Meeting held at the Lighthouse for the Blind

**Question:** Why have you chosen to live in this neighborhood?
- proximity to work
- accessible public transportation
- my job is here

**Housing**
- need more single-family housing that is affordable
- need to preserve single family homes from the property value and safety impacts of apartments
- choice of where to live is influence by fast, reliable, prompt response of emergency services
- like a mix of affordable housing, townhomes, apartments, etc.
- affordable we define as housing for families ranging from low/working class to lower-middle class, workforce housing, affordable to service workers

**Sense of Place (now)**
- area around the station is not welcoming
- feels unsafe after dark
- high school student can be cause of concern

**Sense of Place (in future we would like)**
- full-service supermarket
- satisfied with nearby QFC
- info booth/kiosk at station, staffed to answer questions
- audible pedestrian signals, also with vibrating device for deaf persons
- US mail drop boxes
- sidewalks – smooth, grade-separated (curb), wide, clear, free of obstructions, land-side edge of sidewalk should be well-defined
- good street drainage (puddles in street impact pedestrians)
- street trees are beautiful, but leaves need swept up because wet leaves are slippery for pedestrians
- slip hazards for pedestrians – gratings & utility covers – use textured rubber on covers
- need street lighting
- different surface for crosswalks – detectable with a cane but OK for wheelchairs
- recreation center, arcade – to give kids something to do
- movie theater with audio descriptions
- smaller scale mall
- day care
- books on tape bookstore
- dry cleaners and Laundromat
Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with People Living with Disabilities

April 16, 2009

- PacMed clinic – serving low & moderate income
- gym for exercise/YMCA
- dog park for the many guide dogs in the area
- vets office
- community college
- store with blind-friendly products
- community resource center/mini city hall
- police station
- family-oriented restaurant such as Denny’s
- pea patch

Transportation
- currently a dangerous pedestrian crossing at 25/Massachusetts – cars speed on the hill, maybe need speed bumps, need signage saying there are deaf/blind in the area
- need pedestrian overcrossing on Rainier at Walker
- need well-maintained sidewalks
- buses should announce the route number at each stop (for benefit of those waiting to board)
- need a shuttle bus from Lighthouse/Red Cross to light rail station – there is a Metro bus sitting at Center Park apts. all day
- currently a problem with semis blocking sidewalks at Pepsi bottling
- currently huge puddles on 25th Ave. S sidewalk from Walker to McClellan
- problems with bushes/trees encroaching on sidewalks
- need yellow truncated dome tile as a demarcation of curb/corner/ramp on all sidewalks (should retrofit, not wait for new construction)
- problem with cars parked blocking sidewalks and crosswalks
- paint the curb edge a bright color (visual indication of curb edge)
- currently use public transportation, primarily ACCESS bus, also walk, use bus, cabs, sometimes given rides by others
- will ride light rail, but need shuttle to/from station, this would decrease need for ACCESS rides
- sidewalks to light rail station are in very poor condition

Parks
- want a multi-use trail, with restrooms, paved
- OK with security cameras in parks
- fountains – help as audible cues for orientation
- safety is a concern
- need benches for resting & enjoying sunshine
- meditation garden would be good
- linked trails – need audible signals, link Lighthouse to Greenway, need information/signage
on trails
need lighting in parks
would like some urban pocket-parks with benches

Sense of Place
Make the station area a disability-friendly locale
accessible
tactile sculptures
fountain
paths for the blind
landscaping for all the senses
different surfaces, textures, high-contrast
would provide opportunity for community to interact (abled and disabled), provides a "teachable moment"
hold integrated sports events (abled and disabled)
disabled could participate in building/laying cornerstone
Disability Learning Center – where people could experience challenges faced by disabled
Universal Design principles

The idea of creating a unique identity for the McClellan light rail station area by making it very accessible/disability friendly was very strongly supported by the entire group. It generated quite a bit of discussion!
Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with People Living with Disabilities Community
April 23, 2009

Meeting held at Center Park
(These responses include written responses provided by blind and deaf/blind participants)

Housing
- need more housing for handicapped and low-income
- also need low-income housing such as condos for the physically disabled
- need housing that is accessible & affordable especially for families and those with caregivers (2 bedroom units)
- utilities should be included in the rent
- apartments and condos including businesses, restaurants, coffee shops
- more wheelchair accessible housing
- keep the same mix as now

Character (now)
- fast food
- Starbucks
- great bus service
- the lake, parks, and BBQ

Character (in future we would like)
- restaurant, diner, buffet
- store for one-stop shopping such as Fred Myer, Target
- coffee spots (like Starbucks) that are open later in the evening
- easy pedestrian access
- businesses accessible to wheelchairs
- theater
- dollar store
- pedestrian skyway over Rainier
- 2nd hand shop, Value Village
- pet store
- book store & video store
- more artwork, murals, rock and water fountains (more visual interest)
- need more accessibility for disabled and blind people
- more stores

Pedestrian Concerns
- better traffic enforcement (cars don't yield to pedestrians)
- sidewalks – better, accessible, gentle grades (no sudden curbs or drops), wider especially on
- West side of Rainier, tree roots can raise sidewalks
- don't like when cafes encroach on sidewalk (blind & wheelchairs need clear path that is wide as the rest of sidewalk)
- bus shelters can take up too much of the sidewalk – I like the ones with an awning & leaning bar
- like at Benaroya Hall
Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with People Living with Disabilities Community
April 23, 2009

- bus shelters need to leave room for the people exiting the bus, sometimes are too close to curb
- unmaintained trees and stumps are a problem
- currently sidewalks are poorly maintained
- like bus shelters with seats
- signal timing is often too short, especially MLK/Rainier where cars making right-hand turns are
- a problems for the blind and slow walkers
- audible traffic signals can be a problem because they sound like birds, I like the audible signals
- need awnings on buildings
- more streetlights – need to be brighter and energy efficient
- need more buses to stop at the high school, the students jam the sidewalks after school as they
- go to catch the bus
- by the Pepsi bottling building the trucks often block the sidewalks and those sidewalks are narrow and dirty
- when walking, there are many pedestrian/vehicle potential conflicts because of driveways --
- would like fewer curb cuts (driveways) and fewer two-way left turn lanes
- need a clear pedestrian path from sidewalk to front door of business
- need a network of sidewalks
- need to feel safe, the area should be clean
- need public restrooms
- drivers need to be reminded to be alert, watch out for pedestrians and cyclists
- need better lighting, bright lights
- would like rails along sidewalks so easier to guide (for blind persons)

Parks
- need a P Patch -- good for the community, should be accessible (easy to get to and with raised beds)
- need more green space
- people don’t know where local parks are
- need accessible restrooms
- need more flowers and trees

Transportation
- we travel now by bus, taxi, taxi-van, Center Park’s own bus, volunteer transportation services
- for seniors, ACCESS bus
- concern over potential changes in bus routes due to light rail
- want the stops announced
- need public restrooms at light rail stations or nearby
- to get to light rail station we will wheel, walk, or use Center Park’s bus, but crossing Rainier will
- be a problem
Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with People Living with Disabilities Community
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**Business center near light rail station**
- should be accessible, also with signs in Braille
- shops that offer technology items/aides for the disabled
- would like a branch of Sight Connections (store)
- employment, shops, and service centers close to light rail station

**Misc.**
- we want to know if light rail cars will have tie-downs for wheel chairs
- we would like a Councilmember to meet with us
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