

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, March 09, 2023
Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: McCaela Daffern, Roque Deherrera, David Goldberg, Matt Hutchins,

Rick Mohler, Radhika Nair, Dalton Owens, Julio Sanchez, Jamie Stroble,

Kelabe Tewolde

Commissioners Absent: Mark Braseth, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Patience Malaba, Alanna

Peterson, Dhyana Quintanar, Lauren Squires

Commission Staff: Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director; John Hoey, Senior Policy

Analyst; Olivia Baker, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission

Coordinator

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 Jamie Stroble called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Co-Chair Stroble 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 acknowledge the role that traditional western-centric planning practices have played in harming, displacing, and attempting to erase Native communities. We commit to identifying racist practices and strive to center restorative land stewardship rather than unsustainable and extractive use of the land.'

Co-Chair Stroble noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting with some Commissioners and staff participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff are participating in Room 370 at Seattle City Hall. She 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. She reminded Commissioners that they have collectively agreed to abide by these norms.

ACTION: Commissioner David Goldberg moved to approve the February 23, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Matt Hutchins seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Executive Director, reviewed the format of the meeting. She noted that public comment could be submitted in writing via email at least eight hours before the start of the meeting or provided in person by members of the public attending the meeting at City Hall. Ms. Murdock stated that the full Commission meetings will be recorded and posted to the Planning Commission's website via You Tube. She noted that these recordings are not in lieu of the Commission's minutes, which are approved at the next full Commission meeting.

Ms. Murdock reminded the Commissioners to submit nominations for leadership positions. Commissioners may nominate themselves and may nominate a fellow Commissioner without checking with that Commissioner first. Ms. Murdock will collect the nominations and contact the individuals who receive the top nominations for each of the positions, acting as the nomination committee. Commissioners will take a formal vote on the committee Co-Chair slate (i.e., the top-nominated two commissioners) at the March 23 full Commission meeting. She encouraged Commissioners to contact her with any questions and/or concerns.

Ms. Murdock stated that there will be four upcoming open positions on the Commission, including three Mayoral appointments and one City Council appointment.

Update: Draft Comprehensive Plan Community Meetings Feedback
Michael Hubner and Aja Hazelhoff, Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD)

Mr. Hubner provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan update process. He stated that it takes several years to incorporate all the community input, synthesize it into a draft plan, and submit it to the City Council for review. He stated that the project team are in the middle of the process now and will be drafting the plan in the coming months.

Ms. Hazelhoff reviewed the Plan's equitable community engagement process. The project team has compiled a list of groups who have not been historically represented in the planning process. These groups have been identified through several strategies. The City has been conducting parallel engagement through culturally appropriate methodologies.

She provided an update on the One Seattle Plan community meeting series. The project team has conducted five in-person community meetings in neighborhoods across Seattle, including New Holly, Central District, West Seattle, Loyal Heights, and Meadowbrook, as well as one virtual citywide community meeting. These meetings incorporated a mix of open-house style and facilitated small group discussions, drew more than five hundred community participants, and generated more than three thousand feedback notes and discussion comments. Community Conversation topics included Access to Housing Options and Creating Complete Communities. Below is a summary of what was heard during these conversations:

Types of New Housing

- More affordable; greater variety of options; increased density; more accessible ownership opportunities
- Family-oriented units
 - o 2–4 bedrooms, affordable to families
 - o Designs and neighborhoods suitable to families with children, multigenerational families
- Social housing and community land trusts
- Anti-displacement and anti-gentrification strategies
- Mixed-use development
 - Access to retail
 - Affordable commercial space ownership

Locations of New Housing

- More housing "everywhere" and "in all neighborhoods"
 - Density should be spread throughout the city, including Neighborhood Residential and Multifamily Residential zones
 - o Concentrate new development in low-displacement risk areas
 - o Preserve tree canopy and greenspaces
- Near transit, parks, and other amenities
- Expand existing urban villages and add many new, smaller neighborhood anchors
- Away from arterials/close to arterials

Mr. Hubner stated that the project team's intended objective was to have a session upfront on topics like expanding urban villages and revising Neighborhood Residential areas. Some attendees were prepared to have those discussions and others were not. Small group discussions were an opportunity for attendees to talk to their neighbors. Attendees were generally supportive of the direction the City is taking, especially mixed alternatives.

Existing Neighborhood Assets

- Proximity to amenities
 - o Parks, grocers, transit, trees, businesses, and shops
- Walkability
- Third spaces for community
 - Businesses (coffee shops, bars, restaurants)
 - Free public gathering spaces (plazas, car-free streets, parks, open space)
 - Community centers
 - o Arts and cultural spaces

Missing Neighborhood Assets

- Missing "spaces"
 - Third spaces (artist and makers spaces)
 - o Green spaces (dog parks, public parks, open spaces, natural spaces)
 - Cultural and art spaces
- Community centers
 - Gathering spaces, recreation centers, cultural centers
 - o Emergency response centers, climate resilience centers, health centers
- Diverse and accessible housing options
- Goods and services (grocers/food, childcare)

- Transportation infrastructure (bike, pedestrian, transit)
- Safety

Mr. Hubner stated that the concept of the complete community generated a lot of interest during the conversations. Attendees included residents of neighborhoods that already have elements of complete communities and others from neighborhoods that do not. The conversations brought both groups together to discuss the concept.

Ms. Hazelhoff provided an overview of the following data sources and evaluation methods that the project team will use to assess progress as they create the Plan:

- Racial equity toolkit
- Analysis of alternative growth strategies
- Updated displacement risk index
- Equitable development monitoring program
- Equitable community engagement

She described the project team's Community-Based Organization (CBO) Partners, including:

- Khmer Community of Seattle/King County
- Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association
- Estelita's Library
- Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)
- Capitol Hill EcoDistrict

Ms. Hazelhoff detailed the project team's use of the One Seattle Plan Engagement Hub, including the following preliminary usage statistics:

- 38% of registered users identify as BIPOC
- Over 20,000 comments received
- Over 70% of users accessed the Hub from a mobile device
- 1,258 translation requests across seven different languages

She stated that OPCD will be releasing a draft Plan in the spring. The project team will be using the engagement hub for feedback and input. The draft plan will have enhanced search and comment capabilities. Mr. Hubner stated that the next phase of engagement will be in June/July with a formal public comment period for the draft Plan and draft environmental impact statement. OPCD will continue engagement with community dialogues in June-September. The project team is also working on ongoing coordination with the Seattle Transportation Plan (STP) team. Public engagement for implementation of any proposed zoning changes could be as early as the end of 2023/early 2024.

Commission Discussion

• Commissioners asked if there were opportunities to specifically engage with African American and Latino communities. Ms. Hazelhoff stated that those were two priority communities for engagement. OPCD worked with one of its community liaisons and several CBO partners, including Wa Na Wari, Estelita's Library, and DVSA, to engage specifically with those communities, to tailor engagement to best access those communities. Mr. Hubner stated that OPCD has ambitious goals for reaching communities that the City has not had an easy time connecting with in the past. The project team will try a multiplicity of engagement modes. He stated that the community meetings were successful for some communities.

- Commissioners asked if community members were able to identify areas of risk for displacement. Mr. Hubner stated that OPCD provided a map of displacement risk. Residents living in communities with significant displacement had the opportunity to discuss those risks.
- Commissioners asked how OPCD will prioritize or weight input from communities that they have not heard from in the past. Mr. Hubner stated that the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) framework guides the project team to leading with information that they have received so far. They are trying to recognize and report out from all community outreach phases. Ms. Hazelhoff stated that the project team is prioritizing the weight of the engagement data and centering community voices as connection points between community outreach and policy writers.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for OPCD providing a variety of locations for engagement
 as well as online engagement. Commissioners asked if the project team will have a public presence
 at community events specifically hosted by OPCD and the Seattle Department of Transportation
 (SDOT) or at other community organization's events. Ms. Hazelhoff stated that OPCD has learned
 that asking to be invited and co-host with other community organizations has been very beneficial
 for engagement. They want to be co-creating engagement opportunities and invited into other
 spaces for engaging community.
- Commissioners asked how OPCD is integrating its efforts with SDOT's outreach and engagement for the STP. Mr. Hubner stated that the two departments will plan joint open house opportunities, joint appearances at community organization meetings, community events, fairs, and other similar events. Commissioners inquired about what the two organizations are hearing, separately and together, and how they will reconcile that input. Ms. Hazelhoff stated that the two departments' work with community organizations is occurring under separate contracts, but both will synthesize the data collected. The Engagement Hub has made it possible to seamlessly analyze raw data and determine trends of who they are hearing from.
- Commissioners expressed interest in learning more about the updated displacement risk index. Mr.
 Hubner stated that OPCD has a completed a draft displacement risk index and will be finalizing that
 index and map in a more formal strategy document. Diana Canzoneri, OPCD demographer, will be
 briefing the Commission on the Racial and Social Equity Index. Anti-displacement strategies will be
 included in the housing element of the draft Plan. OPCD will be creating a companion document
 that will be more focused on implementation.
- Commissioners asked about strategies that OPCD is considering for when zoning changes are recommended. Mr. Hubner stated that is a topic for a future conversation. OPCD will be creating a companion document specifically intended to provide descriptions and visualizations of missing middle housing to help residents understand what the City is studying during this process.
- Commissioners asked for more information about when OPCD will be releasing the companion anti-displacement index. Mr. Hubner stated that is anticipated to be completed with the final Plan.

Discussion: Industrial and Maritime Strategy Comprehensive Plan Amendments

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, provided an overview of the Planning Commission's staff draft letter on the proposed Industrial and Maritime Strategy Comprehensive Plan amendments. He stated that the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments are the first step in adopting and implementing the Industrial and Maritime Strategy recommendations. He reviewed several comments and questions, as well as responses to those, from the February 23 Commission meeting. The staff draft letter will be revised to incorporate Commissioner comments and proposed edits. A revised draft letter will be discussed at the March 23 Commission meeting, and Commissioners will take action on a final draft letter at the April 13th meeting.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners commented on the proposed Comprehensive Plan policy LU 10.1012, which would limit stand-alone retail in industrial zones, stating that some industrial businesses require retail space and public gathering spaces, such as breweries and distilleries. These uses would be allowed in the proposed Urban Industrial zones.
- Commissioners asked for more information on the definition of workforce housing, specifically as proposed in policy LU 10.68. Mr. Hoey stated that he would follow up with additional information.
- Commissioners expressed concern with the proposed language in policy LU 10.1722: "Consider using the urban industrial or industrial buffer zones to provide an appropriate transition between industrial areas and adjacent residential or pedestrian-oriented commercial zones." Commissioners stated a preference for more direct language such as "Use the urban industrial zone..."
- Commissioners stated a preference for clarifying language in the Equity and Environmental Justice section of the staff draft letter to recognize that the "harms of the past" affecting residents near industrial areas are still happening. Commissioners recommended adding language that acknowledges ongoing health impacts to these residents and the need for strategies that will not perpetuate past harms.

Resources

One Seattle Plan Community Meetings Report

https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/SeattlePlan/OneSeattlePlanCommunityMeetingsReport.pdf

Industrial and Maritime Strategy Final Environmental Impact Statement https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/OngoingInitiatives/IndustrialMaritimeStrategyFinalEIS.pdf

Industrial and Maritime Strategy Preferred Alternative (summary: p. 4; details pp. 29-31))
https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OPCD/OngoingInitiatives/IndustrialMaritimeStrategy/SeattleIndustrialFEISChapter1.pdf

Industrial and Maritime Strategy Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments https://www.seattle.gov/opcd/ongoing-initiatives/industrial-and-maritime-strategy#projectdocuments

Public Comment

Gary Lee stated that he has submitted written comment on the Draft Comprehensive Plan for the record. He stated that there is an issue with Chinatown/International District (C/ID) that needs to be addressed in the Plan. Specifically, there is an overconcentration of human services facilities in Pioneer Square and C/ID. There is an existing policy in the Comprehensive Plan limiting facilities of this type that has not been followed. He suggested that this should be updated in the Major Update.

KC Yamamura stated that she is a resident of the C/ID. She expressed concerns with issues of safety and security in the neighborhood. She and other neighbors participate in a regular block watch and are seeing increased drug use and crime. There are a lot of seniors and elders in the neighborhood who do not feel safe. Stores have needed to hire security, which has raised prices.

Jay Yamamura stated that he is retired and travels a lot. He appreciates other cities and has wondered why Seattle is not like those others. He referenced Vancouver and the redevelopment of Point Ruston in Tacoma as examples of vibrant residential communities with amenities. He suggested that Pier 46 in Seattle is an opportunity for a new residential community.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Date: March 9, 2023

To: Seattle Planning Commission

From: Gary Lee, Member of Chinatown International District Public Safety Council and Chinatown

Block Watch

Subject: Public Comment on Draft Comprehensive Plan Community Meetings Feed Back

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am submitting this written public comment on the Draft Comprehensive Plan, for the record.

In the upcoming Comprehensive Plan update, I urge you to add goals and policies to address the inequitable treatment of the CID community regarding the over concentration of homeless shelters and similar services that is working against the great goals and visions the City says it has for the CID neighborhood, and then follow with the necessary land use code amendments to address this over concentration.

On January 30, 2023, at the virtual meeting, I had submitted numerous comments about the current over concentration of homeless shelters and similar uses in/around the Chinatown International District (CID), in the chat of the virtual meeting. Additionally, per the instructions of that meeting, I submitted additional comments by email. I did not receive an email back acknowledging my comments.

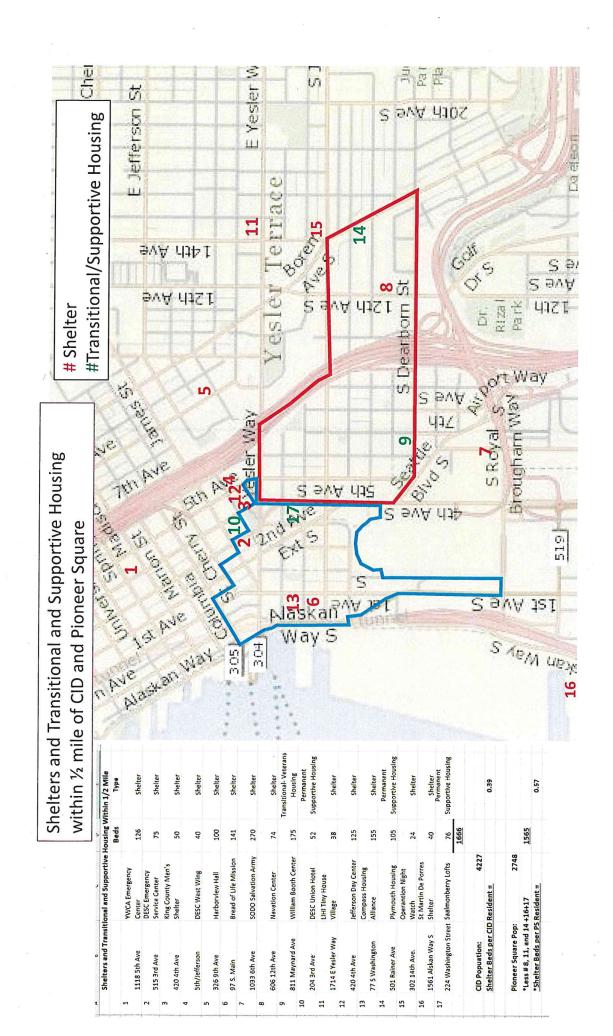
For the record, the current over concentration of homeless shelters and similar services within walking distance of the CID (and Pioneer Square) is allowed by the Land Use Code. For these uses there are NO spacing or concentration standards. Thus, they can, are, and will be an addition of over concentration of these uses within walking distance of the CID (and Pioneer Square) if reasonable concentration/spacing standards are not added to the Land Use Code soon.

This issue is directly related to the current and draft Comprehensive Plan Update, as the existing and continued over concentration of these uses within walking distance of the CID is not consistent with the existing and draft Comprehensive Plan goals regarding <u>racial equity</u>, <u>resilience</u>, <u>sustainable quality of life</u>, <u>economic development</u>, <u>public safety</u>, and <u>vitality</u>.

The attached map, with table, shows the number of shelters and transitional and supportive housing facilities with ½ mile of the CID (and Pioneer Square). There are 17 facilities within ½ mile of each subneighborhood. The highest concentration within Seattle, by far. For each resident of the CID, there are 0.39 shelter beds (more than 1 shelter bed per 3 residents) within walking distance. The concentration is higher for Pioneer Square, because they have fewer residents.

Attached also are excerpts of existing Comprehensive Plan goals and policies, for Downtown, that the existing Land Use code (allowing the over concentration) is working against. See handwritten notes.

Additionally, for your viewing, is a youtube link to Chief Diaz's King 5 interview on September 21, 2022, where he stated another (new) shelter could permanently damage the neighborhood. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0cUs7A3Fv0



PRE-EMINENT REGIONAL CENTER GOAL

Maintain Downtown Seattle as the most important of the region's urban centers—a compactly developed area supporting a diversity of uses meeting the employment, residential, shopping, culture, service, and entertainment needs of the broadest range of the region's population.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

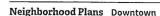
DT-G2 Encourage economic development activities consistent with the Comprehensive Plan to attract and retain businesses and to expand employment and training opportunities for Seattle area residents.

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT GOAL

ST-G3 Strive to reinforce Downtown as a center of cultural and entertainment activities to foster the arts in the city, attract people to the area, create livable neighborhoods, and make Downtown an enjoyable place to be shared by all. Encourage facilities for artists to live and work in Downtown.

URBAN FORM GOAL

- DT-G4 Use regulations in the Land Use Code and other measures to encourage public and private development that contributes positively to the Downtown physical environment by:
 - 1. enhancing the relationship of Downtown to its spectacular setting of water, hills, and mountains;
 - 2. preserving important public views;
 - 3. ensuring light and air at street-level and in public parks;
 - 4. establishing a high-quality pedestrian-oriented street environment;
 - reinforcing the vitality and special character of Downtown's many parts;
 - 6. creating new Downtown parks and open spaces at strategic locations;
 - preserving Downtown's important historic buildings to provide a tangible link to the past;
 - 8. adequately mitigating impacts of more intensive redevelopment on the quality of the physical environment.



The overconcentration of Homeless Shelters and similar services is Not consistent with

PUBLIC SAFETY GOAL

DT-G12 Promote public safety by encouraging conditions that contribute to a safe and friendly urban environment including: maintaining streets and open spaces as active, well-designed public places; supporting twenty-four-hour activity in a manner that minimizes conflicts among different uses; accommodating a mix of people from all income, age, and social groups; and providing for needed human services within the limits of a neighborhood's capacity to support them.



NEIGHBORHOODS GOAL

DT-G13 Five neighborhoods compose the Downtown Urban Center for planning and growth monitoring purposes: Belltown, the Denny Triangle, the Commercial Core. Pioneer Square, and Chinatown/International District. Recognize and seek to enhance the varied character of these neighborhoods and other distinctive areas within Downtown. Use the adopted policies of neighborhood plans to help define desirable characteristics for these neighborhoods.



LAND USE REGULATION POLICIES

DT-LUP1 Recognize and enhance the urban center designation and varied character of Downtown neighborhoods and provide direction for growth and change by dividing Downtown into areas that are intended to serve primary land use functions. Classify areas of Downtown according to one of the following primary functional designations:

- Office
- Retail
- Mixed-use Commercial
- Mixed-use Residential
- Harborfront
- Industrial

In addition, maintain consistency between these designations and the function and purpose of special districts as established by the City Council.

DT-LUP2 Allow a wide range of uses Downtown, consistent with the goals to maintain Downtown's regional importance, create a strong residential community, improve the physical environment, and add activity and diversity to the areas of varied character. Restrict or prohibit uses that are not compatible with the desired character and function of specific areas.

Recognize the diversity of Downtown's many parts and the different development DT-LUP3 objectives for these areas by varying regulation of uses, development density, and physical form among land use district classifications, including the following:

- Downtown Office Core-1 (DOC-1)
- Downtown Office Core-2 (DOC-2)
- Downtown Retail Core (DRC)
- Downtown Mixed Commercial (DMC)

The Over Concentration of Homeless shelters and Similar services is Not consistent with

To enhance the mix of activity within Downtown and accommodate human service needs, encourage private development to include provision for human services, including such uses as shelter housing, by, for example, exempting appropriate human service uses from chargeable floor area and by providing assistance for specific projects.

- **DT-HSP3** Maintain a Downtown Human Services Fund to provide services to meet the needs of low-income residents and workers.
- **DT-HSP4**Strive to maintain the provision of human services for low-income Downtown residents and workers as a high priority for the use of federal and state funds received by the City for health and human services programs.
- DT-HSP5 Consider the needs of target populations in locating human service facilities throughout Downtown. Administer funds available for human services to insure coordination of housing and human services needs of the Downtown low-income population. Seek to avoid over-concentration of human service facilities in any one area of Downtown, and encourage the location of needed facilities in areas lacking such facilities.



TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

- **DT-TP1** Recognize the critical role that high-capacity transit corridors play, including the transit tunnel, in supporting the distribution of development density and the movement of goods and people within and through Downtown. Seek to improve the system, through actions by the City, with Sound Transit and King County Metro Transit, and other transit agencies that:
 - 1. provide capacity to meet forecast transit growth;
 - 2. reduce travel time by transit;
 - 3. reduce transit rider crowding on sidewalks;
 - 4. reduce diesel bus noise and odor; and
 - provide an attractive and pleasant street environment for the pedestrian and transit rider.
- DT-TP2 Improve and expand the street-level elements of the regional transit system to provide the primary mode of vehicular travel among Downtown activities. Integrate the system with the transit tunnel, the pedestrian circulation network, peripheral parking facilities, and other modes of travel to Downtown including the ferry system, intercity bus, and intercity rail.

Base Circulation System. Promote a base circulation system including modifications to existing service and additional Downtown routes to improve access within Downtown and between Downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. In considering improvements to the base circulation system, examine the potential for using the Monorail, waterfront streetcar, shuttles, and regional bus service to enhance the base circulation system and improve local service.

A neighborhood with well-designed streetscapes that enhance the character and function of Belltown's streets and avenues.

GREEN STREETS POLICY

B-P30 Encourage the use of the Belltown Streetscape Guidebook and Green Street Guidelines when designing street and sidewalk improvements.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT & SOCIAL SERVICES GOALS

B-G14 A thriving, integrated community that takes a stewardship role in the community.

B-G15 A neighborhood with a neighborhood center that provides facilities and services for neighborhood residents.

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT & SOCIAL SERVICES POLICY

B-P31 Encourage increased communication between social service providers and the community at large.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORLY REGULATIONS GOAL

A neighborhood where it is safe to live, work, and play. B-G16

PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORLY REGULATIONS POLICIES

- B-P32 Strive to increase participation in the Belltown Crime Prevention Council and Block Watch Programs through outreach.
- Promote awareness of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) B-P33 techniques.
- B-P34 Promote a safe neighborhood environment to encourage day/night and weekend pedestrian-oriented activity.

Chinatown/International District

CULTURAL & ECONOMIC VITALITY GOAL

Support the thriving businesses, organizations, and cultural institutions of the ID-G1 Chinatown/International District and recognize the neighborhood's rich and vital history as home to and center of many of the city's immigrant communities Id Consistent

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SAFE & DYNAMIC PUBLIC SPACES GOAL

ID-G3 Create safe and dynamic public spaces.

SAFE & DYNAMIC PUBLIC SPACES POLICIES

- Support specific programming to deliberately activate the parks, especially Kobe ID-P13
- Look for ways to incorporate design elements for crime prevention throughout the ID-P14 neighborhood, especially in parks, parking facilities, and alleyways.
- ID-P15 Increase pedestrian safety by adding additional stop signs and crosswalk striping, where appropriate.
- ID-P16 Build on partnerships that can work together to provide additional pedestrian amenities such as pedestrian street lighting, street trees, street furniture, and informational kiosks that enhance the pedestrian environment.
- ID-P17 Target Jackson Street, Dearborn Street, and Fifth Avenue for pedestrian improvements.

ACCESSIBILITY GOAL

ID-G4 An accessible neighborhood, with access within and to the neighborhood, for all transportation modes, while encouraging less dependence on cars and greater use of transit, bikes, and walking.

ACCESSIBILITY POLICIES

- ID-P18 Seek to reduce auto congestion at key intersections.
- ID-P19 Work with Metro and Sound Transit to find ways to maximize service to residents, customers, and employees in the neighborhood.
- ID-P20 Improve bicycle route markings and related bicycle facilities, including bicycle racks within the neighborhood.
- Increase short-term parking opportunities within the neighborhood.

Commercial Core

GOALS

COM-G1 Maintain the Commercial Core as a major employment center, tourist and convention attraction, shopping magnet, residential neighborhood, and regional hub of cultural and entertainment activities.