

## Neighborhood Plan Update Phase II Workshop with Members of the Chinese Community

June 10, 2009 – Beacon Tower

### **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)

- They take bus route 36 or 60 or walk ( along 14<sup>th</sup> Ave towards north) to Chinatown for grocery shopping, meeting friends, eating at Chinese restaurants, visiting doctors, and other social services i.e. CISC.
- They take bus route 36 and walk (along Beacon Ave S) to Red Apple, Beacon Hill Library, and Seattle Supermarket.
- They go to QFC and Safeway at Rainier Ave S and Viet Wah at MLKing Jr. Way S. by taking bus route 36 or 60 to Jackson and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave and transit bus route 7, 42 or 48. They hope Light Rail can bring them convenience to get there in the future.
- They bring their grandchildren to Kubota Garden by taking bus route 36 to Columbian Way and transit bus route 106.
- They go to Seward Park by taking bus route 36 to Chinatown and transit bus route 39 or 99.
- They walk along 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S southward to Beacon Hill Playground for exercise and then back to their apartments by walking along 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S northward.

### **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)

- Buildings should not be too close to each other to avoid overcrowding. New existing buildings occupying part of the outside walkway bring uncomfortable walking experience.
- Government should restrict new buildings' height and closeness to protect the environment.
- To increase number of households within the Town Center, build a 20-30 floor building at the Town Center. The building could provide parking at the lower floors and all sorts of goods and services at the middle. The upper floors are for residential use. Open space, trees, flower pots, and pedestrian plaza should be built around the building. The best location for this building should be around the Beacon Hill Light Rail Station. Other buildings should be restricted to no more than 3 stories tall. However, the 20-30 floor building may affect the routes of the flights.
- 4 stories should be the tallest. Goods and services on the ground floor and residential use for the upper floors. New construction should compromise the natural beauty of Beacon Hill. More green areas should be built outside buildings and give enough side walk for pedestrians.
- Re-routing the road outside the Beacon Hill Light Rail Station may be good for pedestrians, people riding bicycles and buses. However, for people bringing a lot of luggage to and from the airport that may be very inconvenient

### **Part III: Emerging Priorities and Opportunities**

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

- Public safety and other themes discussed during the Phase I workshop were reported and recorded. The City heard our voices.

## Neighborhood Plan Update Phase II Workshop with Members of the Chinese Community

June 11, 2009 – Center Park

### **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)

- They walk along Walker St to Rainier Ave S. and take bus route 7 or 9 (run along Rainier Ave S. northward) to Chinatown for grocery shopping, doing exercise, entertainment, church services and activities, eating at Chinese restaurants, and visiting doctors.
- They take bus route 4 outside of their apartment building (run along MLK Jr. Way S.) to Harbor View Hospital for health service. They take bus route 9 to Swiss Hospital and Policy Clinic.
- They go to QFC and Safeway at Rainier Ave S by taking bus route 7 or 9 or 42 (run along Rainier Ave S. southward). One of them goes there by car.
- They walk to MLK Memorial Park for exercise or to relax. Some walk along MLK Way Jr. to Bayview St towards Rainier Ave S and walk along 25<sup>th</sup> Ave S northward back to their apartment buildings every morning for exercise.
- One of them goes to a Chinese church on Orca St and 28th Ave St by car. Two of them go to that church by taking bus route 7 to Chinatown and transit bus route 36.
- One of them takes bus route 9 to Seattle Central Community College on Broadway.
- One of them walks along Walker St eastward to the park at Lake Washington. One senior said she cannot walk up the hill as her legs are weak so she cannot get there.

### **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)

- Buildings should not be higher than 6 stories. They can be built parallel to Rainier Ave S.. There should be wide pedestrian sidewalks with grass, flower pots, and trees along the road. Maybe a big fountain and open space at the Town Center as the landmark. The ground floor could be used to provide goods and services. Residential use for the upper floors.
- Buildings that are too tall may trap heat and block air circulations. It may not be favorable to the pedestrians.
- Buildings can also be perpendicular to Rainier Ave S. as long as they are built in a systematic/tidy way. Green areas and open spaces should be available between buildings.

### **Part III: Emerging Priorities and Opportunities**

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

- Add a cross walk from the bus stop on Rainier Ave S ( near 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave S and Hill St.) directly to Walker St.