



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

McCaela Daffern and David Goldberg, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:	McCaela Daffern, Andrew Dannenberg, David Goldberg, Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Dhyana Quintanar, Jamie Stroble, Nick Whipple
Commissioners Absent:	Xio Alvarez, Rick Mohler, Radhika Nair, Julio Sanchez, Monika Sharma, Lauren Squires, Kelabe Tewolde
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 McCaela Daffern called the meeting to order at 7:35 am and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Co-Chair Daffern offered the following land acknowledgement:

'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, I'd like to humbly recognize that we are gathered on Indigenous land, the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples. We thank these caretakers of this land who have lived and continue to live here since time immemorial. We acknowledge the role that traditional western-centric planning practices have played in harming, displacing, and attempting to erase Native communities and we respect Indigenous rights to sovereignty and self-determination. We commit being better listeners, learners and to lifting indigenous voices. We also commit to identifying racist practices, to practice allyship and strive to center restorative land stewardship rather than unsustainable and extractive use of the land.'

Co-Chair Daffern noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting with some Commissioners and staff participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff are participating in the Boards and Commissions Room 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 suggested to Commissioners that they collectively agree to abide by these norms.

Announcements

Vanessa Murdock, Seattle Planning Commission 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 full Commission meetings will be recorded and posted to the Planning Commission's website. She noted that these recordings are not in lieu of the Commission's minutes, which are approved at the next full Commission meeting.

ACTION: Co-Chair David Goldberg moved to approve the September 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Jamie Stroble seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this portion of the meeting.

Discussion: Draft Seattle Transportation Plan draft comment letter

DISCLOSURES/RECUSALS: Commissioner Jamie Stroble disclosed that she was involved in a contract with community-based organizations to inform development of the Seattle Transportation Plan.

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission staff, presented an overview of the Commission's draft comment letter on the draft Seattle Transportation Plan (STP). The draft comment letter included the following sections:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Overarching Comments
- 3) Integration with the Comprehensive Plan
- 4) Prioritization Framework
- 5) Multilane Arterials
- 6) Safety/Vision Zero
- 7) Climate Change/Resilience
- 8) Access to Daily Essential Needs
- 9) Economic Development
- 10) Freight Mobility
- 11) Repurposing the Right-of-Way
- 12) Anti-Displacement
- 13) Regional Coordination
- 14) Readability and User Experience

Mr. Hoey stated that the Commission will approve the final STP comment letter at the October 12 meeting, in time to meet the draft STP comment deadline.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners stated that the STP Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) included three alternatives for environmental review purposes and noted that the draft STP comment letter referenced those three alternatives. Mr. Hoey stated that the three alternatives are not described in the draft STP and indicated that the draft letter will be edited to remove that statement.
- Commissioners suggested alternative language to replace the following description of multilane arterials: "Where most crashes occur, with strong anti-equity bias." Commissioners suggested emphasizing the disproportionate number of people of color experiencing serious injuries or death on these arterials.
- Commissioners suggested that the letter include mention of electric cargo bikes that can be used for last-mile delivery of small packages.
- Commissioners recommended additional language for the Regional Coordination section encouraging regular communication between SDOT, Metro, and Sound Transit.
- Commissioners encouraged stronger language regarding integration of the STP with the Comprehensive Plan and future land use plans.
- Commissioners recommended more direct language to emphasize the desired outcomes.
- Commissioners stated that the recommendations related to multilane arterials should acknowledge related actions in the adjacent rights-of-way.
- Commissioners recommended that the Climate Change section recommend the STP include a map for street tree replacement.
- Commissioners stated that the STP online maps need more colors. For example, orange has multiple meanings on the existing maps.
- Commissioners stated that the STP comment letter should clarify that the Commission's recommendations are only suggestions.

Discussion: Seattle Transportation Plan DEIS staff draft comment letter

Olivia Baker, Seattle Planning Commission staff, presented an overview of the Commission's draft comment letter on the STP Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The draft comment letter included the following sections:

- Introductory comments
- Positive feedback
- Areas for additional analysis
 - Overall
 - Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Climate Change
 - Air Quality
- General Comments

Ms. Baker stated that the Commission will approve the final STP DEIS comment letter at the October 12 meeting, in time to meet the comment deadline.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners requested additional language related to emergency preparedness.
- Commissioners stated that the intent of the DEIS is to identify any potential impacts and noted that the Commission is making recommendations on analysis within the DEIS. Ms. Murdock clarified that the Commission's letter focuses on the adequacy of the DEIS environmental analysis.
- Commissioners suggested that the letter use another word other than "element" to avoid any potential references to the Comprehensive Plan.
- Commissioners expressed gratitude for the draft letter's recommendations to focus on sub-areas based on race and social equity. Commissioners also expressed appreciation for the draft letter's comments on affordability.
- Commissioners recommended revisions to the draft letter to clarify the difference between the urban heat island effect and extreme heat.
- Commissioners requested revisions to the discussion of multi-family housing along arterials to include both air quality and health impacts.
- Commissioners asked for more information regarding new funding sources for transportation investments and suggested recommending a financial analysis. Ms. Baker suggested that comment may be more appropriate for the STP comment letter.
- Commissioners noted several excellent comments in the DEIS comment letter that should be included in the STP comment letter.
- Commissioners suggested recommending an annual analysis to monitor the STP performance, progress, and spending to improve accountability and transparency.
- Commissioners stated that performance goals will help with implementation.
- Commissioners expressed appreciation for the DEIS letter formatting and recommended that the STP letter could be formatted similarly.
- Commissioners stated that the two documents should reinforce each other but the STP letter will be more influential.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.