



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

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PSB 204/20

Staff REPORT

for Board meeting January 6, 2021

Board Members Please Note: The citations from the District Ordinance, Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District, and Secretary of the Interior's Standards listed below are for your consideration in addition to any other citations you find relevant in considering each application.

010621.31 Rapid Ride Stations

Northbound Columbia St and Alaskan Way (Stop 1558) - 61 Columbia St
Northbound Alaskan Way and S Jackson St (New Stop) - 304 Alaskan Way S/74 S Jackson St
Southbound Alaskan Way and S Jackson St (New Stop) - 401 Alaskan Way S

Construction of shelters and associated lighting, signage, and equipment

Staff report: Staff report: The project was presented at the Sept 16 Board meeting for a briefing. At the briefing, the Board provided feedback that they would need to see the proposed design in context of the location that it will be built. The Board agreed that generally a more neutral color is preferred, in this case one of the grey colors. They thought that having the red color on the horizontal part of the pylon was similar to a business blade sign and would be recognizable. The station includes moving image signage which has been allowed for public information in context of transportation systems as long as no advertising is included. Moving image signage would otherwise be prohibited. Another exception requested that was not discussed at the briefing is that this station design also includes backlit signage that is prohibited in the district rules. If the Board would like to see alternative lighting for the signage, the Board may table the application to allow for the applicant to provide alternatives at a future meeting. The applicant is aware that this is an issue and may address this during the presentation. The Board discussion should include if the use in the station is different than the use on a business sign.

While the waterfront of Pioneer Square has changed a lot over time, the area is still part of the historic district. While reviewing the plans for the waterfront the Board had concerns that the contemporary nature of the some of the designs and required elements such as the three globe light fixtures and brick elements be added to the

waterfront plans with in Pioneer Square to help address the concerns. Pertaining to the color the applicant referenced a blue storefront and pink railing that they thought should set a precedent for their shelters structures to be red. The pink railing was painted without approval. The blue color, staff approved administratively. Admittedly it is a brighter color than I expected based on a small paint sample. I also received a complaint about the color.

The locations, pads and hooks ups for the stations were approved with the Waterfront Seattle project as these needed to be installed with the sidewalks. The design, colors and materials of the stations was to be brought to the Board for review separately. While there are no existing specifications for bus shelters in the Rules and the Code refers to exterior building design, the Board can consider to the extent that the Code, the Rules and the Secretary of Interior Standards applies to bus shelters/stations for consideration of the compatibility of station in Pioneer Square Preservation District.

Draft Motion 1: I move to recommend granting a Certificate of Approval for: Construction of Rapid ride stations in grey with a red Rapid Ride sign on a grey pylon. The back lit signage is approved in this application because..... The changing image sign is approved because it is necessary to have up to date information for the transportation system under the condition that no advertising is included. All per the plans provided.

Draft Motion 2: I move to recommend granting a Certificate of Approval for: Construction of Rapid ride stations in red with a red Rapid Ride sign on a red pylon. The back lit signage is approved in this application because..... The changing image sign is approved because it is necessary to have up to date information for the transportation system under the condition that no advertising is included. All per the plans provided.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the *January 6, 2021* public meeting and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Code Citations:

SMC 23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

SMC 23.66.180 - Exterior building design.

To complement and enhance the historic character of the District and to retain the quality and continuity of existing buildings, the following requirements shall apply to exterior building design:

- A. Materials. Unless an alternative material is approved by the Department of Neighborhoods Director following Board review and recommendation, exterior building facades shall be brick, concrete tinted a subdued or earthen color, sandstone or similar stone facing material commonly used in the District. Aluminum, painted metal, wood and other materials may be used for signs, window and door sashes and trim, and for similar purposes when approved by

the Department of Neighborhoods Director as compatible with adjacent or original uses, following Board review and recommendation.

- B. Scale. Exterior building facades shall be of a scale compatible with surrounding structures. Window proportions, floor height, cornice line, street elevations and other elements of the building facades shall relate to the scale of the buildings in the immediate area.

Pioneer Square Preservation District Rules

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

New construction must be visually compatible with the predominant architectural styles, building materials and inherent historic character of the District. (7/99) Although new projects need not attempt to duplicate original facades, the design process ought to involve serious consideration of the typical historic building character and detail within the District.

The following architectural elements are typical throughout the District and will be used by the Board in the evaluation of requests for design approval:

- A. Building materials. The most common facing materials are brick masonry and cut or rusticated sandstone, with limited use of terra cotta and tile. Wooden window sash, ornamental sheet metal, carved stone and wooden or cast iron storefronts are also typically used throughout the District. Synthetic stucco siding materials are generally not permitted. (7/99)
- B. Color. Building facades are primarily composed of varied tones of red brick masonry or gray sandstone. Unfinished brick, stone, or concrete masonry unit surfaces may not be painted. Painted color is typically applied to wooden window sash, sheet metal ornament and wooden or cast iron storefronts. Paint colors shall be appropriate to ensure compatibility within the District. (7/99)

Secretary of Interior's Standards

9 New additions, exterior alterations or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

Issued: December 30, 2020

Genna Nashem
Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator