

2022 Year in Review



Seattle
Planning
Commission

2022 In Review

The Planning Commission made a number of recommendations regarding important planning initiatives in 2022 as the City of Seattle works to update major planning policies such as the Comprehensive Plan and the Seattle Transportation Plan. The Commission also reviewed planning work for the Sound Transit 3 West Seattle Ballard Link Extension, and the Maritime and Industrial Strategy. We are excited to continue to watch each of these projects unfold.

The Commission also moved to a hybrid meeting model in 2022, where Commissioners are able to participate in meetings both in-person and virtually as best fits their individual needs. We are excited to interact with each other in-person once again while continuing the flexibility and increased access that virtual meetings provide. The Commission is also happy to once again be able to accept public comment in person during Full Commission meetings, and we look forward to seeing and hearing from community members who wish to join us in City Hall as well as those who take the time to join us online.



1,487

**Hours Volunteered by
Commissioners**

Commissioners gathered for 58 meetings including two full commission meetings each month and up to four committee working sessions each month.

Commissioners attended community events such as open houses for the Comprehensive Plan Major Update and workshops for the Seattle Transportation Plan.

Commissioners received briefings from City staff in the offices of OPCD, SDOT, OSE, SDCI, and SPU.

Commissioners dedicated time outside of meetings to review plans and materials drafted by city departments and to prepare for working sessions.

Comprehensive Plan

The City of Seattle is in the process of a major update to the Comprehensive Plan. The process began in 2021 and the new plan is expected to be adopted at the end of 2024. As stewards of the Plan, the Planning Commission follows the process closely and provides input in a variety of ways such as through comment letters, independent reports, attending public meetings, and through iterative discussions with City staff at Commission briefings.

In 2021, the Commission offered a letter on recommended overarching themes to guide the next major update to the Comprehensive Plan. As a follow up to those recommendations, we prepared a series of issue-specific briefs, the first of which centers around the need to evolve Seattle's growth strategy to accommodate rapid growth in a more equitable way. Short descriptions and links to each of the issue briefs are provided below.

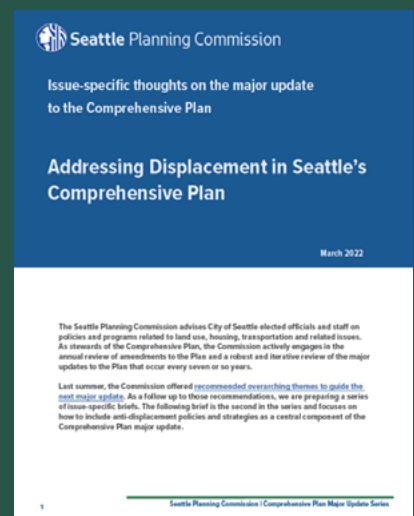


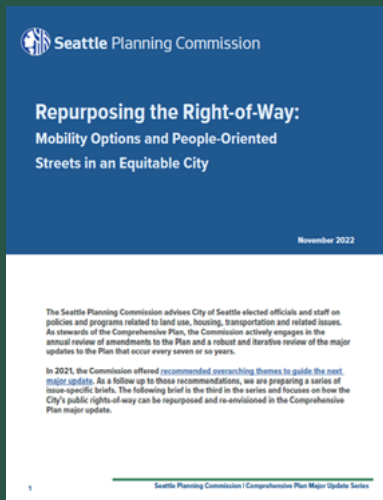
Updating the Growth Strategy

The first brief in the series offers a vision for equitably accommodating rapid growth in Seattle. The brief argues that the Comprehensive Plan Environment Impact Statement for the major update in progress should study three key strategies: tools to actively address displacement, the 15-minute city concept, and expansion of Urban Villages to embrace a network of complete and connected neighborhoods.

Addressing Displacement in Seattle's Comprehensive Plan

The second brief in the series focuses on how to include anti-displacement policies and strategies as a central component of the major update. The brief makes a series of recommendations for consideration in the Comprehensive Plan such as evaluating displacement during the EIS process, including anti-displacement policies throughout many of the plan's elements, and advancing existing community-led policies and investments.



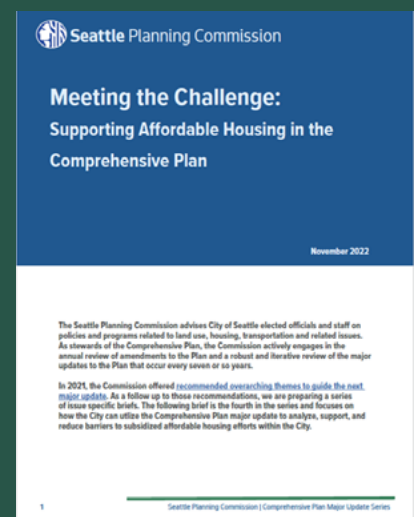


Repurposing the Right-of-Way: Mobility Options and People-Oriented Streets in an Equitable City

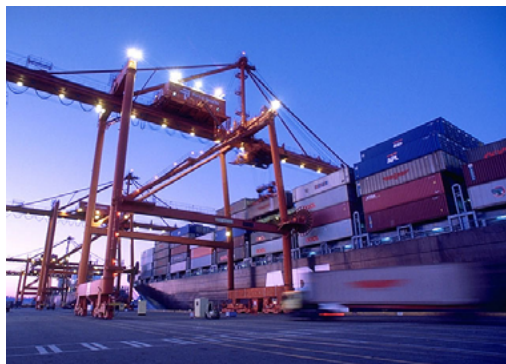
The third brief in the series focuses on how the City's public rights-of-way can be repurposed and re-envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan major update. The brief offers recommendations for evolving the right-of-way away from a focus on the storage and movement of private vehicles toward a more balanced use for access, transportation, social connection, and green infrastructure.

Meeting the Challenge: Supporting Affordable Housing in the Comprehensive Plan

The fourth brief in the series focuses on how the City can leverage the Comprehensive Plan major update to analyze, support, and reduce barriers to subsidized affordable housing efforts within the city. The brief provides a list of opportunities and actions for supporting improved access to affordable housing in the Comprehensive Plan through the major update.



In 2022 the Commission also completed in-depth reviews of the Draft Environmental Impact Statements for the City's Industrial and Maritime Strategy and Sound Transit's West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions. We submitted comment letters on both projects expressing appreciation for the accomplishments of each project as well as outlining potential issues or mitigation strategies.



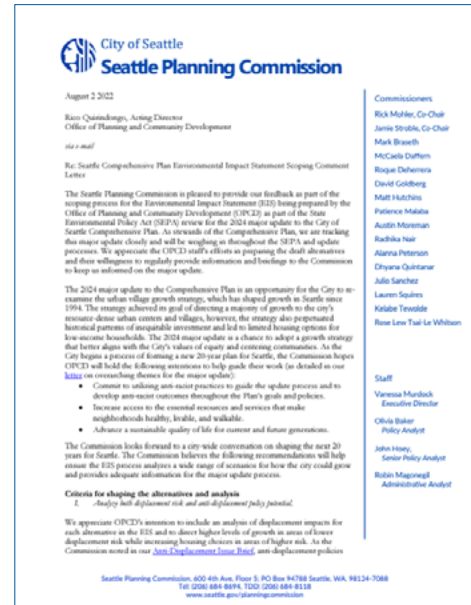
Left: Activity at Seattle's Port. Photo credit: Port of Seattle.

Right: A draft map of the future WSBLE light rail line. Photo credit: Sound Transit.



Letters to City Council and City Staff in 2022

- [Industrial and Maritime Strategy Draft EIS comment letter \(February 2022\)](#)
- [West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Draft EIS comment letter \(April 2022\)](#)
- [2022-2023 Comprehensive Plan Amendments recommendations letter \(July 2022\)](#)
- [Seattle Transportation Plan SEPA Scoping comment letter \(July 2022\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan EIS Scoping comment letter \(August 2022\)](#)



Focus Areas for 2023

- The Comprehensive Plan Major Update Draft Plan
- The Comprehensive Plan Major Update Draft EIS
- Seattle Transportation Draft Plan
- Seattle Transportation Plan Draft EIS
- Housing Levy Renewal
- Move Seattle Levy Renewal

2022 Seattle Planning Commissioners



Jamie Stroble, Co-Chair

Jamie works for The Nature Conservancy as Climate Director and is charged with developing a new climate program and centering racial equity and climate resilience.



Rick Mohler, Co-Chair

Rick is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington's College of Built Environments and has over thirty years of experience in professional architectural practice at multiple scales.



Mark Braseth

Mark is a principle at Braseth Construction building multifamily housing in Seattle and the surrounding area. Previously, Mark worked at Puget Sound Regional Council in land use and transportation planning.



McCaela Daffern

McCaela is an urban planner with King County's Department of Community and Human Services where she is lead staff for the King County Affordable Housing Committee.



Roque Deherrera

Roque is the Manager of Real Estate and Development Services for Legacy Group Capital, an infill housing development company. He has previously worked for the City of Seattle as an Urban Planner and as a Business Advocate.



David Goldberg

David helped launch Smart Growth America and Transportation for America, national movements focused on smart growth reform. He currently works as an Ombudsman/Community Liason for WSDOT.



Matt Hutchins

Matt is a founding Principal of CAST architecture and has spent more than 20 years working to increase the vitality of the city and protect the environment.



Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson

Rose is a biologist at Jacobs Engineering where she works on land use policy and environmental investigation. Rose has worked on projects ranging from residential improvements to public transit expansions.

2022 Seattle Planning Commissioners



Patience Malaba

Patience is the Director of Government Relations and Policy at the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County. Previously, she managed Seattle for Everyone and worked on Seattle's Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda.



Radhika Nair

Radhika is an urban planner with more than 10 years of experience in the Puget Sound region. In her job at BERK Consulting, Radhika manages a variety of projects from community plans to housing studies to park system plans.



Alanna Peterson

Alanna is an attorney with Pacifica Law Group LLP, where she helps public, private, and nonprofit clients navigate complex issues impacting their work in our communities.



Dhyana Quintanar Solares

Dhyana is WSP's Strategic Solutions Leader and Senior Project Manager. She brings over 15 years of experience to the Commission in infrastructure, public space, land use and environmental planning, and project management.



Julio Sanchez

Julio recently completed a certificate in Energy and Capitalism in Contemporary Society from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He previously worked for PSCAA until 2020.



Lauren Squires

Lauren is a multimodal transportation planner at Nelson/Nygaard with an emphasis on active transportation, health, and social equity. She has a background in sustainable design and planning.



Kelabe Tewolde

Kelabe is an Academic Counselor at Rainier Scholars, where he works with 6th-12th grade students. He provides comprehensive support to scholars and families to help them on the path towards college and beyond.



Each year the Commission is joined by a Get Engaged Commissioner. Austin Moreman (left) served in 2021-2022 and Dalton Owens joined the Commission for 2022-2023.

Seattle Planning Commission

Mission

The Planning Commission advises the Mayor, City Council and City departments on broad planning goals, policies and plans for the physical development of the City. The Commission's work is framed by the Comprehensive Plan and its vision for Seattle into the future, and guided by a commitment to racially equitable, community-centered planning for all members of Seattle's communities.

Structure

The Planning Commission was established by Article XIV of the City's Charter in 1946. City ordinance 109155 defines the Commission's structure which is comprised of sixteen members, seven of which are appointed by the Mayor with another seven appointed by City Council and one appointed by the Commission. The members of the Commission are volunteers who bring a wide array of expertise, lived experiences and a diversity of perspectives to these roles.

Principles

Our work is grounded in putting into practice racial equity principles from the Center for Urban and Racial Equity which you can view [here](#). We see these principles showing up in our work in the following ways:

- Advise the Mayor, City Council, and department staff on the elimination of systemic barriers in planning, and naming policies and practices that have produced historical and contemporary inequities based on race, gender, class, sexual orientation, geography, and other characteristics
- Advance equitable planning practices by developing and promoting innovative planning and policy concepts through our independent research and work
- Foster connections, partnerships, and collaborations across departments, agencies, and communities that further racial equity and intersectionality in planning practice
- Advocate for new systems, policies, and practices that institutionalize equity and support sustainable, transformational change, including targeting distribution of resources and access to opportunity to members of groups that have experienced systemic and institutional discrimination and oppression
- Nurture a collaborative culture that builds a community of learning, mutual respect, acknowledgment of power dynamics, and a valuing of diverse experiences and identities
- Conduct meetings using the revised "[Color Brave Space](#)" norms from Equity Matters that promote equitable interpersonal interactions and ensure that commissioners have equity principles at the forefront of their approach to the Commission's work

About the Commission

The Seattle Planning Commission advises the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on broad planning goals, policies, and plans for the physical development of the City. The Commission's work is framed by the Comprehensive Plan and its vision for Seattle in the 21st Century, and by a commitment to engaging citizens in the work of planning for and working to reach these goals.

The Seattle Planning Commission is an independent, 16-member advisory body appointed by the Mayor, City Council, and the Commission itself. The members of the Commission are residents of Seattle who volunteer their time, and bring a wide array of expertise and a diversity of perspectives to these roles.

Commissioners

Rick Mohler, Co-Chair
Jamie Stroble, Co-Chair
Mark Braseth
McCaela Daffern
Roque Deherrera
David Goldberg
Matt Hutchins
Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson
Patience Malaba
Austin Moreman
Radhika Nair
Dalton Owens
Alanna Peterson
Dhyana Quintanar Solares
Julio Sánchez
Lauren Squires
Kelabe Tewolde

SPC Staff

Olivia Baker, Policy Analyst
John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst
Robin Magonegil, Administrative Analyst
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director