "That was literally the nicest public restroom I've ever been in and really wish we had them in Portland too!"

3 Stars: "I cleaned behind me and picked up some napkins that fell out of dispenser. It should look like a 3! 😊 Thanks!"

3 Stars: "Thank you for giving my children a place to relieve themselves in downtown Seattle 🙏 So grateful"

1 Star: "No paper towels But super clean"



Community Outreach



Community Outreach Process

Conducted by the Alliance for Pioneer Square

Community Groups / Businesses Collaboration:

- Circle the Square
- Pioneer Square Resident's Council
- Occidental Promenade Stakeholder Group
- Local business owners
- First & Goal / Seahawks
- T-Mobile Park / Mariners



Business Outreach

SDOT contacted over **36 businesses** prior to installation

Some of the businesses we have contacted:

- McCoys Firehouse
- The Lucknow
- Asia Ginger Teriyaki Restaurant
- Blarneys Jewelry & Loan
- Four Diamonds
- Seattle Mart
- Ember Hookah Lounge
- Occidental Hall
- OnTheField
- Flatstick Pub
- Silver Cloud Hotel
- Dainese Seattle
- Very Good Collective
- Populous Seattle
- Locker Room by Lids
- Pro Image Sports
- Lumen Pro Shoppe
- Pastry Project
- Good Bar
- Gloom Coffee
- Gantry Public House

Service Provider Outreach

Conducted by SDOT in May and June

Community Groups Contacted:

- CoLead
- Real Change
- We Deliver Care
- DSA MID team
- DESC
- Bread of Life
- Compass Housing
- Union Gospel Mission
- Chief Seattle Club (no response)
- Salvation Army
- Evergreen Treatment Services
- SDOT CARE team
- Seattle Police Department
- Friends of the Waterfront
- Seattle Fire Department

NFC Card Strategy



Don't Have a Phone?

NFC Cards

- **Community ambassdors** on-site will have NFC cards to allow community members access to the bathrooms
- Cards are assigned to teams
 - **SDOT CARE Team**
 - **DSA MID Team**
 - **Union Gospel Mission**
 - **Evergreen Treatment Services**
 - **Reach**
 - **Salvation Army**



NFC Cards & Info Packet

Packet includes:

- **NFC Tap Card**
- Throne **emergency contact** phone number and Lauren Corn's contact info
- **Rules** for using the bathroom (spanish and english)
- Location info "**Where to Find a Throne**" (spanish and english)



Considered Sites



Site Checklist

Condition	Details	Level of Importance
Full Solar Access	Bathrooms are solar powered and require maximum sun in the summer months	Medium – can be supplemented with other power sources
Plug-In Electrical Access	In the winter, the bathrooms will not have enough sun to power them fully	High
Level and Solid Ground	Bathrooms should be placed on a flat surface and not over areaways	Medium – shimming can be used for minor irregularities. High – cannot be placed on an areaway
Maintenance Access	Truck needs to be able to park within 30' of the bathroom. Parking area must be at least 25' long	High
Located in the ROW	Our funding is tied to SDOT property	High – overlapping property lines can be considered
ADA Sidewalk Access	Sidewalks and curb cuts leading to the bathroom should be fully ADA compliant	High
Area of Need	Preference to locating bathrooms in areas not serviced by bathrooms	Medium – higher pedestrian traffic areas could have multiple bathrooms
Queuing	Adequate space for 5 people to wait for a bathroom without blocking the sidewalk	High
Pedestrian Volume	Bathroom success hinges on visibility, both for their use and for the number of eyes viewing them	High
Utilities	Bathrooms cannot cover any existing utility lids	High

Current Locations



Potential Locations

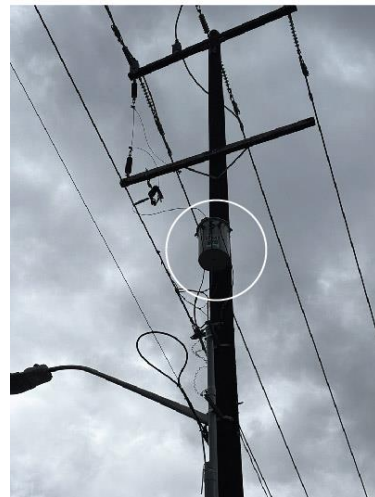
We are pursuing permission to site these bathrooms at multiple different sites as we coordinate with other teams



1st Ave S & S Charles St (west)



Site Context: Located on the western portion of 1st Ave S there are three potential spots. Two spots in the curb bulb at the intersection (adjacent property owner allowing), or in a parking spot south of the curb bulb.



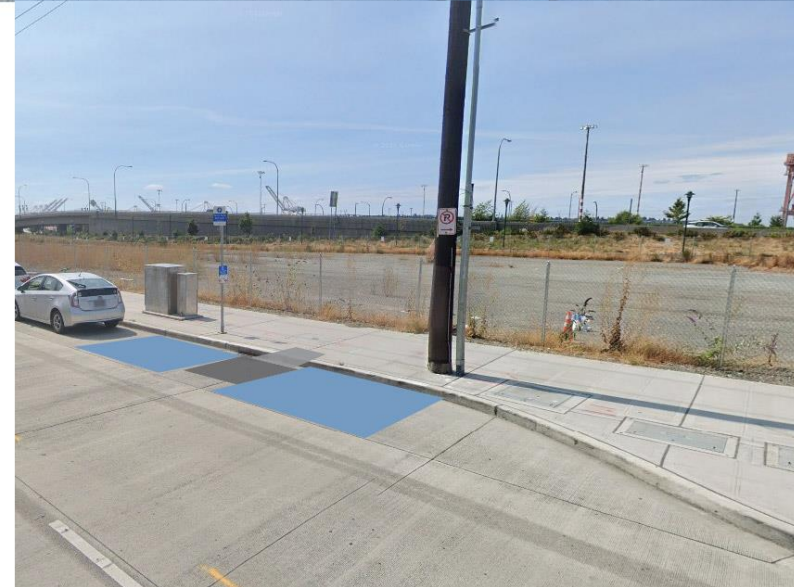
Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ● ●
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ○
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ○
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●

Solar Exposure:
Full sun all the time!! Best site of all for sun.

Electrical Access Details:
Light pole with transformer on site. In talks with SCL regarding access.

Maintenance Access:
There is on street parking to the north and the south of the site. Maintenance truck would likely need to park at the north to access the north Throne and south to access the south Throne.

Throne Feedback:
Both Throne and the Alliance for Pioneer Square like these sites.



S Railroad Ave & 1st Ave S



Site Context: Two sidewalk locations on the east side of 1st Ave S. The first is in the curb bulb on the southern edge of railroad way (NW of 1st Ave S & S Charles St intersection); the second site is located at the northern portion of Railroad way along 1st Ave S (north of the street parking).



Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ● ●
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ●
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ○
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●

Solar Exposure:
Full sun to the west and partial sun to the east and south.

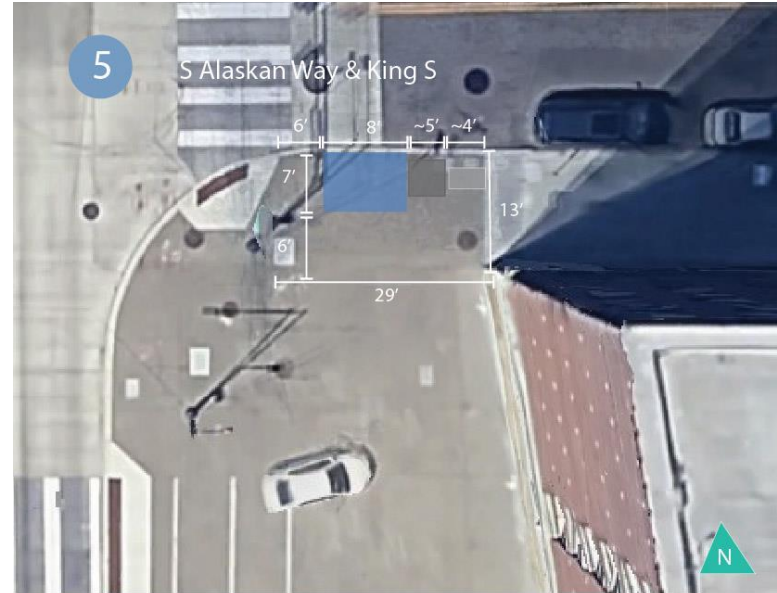
Electrical Access:
Light poles near both sites, however no junction boxes visible from the sidewalk.

Maintenance Access:
The maintenance truck would park in the 30-minute load-unload zone.

Pedestrian Access:
Site is less visible from Occidental Ave, so may be less useful for gameday usage.



S Alaskan Way & S King St



Site Context: The bathroom will be placed on the sidewalk on King St



Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ● ○
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ○
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ○
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ○

Solar Exposure:
Full sun to the south and west and limited sunlight from the east.

Electrical Access:
Light pole near site, no junction box identified.

Maintenance Access:
The maintenance truck would need to park in the parking lane to the north of the Throne.

Pedestrian Access:
Visible from the waterfront, but not a significant pedestrian zone. Less eyes on the street.



2nd Ave S & S King St



Site Context: Located at the curb bulb and at the parking spot next to the NW corner of 2nd Ave S & S King St. Note: only one site may be selected here.

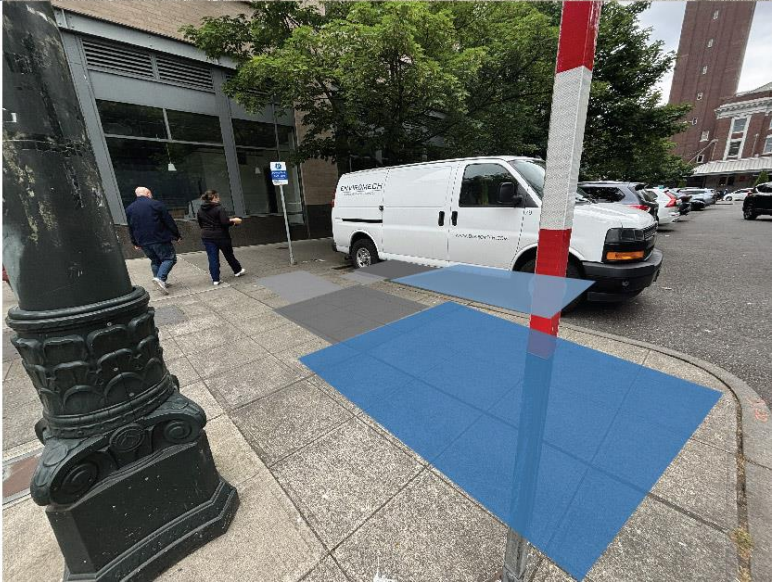


Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ● ●
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ●
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ●
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●

Solar Exposure:
Some southern solar exposure, but tall buildings surround this site.

Maintenance Access:
Need to park in the adjacent parking area. Not a lot of traffic on the street, so would be easy to park in the roadway if necessary.

Pedestrian Access:
Busy on gamedays, but unsure the number of eye on the unit during regular days.



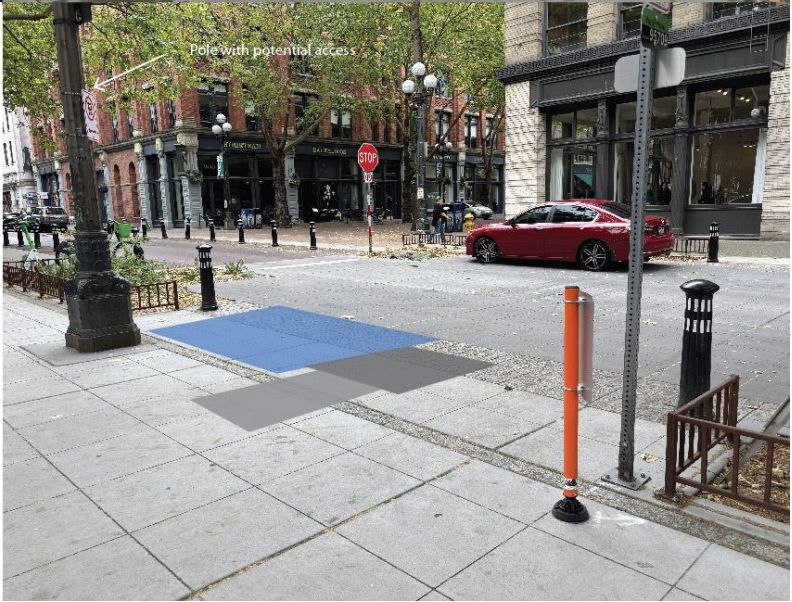
S Main St off Occidental



Site Context: Aerial photo does not indicate real-world conditions
Place the Throne in a single-parking stall along the edge of Occidental Park. Throne will need to verify this location as it might be a bit small. Bollards are not removable



Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ○ ○ ○ ○
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ○
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ●
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●
Solar Exposure: Overhead tree canopy	
Electrical Access: Possible. Outlet visible but no proof of power on-site. Talking with SCL & SPR	
Maintenance Access: The maintenance truck would need to park in the roadway.	
Pedestrian Access: Very popular ped area	



S Washington St (near Saigon Drip)



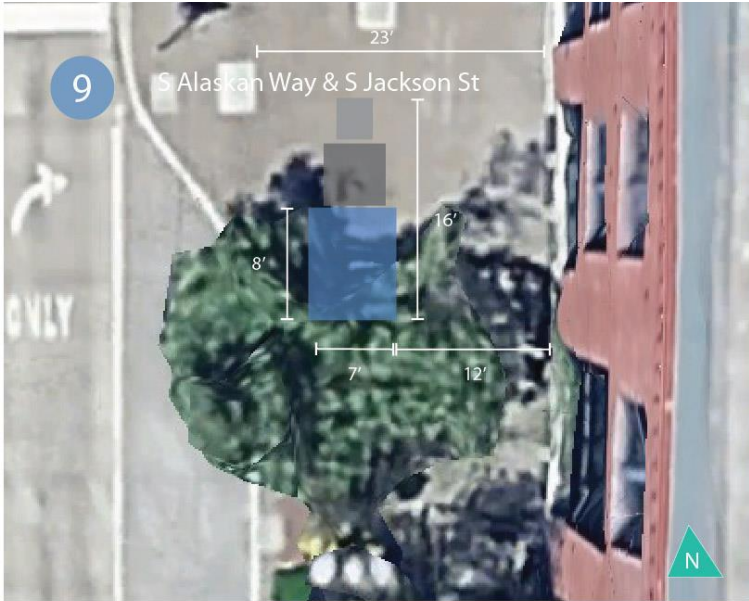
Site Context: Aerial photo no longer shows real-world conditions. Located in a no-park and parking spot adjacent to a vacant lot.



Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ● ○
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ●
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ●
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●
Solar Exposure: Vacant lot to the south, but a sizable building to the west.	
Electrical Access: Light pole, but no visible junction box.	
Maintenance Access: Parking in the alley, street, or parking stall.	
Pedestrian Access: High pedestrian walk-zone. Right off Occidental.	



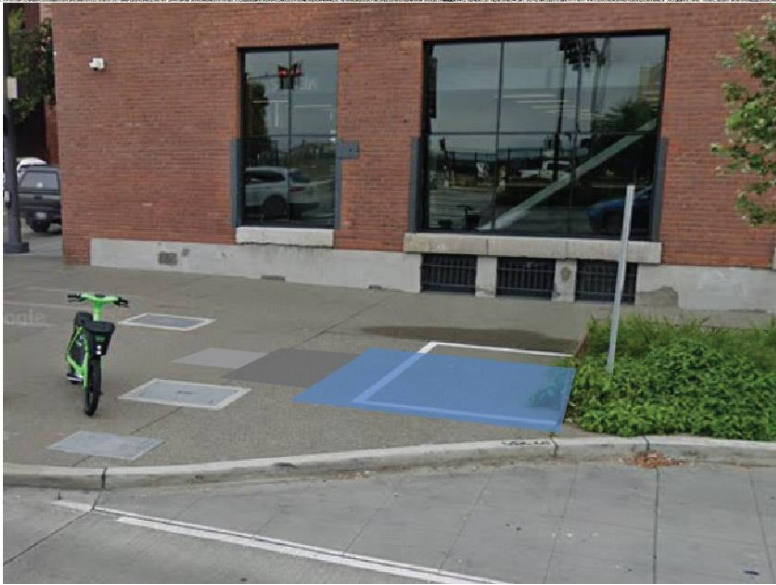
S Alaskan Wy & S Jackson St



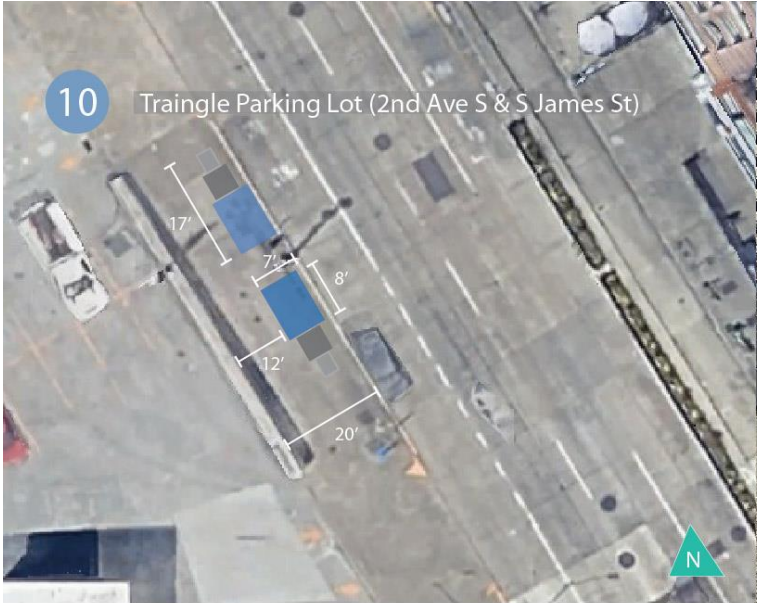
Site Context: Located in a bike corral location along S King Street.



Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ● ○
Electrical Access	○ ○ ○ ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ● ● ●
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ● ○
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●
Solar Exposure: Tree to the south of the unit. Full exposure to the west and north	
Electrical Access Light pole, but no visible junction box.	
Maintenance Access: Vehicle can park in the spot immediatly south	
Pedestrain Access: Medium ped access, along an underserved portion of the waterfront	



S Alaskan Wy & S Jackson St



Site Context: Located in a bike corral location along S King Street.



Site Features	Ranking
Solar Exposure	● ● ● ○ ○
Electrical Access	● ● ● ○ ○
Maintenance Access	● ● ○ ○ ○
Pedestrian Access	● ● ● ○ ○
ADA Access	● ● ● ● ●
Solar Exposure: Full sun to the south and west	
Electrical Access An electrical line seems to be coming from the pole. Need to ask SCL	
Maintenance Access: Vehicle can park to the north and south. Talk to TOD about feasibility with the bus line	
Pedestrian Access: Medium amount	



Proposed Locations



Discussion

- Does the Board approve of the proposed new locations?
- Does the board grant the ability for administrative review with site-level changes (such as ramp positioning)?



Thank you

