



## Seattle Design Commission

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## MEETING MINUTES

**November 7, 2024**

Convened 8:30 am

Adjourned 3:00 pm

### **Projects Reviewed**

Commission business

West Seattle Light Rail, SODO Station

Garfield Superblock

### **Commissioners Present**

AP Amrhein (recused in AM)

Phoebe Bogert (attended virtually in the morning only)

Jill Crary

Kate Clark

Kevin O'Neill

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick (attended virtually)

Caitlin Truong

### **Commissioners Excused**

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

### **Staff Present**

Michael Jenkins (attended virtually)

Valerie Kinast

Windy Bandekar



### **Commission Business (8:30 – 9:00 am)**

Commissioners received a briefing on the day's sessions.

### **West Seattle Light Rail – SODO Station (9:00 – Noon)**

The Commission held its initial review of the proposed plans for expansion of the SODO light rail station. A new SODO station would be integrated with the existing station. The SDC reviewed Preliminary Engineering of the preferred alternative.

The following people were presenters, or were present to answer questions:

- Jason Hampton, Sound Transit
- Dieter Siperko, Sound Transit (attended virtually)
- Phoebe Wu, Sound Transit
- Daren Crabill, Sound Transit
- Julie Montgomery, Sound Transit
- Barbara Luecke, Sound Transit
- Marcus Moore, Sound Transit
- Amy Shatzkin, Sound Transit
- Ken Hutchinson, Sound Transit (attended virtually)
- Tats Tanaka, Sound Transit

The following people attended:

- David Goodman, SDOT (attended virtually)
- Saranya Gujuluva Rajan, SDOT (attended virtually)
- Katy Haima, OPCD (attended virtually)
- CJ Holt, SDOT
- Ryan Packer, The Urbanist

The Commission expressed appreciation for the extensive work and collaboration that has gone into the preliminary plans that were reviewed this day.

Commissioners voted unanimously 7 to 0 to approve the preliminary engineering of the West Seattle Link Extension SODO station, with the following condition:

1. Provide the SDC with an update on the plans for the new Lander Street overpass once they have advanced, and before 30% design. Study how the design can best accommodate people with mobility disabilities. Consider both those who are accessing the station and those who are moving east-west through the neighborhood.

Commissioners made the following recommendations:

1. Retain the forward compatibility of the station structure for a prospective additional entrance from the west.
2. Work proactively with the City and the development community to explore ideas for the new industrial zoning typology, and the potential for the TOD at this station location.
3. Continue to develop a clear and intuitive entry and circulation sequence in what is an unusual building type and configuration.
4. Design the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S and S Lander St intersection so that it is safe for people walking, rolling, biking, and taking transit, and provides good wayfinding to and around the station.
5. Clarify ownership and maintenance responsibility of the elevator at Lander and the station entrance, with a preference toward Sound Transit ownership.
6. Design access to the elevator along the north side of the new Lander St overpass to be safe and welcoming. Consider how lighting, art, and other means can be employed to achieve this.
7. Pay special attention to designing the mixing zone and plaza so that people are safe and comfortable both when they are moving through and waiting and lingering. Provide respite areas for people away from the movements of cyclists and surges of transfer passengers.
8. Maximize tree canopy. Consider how greening of the site can contribute to wayfinding and the identity of the station.
9. Engage with communities beyond SODO who will be accessing the regional transit system via this station. Consider the experience of immigrant communities who will reach jobs and commerce near this station.
10. We encourage the team to develop the art, landscape architecture, and architecture to create a unique place with a human scale.

### **Commission business – 12:30 – 1:00 pm**

The Commission was briefed on other projects to be reviewed for the day. They also approved the consent agenda, comprised of October 3, 2024, and October 17, 2024 meeting minutes

### **Garfield Superblock (1:00 – 2:45 pm)**

The Commission received its final presentation on this proposed redesign of the Garfield Super Block site. The Garfield Super Block project is focused on reimagining the existing Garfield Playfield and accompanying public realm areas:

The following people were presenters, or were present to answer questions:

- Roma Shah, Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Aimee Rozier, Site Workshop
- Stephanie Ingram, FiveDot Architecture
- Elisheba Johnson, Wa Na Wari
- Sharon Khosla, FiveDot Architecture

The Commission made the following recommendations:

- **Architectural Integration:** The Commission advised the project team to further refine the relationship between the building form of the comfort station, the site plan, and to think about whether the walls

and wall angles on the exterior of the buildings are interfering with the overall success of the spaces. They encouraged a holistic approach to ensure that the architectural elements harmonize with their surroundings.

- **Feature Placement:** Commissioners recommended that the project team strategically place features like paving, wayfinding, and lighting to optimize their effectiveness and create a cohesive and engaging user experience.

## **Vote**

The Commission unanimously voted 8 to 0 to approve the Garfield Super Block project.