



Advisory Group Meeting #8 Summary (DRAFT)

April 13, 2017

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Ruth Fisher Board Room - Union Station

Welcome and Introductions:

Penny Mabie, facilitator, welcomed members of the One Center City Advisory Group and led a round of introductions. Penny reviewed the meeting agenda and materials with Advisory Group members and provided attendees with a reminder of the Advisory Group's purpose and meeting ground rules. The Advisory Group (Group) did not have any comments on the summary of the March 9 meeting and agreed to consider it final.

Members shared the following relevant interactions with the community since the November 10 Advisory Group meeting:

Comment: At a Music Commission meeting, a business owner asked if there was a plan to help small businesses provide transit passes to their employees, like larger businesses do. Their business has six employees.

Comment: The Pike Place Market community is concerned with the introduction of the streetcar to their neighborhood.

Update on additional analysis of near-term strategies:

Tom Brennan, Nelson\Nygaard, provided a status update on the project team's additional analysis of near-term strategies, including demand management strategies, bus service restructures, hub area improvements, Union, Pike, and Pine surface street improvements, and north-south surface street improvements.

Group members shared the following questions and comments regarding the presentation:

Comment: Community members are concerned about Option D's plan for 5th Avenue. It seems like the City is not taking this feedback into account.

Response: *Option D was relatively conceptual. As interest in this option was expressed, the project team felt that there was a need to explore Group members' concerns. The project team wants to understand these concerns in more detail- what would it take to do that well?*

Comment: A long public involvement process regarding bus service changes is good, although that goal does not intersect with near-term recommendations because those two timetables are so different. Assuming that the near-term recommendations will work whether or not the service changes will happen- how will the project team ensure that the public involvement is meaningful and robust if they're also planning for these other changes?

Response: *King County and Sound Transit have a robust service change process that looks at and considers a broad range of input. It's quite possible that some fraction of service structures won't go through. The project team's assumption has been that the public process will dictate that some routes will likely continue to run through downtown.*

Comment: This group needs to be actively engaged in a workshop/charrette related to the development of transit along the 5th Avenue corridor. Through Pike Pine Renaissance: Act One, it was understood that there were four distinct neighborhoods moving from west to east- the theater district, the retail district, the financial district, and the International District. The character along 5th Avenue in the theater/retail district is appreciated, and there is concern around increasing transit there considering what has not gone well on 3rd Avenue. Reporting out at the next meeting on this isn't enough. We need to do some work in this room to look at what happens at each intersection, from curb to curb, block to block.

Response: A workshop sounds like a good idea. The project team will discuss this further and will let Group members know how they can get involved.

Comment: This type of activity has already been done on 3rd Avenue. Group members previously met to walk the length of 3rd Avenue and discuss ideas and concerns in detail. Urban design experts from the UW were there to talk about best practices. The group visited business and property owners to discuss what works and what doesn't.

Overview of long-term visioning process:

Diane Wiatr, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), and Tom Brennan walked Group members through the updated Advisory Group schedule. The updated schedule included near-term strategy development between now and July 2017, Visioning and Planning Framework between now and October 2017, 2023 and 2035 Mobility and Public Realm Scenario planning from July 2017 to February 2018, and Plan Development from January 2018 to March 2018. The schedule also included public outreach activities and Advisory Group meetings.

Group members shared the following comments regarding the updated Advisory Group schedule:

Question (project team): Do any group members have concerns with the proposed schedule and approach?

Response (Group): *It would be better to have July off instead of May. July is a more travel-oriented month.*

Response (project team): *The breaks were planned strategically based on big work pushes. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to take July off.*

Comment: In the past, the project team has created small groups within the Advisory Group to work on specific tasks. These months off might provide an opportunity for more small group work.

Comment: May could also be a good time for any workshop/charrette activities regarding 5th Avenue. There seems to be a group of people who would be interested in working on that.

Comment: The Music Commission is about to begin a creative industry census that will gather information from key companies and people in the music industry. Are there any questions to One Center City that should be added to the census? Are there other censuses going on that One Center City could contribute questions to?

Response: *The project team would welcome those opportunities and will discuss potential questions offline.*

Visioning Activity:

Tom Brennan gave an overview presentation of the long-term visioning process. The presentation included how Seattle has changed in the past 20 years and how it will likely continue to change between now and 2035. It also touched on recent successful public space renovations that One Center City could draw inspiration from.

Penny then divided the Group members into groups for small group discussions. They were asked to discuss and write down responses to the following themes/questions:

- **MOVE:** What are your ideas – large or small – about how people and goods can move efficiently within and between Center City neighborhoods in the future?
- **CONNECT:** What are your ideas – large or small – about how people and goods can move efficiently between the region and Center City in the future?
- **EXPERIENCE:** With so many people relying on Center City as a regional destination and transportation hub, how do we ensure a positive experience for everyone who lives, works, visits and plays in Center City?

Following the discussion, the Group reconvened and shared key points from their discussions (see transcribed breakout group notes document).

Wrap up and Next Steps:

Penny thanked the Group members for their time and participation in the night's meeting. She reminded all that the next Advisory Group meeting would take place on June 8 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room at Union Station.

Identified Action Items:

- Project staff will discuss a workshop to further discuss 5th Avenue.

Attendees:

Advisory Group Members:

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| • Alena Marshak (for Deanna Dawson) | • Jeff Myrter |
| • Amalia Martino (phone) | • Jenny Schmitz |
| • Anders McConachie | • Jessa Timmer |
| • Brian Ferris | • Jim Erickson |
| • Brie Gyncild | • John Pehrson |
| • Carl Leighty | • Maiko Winkler-Chin |
| • David Blandford | • Michael Davis |
| • David Wiggins | • Monica Smith (phone) |
| • Hester Serebrin | • Rico Quirindongo |
| • Holly Houser | • Sabrina Villanueva |
| • Jared Johnson (phone) | • Staci Haber |
| • Jeff Keever | • Thatcher Bailey |

Observers:

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| • Kelsey Mesher | • Gordon Padelford |
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Agency Staff:

City of Seattle

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Eric Tweit, SDOT | • Candida Lorenzana, SDOT |
| • Diane Wiatr, SDOT | • Kevin Shively, Mayor's Office |
| • Meghan Shepard, SDOT | • Ian Macek, SDOT |
| • Lizzie Moll, SDOT | • Jonathan Lewis, SDOT |

Sound Transit

- Wesley King
- Mike Harbour

King County DOT:

- Frank Abe

Downtown Seattle Association

- Jacqueline Gruber

Other Project Staff:

- Tom Brennan, Nelson\Nygaard
- Jennifer Wieland, Nelson\Nygaard
- Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues
- Justin McCaffree, EnviroIssues
- Erin Tam, EnviroIssues