

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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Interim Director, OPCD

Justin Clark, Chair

Vinita Sidhu, Vice Chair

Kim Baker

Adam Amrhein

Jill Crary

Elizabeth Conner

Azzurra Cox

Mark Johnson

Amalia Leighton

Elaine Wine

Michael Jenkins
Executive Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Aaron Hursey
Planner

Juliet Acevedo
Administrative Staff

**Office of Planning and Community
Development**

600 4th Avenue, Floor 5
PO Box 94788
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349
FAX 206-233-7883
seattle.gov/opcd

August 19, 2021

Convened 8:30 am

Adjourned 3:30 pm

Projects Reviewed

3rd Ave W Pedestrian Bridge

Georgetown to South Park Connection

Pike Pine Streetscape and Bicycle Improvements

Commissioners Present

Justin Clark, Chair

Vinita Sidhu, Vice Chair

Adam Amrhein

Kim Baker

Jill Crary

Elizabeth Conner

Azzurra Cox

Commissioners Excused

Mark Johnson

Amalia Leighton Cody

Elaine Wine

Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Aaron Hursey



August 19, 2021
10:30 am - Noon

Project: Georgetown to South Park Connection
Type: CIP
Phase: Schematic Design
Previous Reviews: 4/15/21
Presenters: Tonnie Roberts, SDOT
Hallie O'Brien, SDOT
Gabriel Seo, SDOT

Attendees: Sonya Chin, SDOT
David Goldberg, OPCD
Ryan Packer, The Urbanist
Peter Trinh, SDOT

Recusals and Disclosures:

Amalia Leighton is recused from the project review.

Project Description

The Georgetown to South Park Connection project is a shared-use path for cyclists and pedestrians between the Georgetown and South Park Communities in South Seattle. The project builds upon work developed by the Georgetown and South Park communities, who have advocated for a bicycle and pedestrian connection. The connection was also identified as an important project in several of the City's mobility and planning documents including the Georgetown Mobility Study, which identified the project as having a high opportunity to achieve access, mobility, equity, health, and safety outcomes.

In 2018 funding was allocated by City Council to develop a conceptual design study to assess feasibility and to study potential alignments to provide connections between the two neighborhoods. In November 2020, the City Council approved \$5.2 million to fund the design and construction of the project.

Meeting Summary

This was the Seattle Design Commission's (SDC) second review of the Georgetown to South Park Connection project. The purpose of this meeting was to review the schematic design phase (60% design) for the project. Following the presentation and discussion the SDC voted, 7-0, to approve the schematic design phase of the Georgetown to South Park Connection project with several recommendations. The project will be reviewed again at the design development phase (90% design phase).

Summary of Presentation

The presentation team focused their presentation on 3 topics:

- Project overview (project location, project vision and history, community-preferred route)
- Advancement of design since previous meetings
 - Update on previous Commission direction
 - Refinement of materials and wayfinding elements

- Explore providing art elements
- Refine safety measures along the trail
- Interaction between cyclists and pedestrians
- Connections to South Park Bridge
- Maximize spaces along the trail
- Continue interdepartmental coordination with City departments
- Design details and budget

Agency comment

David Goldberg, OPCD, express support and appreciation for work and for the project team. Team has done great working with SPR and community to develop. Thanks to the project team.

Public Comments

None

Summary of Discussion

The Commission organized its discussion around the following issues:

- Materials and spaces
- Art and wayfinding
- Circulation and connectivity
- Project coordination and engagement

Materials and spaces

The SDC appreciated the team's commitment to leveraging project elements to enhance the connection between the Georgetown and South Park communities. The Commission initially focused its discussion on spaces throughout the project corridor. The Commission agreed with the choice to develop the triangle parcel bounded by S Albro, 13th Ave S, and S. Hardy Street adjacent to Ruby Chow Park and King County Airport. Commissioners recommended that the design team provide details on the development of the triangle parcel and encouraged the team to approach the design holistically, understanding the elements provided within the space as well as how it will connect with the surrounding community context. The Commission also encouraged the team to consider the opportunity to provide a large or unique element such as a significant tree and/or art within the triangle parcel. Commissioners appreciated the additional information about the legacy of Ruby Chow, and recommended the team provide a visual and/or physical connection to Ruby Chow Park as well as to provide gathering space that will serve the community and trail users.

The Commission then recommended the project team explore providing a trailhead, or similar gateway element, at the northern terminus of the connection, to announce to trail users that they are entering into a new space. Commissioners also encouraged the design team to provide additional spaces and amenities along the trail for users to pause, gather, fix their bicycle, or to allow for other to pass.

Commissioners also discussed materials and elements along the project corridor. The Commission recommended the design team develop elements such as hardscape detailing, trail amenities, pavement markings or patterns, and color finish to enhance creativity and to provide for continuity and/or distinction along the trail, encouraging the team to provide opportunities for elements to stand out from its surroundings and to serve as an asset for the community. Commissioners encouraged the design team to leverage the use of

the proposed trail materials, such as asphalt, to explore the opportunities mentioned above as well as to create spaces along the corridor.

Commissioners expressed concern with the use of a single tree species along the corridor and recommended the design team provide additional information about why this was recommended by City staff. Commissioners acknowledged the benefits of having a diverse tree canopy and then recommended the team consider increasing the diversity of tree species along the corridor. The Commission also recommended the design team provide additional details about proposed vegetation and planting species along the project corridor.

The Commission discussed elements related to the edge of the pathway. Commissioners recommended the use of a vegetated buffer, rather than gravel, to soften the trail edge. Commissioners then encouraged the team to consider providing a edging or flush curb to maintain the integrity of the trail and to serve as a wayfinding element. The commission also requested additional information about the proposed materials at intersections along the corridor, encouraging the team to develop a unique surface treatment at mid-block crossing or crosswalks to serve as an art and wayfinding opportunity.

Art and wayfinding

The SDC appreciated the team's commitment to developing an art program for the project. Commissioners commented on the limited information provided and strongly recommended the team provide additional details on the development of the art program, proposed locations, and strategy for integration into project elements. The Commission encouraged the team to explore opportunities to use existing project elements such as lighting, signage, materials, color finishes and other surface materials to enhance wayfinding and to provide a unique identity along the corridor that reflects the surrounding community. Commissioners also encouraged the team to continue to think about the project goals and aspirations for art and how it can best be integrated into the project design as well as connecting with materials and wayfinding elements. The SDC then recommended the team consider using art, wayfinding, and noise mitigation to improve the trail experience along E Marginal Way S.

Circulation and connectivity

The SDC recognized the challenge of providing a multi-use trail in this area and appreciated the details provided for circulation and connectivity along the project corridor. Commissioners agreed with the reasons for locating the trail along the north side of S Myrtle St but strongly recommended the project include a striped mid-block crossing to connect users between S Myrtle St and the Flume property to the south. The Commission then recommended the team provide additional information and renderings to explain how process and operations for travelling through the intersections along E Marginal Way S, specifically at E Marginal Way S and 16th Ave S. Commissioners also encouraged the team provide information on how this project will connect to other capital projects and facilities in/near the South Park Community, such as South Park Plaza and the Green River Trail.

Project coordination and engagement

The SDC commended the project team for their community-oriented process as well as their coordination with King County and other organizations. The Commission then expressed their concern with the limited information about ongoing equity and engagement. The Commission recommended the team provide additional information about equity and engagement as the project continues to develop and how the proposed design has changed to meet the needs of the surrounding community. Commissioners also requested information about ongoing engagement efforts as they relate to the South Park community and Reconnect West

Seattle opportunities. The SDC then recommended the team continue to pursue and develop partnerships as the project evolves.

Action

The SDC thanked the project team for their presentation of the schematic design for the Georgetown to South Park Connection project. The Commission appreciated the team's commitment to community engagement, art program development, and ongoing coordination with City departments and organizations. Commissioners acknowledged the inherent challenges related to the coordination and development of the project and commended the team's commitment to leveraging elements to further enhance connectivity between the Georgetown and South Park neighborhoods. Commissioners then encouraged the team to explore ways to express community identity as the project continues to develop.

The SDC voted, 7-0, to approve the schematic design for the Georgetown to South Park Connection with the following recommendations:

1. Refine northern terminus of connection to include a trail head, or similar gateway element
2. Develop elements such as hardscape detailing, trail amenities, pavement markings or patterns, and color finish to enhance creativity and to provide for continuity and/or distinction along the trail. Provide opportunities for elements to stand out from its surroundings and to serve as an asset for the community.
3. Provide additional details on proposed vegetation and planting along the project corridor.
4. Provide additional information about why City staff recommended a single tree species along the corridor.
5. Consider increasing the diversity of tree species. Consider how tree canopy can benefit the surrounding community.
6. Use vegetated buffer to soften trail edge instead of using gravel buffer
7. Provide details on the development of the triangle parcel bound by S Hardy, 13th Ave S, and S Albro Street. Encourage team to develop the triangle to provide a visual and/or physical connection to Ruby Chow Park as well as to provide gathering space that will serve the community and trail users. Consider integrating elements that connect to the legacy of Ruby Chow.
8. Provide additional details on the development of the art program, proposed locations, and strategy for integration into project elements such as wayfinding.
9. Further improve the trail experience along E Marginal Way such as through art, wayfinding, and noise mitigation
10. Provide additional details about the proposed mid-block crossing on S Myrtle St to connect to the Flume site
11. Provide additional details about the intersection of E Marginal Way and 16th Ave S
12. Provide additional information about equity and engagement as the project continues to develop. Specifically address ongoing engagement efforts as they relate to the South Park community and Reconnect West Seattle opportunities
13. Continue to pursue and develop partnerships as the project evolves.