

## Little Saigon/ Chinatown/ International District Economic Impacts Study Project Overview

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**Study Purpose.** The purpose of the economic impacts study is to:

- 1) Understand potential impacts (qualitative and quantitative) on small businesses in Little Saigon and Chinatown/ID resulting from
  - a. construction of the Dearborn Street Project and
  - b. potential zoning changes proposed as part of the Livable South Downtown project.
- 2) Identify a range of potential mitigation actions that can be undertaken by City government, project proponents, members of the community, and business owners to strengthen the Little Saigon and Chinatown/ID business districts.
- 3) Provide a baseline of information to inform policy decisions related to the Livable South Downtown project, planning and development of the Dearborn Street Project, and other relevant future community development initiatives in these districts.

### **Study Phases.**

Two consultant firms, Strategic Economics and Trang D. Tu, will partner to complete the economic study as identified in the study Scope of Work. The study will consist of three phases. Phases I and II will be completed by the end of March, 2007. Phase III will be completed by the end of April 2007.

- Phase I: Assessment of existing business and retail real estate conditions & trends  
Phase II: Evaluation of likely Impacts of proposed zoning changes & the proposed Dearborn Street Project  
Phase III: Formulation of mitigation and economic development strategies to minimize existing business displacement and strengthen the Chinatown and Little Saigon business districts

### **Community Role.**

Reports completed at each phase of study will be available for community review. A presentation by the consultants will be scheduled at an upcoming Livable South Downtown Advisory Group meeting. In addition, a small group of community stakeholders will be invited to participate in a Community Review Group that will provide feedback to the consultants and the City on the scope of the economic study and review the results of each phase. A total of four meetings between consultants, City staff and community review group is anticipated.

### **Community Review Group Members:**

Elaine Ko, Inter\*Im Community Development  
Alan Kurimura, Uwajimaya  
Paul Lee, Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce  
Quang Nguyen, Vietnamese American Economic Development Association  
Sue Taoka, Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority  
Darrell Vange, Dearborn Street Project

Other Participants in review meetings:

Shanti Breznau, Strategic Economics

Gordon Clowers, City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

Gary Johnson, City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

Susan McLain, City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

Trang Tu, Trang D. Tu Consulting

Nancy Yamamoto, City of Seattle Office of Economic Development

For more information: Susan McLain, Senior Land Use Planner, City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development (206) 684-0432.