



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

Rick Mohler and Jamie Stroble, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:	McCaela Daffern, David Goldberg, Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Rick Mohler, Alanna Peterson, Dhyana Quintanar, Julio Sanchez, Jamie Stroble, Kelabe Tewolde
Commissioners Absent:	Mark Braseth, Roque Deherrera, Patience Malaba, Austin Moreman, Radhika Nair, Lauren Squires
Commission Staff:	John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Olivia Baker, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Administrative Assistant

Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/meetings>

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Co-Chair Rick Mohler called the meeting to order at 7:34 am and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Co-Chair Mohler offered the following land acknowledgement:

'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, we'd like to actively recognize that we are on Indigenous land, the traditional and current territories of the Coast Salish people who have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time and continue to do so today. We offer land acknowledgement because Native land was taken by force and colonized to form the United States as we know it today. Through this process, which is ongoing through systematic oppression, Native identity, history, and land ownership has been ignored by colonizers and attempted to be erased. Land Acknowledgement is the first step in opposing the systematic oppression and historic erasure of Native people and Native Land ownership.'

Co-Chair Mohler asked fellow Commissioners to review the Color Brave Space norms and asked for volunteers to select one or more of the norms to read aloud. He reminded Commissioners that they have collectively agreed to abide by these norms.

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the July 28, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Alanna Peterson seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission Staff, noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting where some Commissioners are participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff are participating in person in the Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall. He noted that public comment could be submitted in writing at least eight hours before the start of the Commission meeting or provided in person by any members of the public attending the meeting at City Hall.

Briefing: Comprehensive Plan Major Update

Michael Hubner, Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD)

Mr. Hubner provided an overview of the public engagement timeline for the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update. He stated that public engagement efforts are currently midway through the 2nd phase – Shaping the Plan. The public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process ended on August 22 with:

- More than 1,000 comments posted on the Engagement Hub and emailed
- 35 organizations submitted comment letters, including a mix of advocacy, affordable housing, labor, business, development, neighborhood, and environmental groups
- 2 focus groups with Community Liaisons
- 3 online public meetings
- 1 presentation to City Council
- Briefings to individual stakeholder groups

The EIS will be developed with a consultant this fall. It will take time to process all the comments. The project team is taking in ideas expressed by the public on the proposed alternatives and considering refinements. OPCD will release a scoping report in October that will contain the final alternatives and revisions to be studied in the EIS. OPCD will also summarize what they heard and how they are responding. Mr. Hubner stated that he will come back to the Commission to share the scoping report.

OPCD has utilized three broad engagement strategies for the Major Update as follows:

Online

- Engagement Hub –1500 registered users
- Project website –5000 page views in the first half 2022
- Social media, etc. –Twitter, Facebook, blog, email list

Community partners

- 10 Community Liaisons
- 5 Community Based Organizations

Community/stakeholder outreach

- Direct outreach to stakeholder organizations (20+)

- City boards and commissions (20+)
- Outreach at community events, including jointly with SDOT

A Phase 1 Engagement Report has been prepared and posted to the project website:

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/opcd/seattleplan/oneseattleplanphase1engagementreport.pdf>. This report includes a summary of what OPCD heard from the community, as well as engagement activities and resources. Mr. Hubner stated that KUOW has run a series of stories and interviews about the Major Update. The Urbanist and The Seattle Times have also featured stories.

Mr. Hubner shared more information on One Seattle engagement hub, which includes examples of community engagement with community partners. OPCD will be preparing a separate report summarizing the results of a recent online survey and will continue to conduct outreach to various City Boards and Commissions. He summarized some of the early themes heard during public engagement, including housing affordability, the exclusionary history of land use and zoning, expanding housing options, and increasing housing density to increase supply, transportation, and climate change. OPCD has also heard about topics that will not be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan – for example, rent control and homelessness.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners asked Mr. Hubner to share an example of an innovative outreach strategy implemented by a community partner that provided access to a particularly difficult-to-reach segment of the community. He stated that the Khmer Community of Seattle/King County (KCSKC) organized a bus tour of different areas of downtown for elders, facilitated by youth. Another event organized by the Community Liaisons provided an opportunity for conversation with the unhoused community in a tiny house village. This event was well attended and covered a wide range of topics.
- Co-Chair Jamie Stroble disclosed that she is partnering with the Khmer community and designed the field trips and curriculum for workshops with elders and youth. The youth wrote a blog post about the tour of downtown that Mr. Hubner mentioned. She provided a link to the blog post here: <https://engage.oneSeattleplan.com/en/projects/community-based-organization-partner-snapshots>
- Commissioners asked for more information about how OPCD will respond to early input regarding alternatives that have garnered almost no support on the online engagement hub. Mr. Hubner stated that the engagement hub is an incredibly important source of information and there has been a lot of support for the various alternatives. OPCD will be totally transparent about the input received on a variety of topics. He stated that OPCD will be reviewing the public engagement input and conducting analysis to compare the alternatives and any tradeoffs to inform the decision-making process. For example, if the analysis demonstrates that Alternative 5 provides more housing choices, they will highlight that. Mr. Hubner stated that many comments have suggested additional information, such as expanding the range of alternatives. OPCD is considering how to incorporate those comments. The EIS will have a No Action alternative and at least three fully analyzed alternatives, as well as at least one sub-alternative.
- Commissioners asked if the analysis will specifically address input from the most disproportionately impacted communities. Mr. Hubner stated that the project team is trying to make sure what communities are saying is reflected. It is too early to say how this information is shaping the plan, but OPCD intends to have a new section in a future report on how they are doing that.
- Commissioners noted seeing a trend on the engagement hub making connections between housing choices, transportation, and climate change. The tone of the conversation is different now than during the accessory dwelling units and Mandatory Housing Affordability policy conversations.

- Commissioners recognized that the Seattle Transportation Plan (STP) has been doing scoping at the same time as the Comprehensive Plan Major Update. The two scoping processes are very different from each other. The STP scoping process is mostly focused on electrification, not the growth alternatives. Mr. Hubner stated that OPCD and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) are taking different approaches to an EIS. The STP EIS is focused on outcomes and its alternatives do not match with the Comprehensive Plan EIS. The OPCD project team meets with the STP team regularly. The STP goal is to reduce trips through a mode shift strategy. SDOT is anticipating analyzing the land use patterns identified in the Comprehensive Plan. The two EIS efforts can be complementary to each other, but OPCD and SDOT have work to do to make sure the two projects are aligned. The scoping reports will have a section on how to work together.
- Commissioners acknowledged the number of comments on the engagement hub regarding the connection between loss of tree canopy and development, specifically those that stated a preference for preserving trees. Commissioners recommended that OPCD clearly recognize that development of additional households and protection of tree canopy can move forward together.
- Commissioners noted that surveys typically receive input from a certain demographic. Community-based organizations had some initial concerns about not having their concerns incorporated. Mr. Hubner stated that the project team is very focused on using new tools to collect a range of public input. The goal is to achieve inclusivity. The scoping process demonstrated significant interest in the Plan. There will be another round of outreach activities in the fall that are not yet announced. These activities will attempt to generate more localized engagement.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.