

To: Members of the One Center City Advisory Group

From: John Pehrson and Thatcher Bailey

Subject: Center City Pedestrian Realm Plan and Investment

The two of us are interested in improvements to the Center City pedestrian realm for both the near term and the long term planning environments. We have been concerned that most of our One Center City energy has been directed to vehicular issues and the Protected Bike Lane network, with insufficient attention to the needs of the pedestrian realm and investment to encourage walking. We believe that actions to increase walking in the downtown and making walking safer and more comfortable are vital to the future of a great Center City.

We wrote a one-pager (attached) to articulate our concerns and emailed it to the One Center City team on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

On June 1, Susan McLaughlin responded for the One Center City SDOT team with a very encouraging email (also attached) that provides a broad outline of SDOT and One Center City pedestrian realm planned actions.

We want you all to know of our activities and look forward to robust, pedestrian realm discussions at One Center City meetings. Please send any comments or suggestions you have on this issue to us at the addresses listed below.

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# One Center City Pedestrian Plan

## John Pehrson and Thatcher Bailey

May 23, 2017

### **Goal**

Make the pedestrian environment in the downtown safe, well-lit, comfortable for all ages and abilities, green, beautiful, and part of a well-signed network. Set a high bar by investing now in signature pedestrian corridors.

### **Some of the most important issues:**

1. Sidewalk width
2. Condition of the sidewalk
3. Attractive and comfortable, protected from vehicles and bicycles
4. Engaging, stimulating environment;
5. High quality design/plantings
6. Well lit
7. Serving the signature pedestrian routes
8. Collecting use and demand data for decision making

### **Questions for One Center City Staff:**

1. What does the Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan say about the downtown pedestrian environment?
2. How many pedestrians are there in the downtown area (area of One Center City) compared to the whole of Seattle?
3. How are you collecting data on pedestrian activity for the Downtown area?
4. Is east-west pedestrian traffic getting as much attention as north-south pedestrian traffic? Is east-west pedestrian traffic getting appropriate amount of attention?  
What actions should the One Center City Advisory Committee be considering for the One Center City area?
5. What do you think about three east-west corridors in the One Center City area:
  - Lake2Bay Corridor?
  - Market to MOHAI Pedestrian Corridor?
  - Pike Pine Renaissance Act 1?
6. Should those be supplemented by additional pedestrian corridors in the Downtown area? Like Madison? Like Yesler? Like Jackson?
7. Does the City have a plan for a connected network of great pedestrian corridors/streets, like they have for bicycles?

**John Pehrson** <pehrsonj@gmail.com>

May 24 (10 days ago) ☆

to Eric, Susan, Tracy, Meghan, Thatcher ▾

Eric, Susan, Tracy, Meghan,

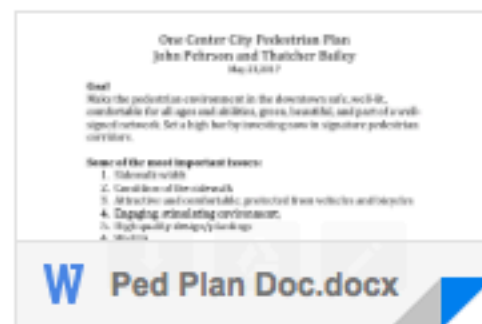
Thatcher Bailey and I are recommending additional emphasis on the One Center City Pedestrian Environment. We have worked together to produce a one page paper (attached) called 'One Center City Pedestrian Plan'. It isn't the plan, but a the case for SDOT and the One Center City Team to develop a truly aspirational vision for a connected pedestrian realm that builds on projects already in the works..

Our request is for you, and the other appropriate parts of the City's One Center City Staff, to review our paper and also share it with the One Center City Advisory Council.

We further request that, by answering our 7 questions, and providing a briefing of the result, the whole One Center City team could understand the current status of pedestrian environment planning. direction. and status of the Downtown, and what needs to be done to improve that and integrate that with other elements of Center City mobility.

Respectfully yours,

John Pehrson and Thatcher Bailey



McLaughlin, Susan

Jun 1 (2 days ago)



to me, Eric, Tracy, Meghan, Thatcher

Hi John

Thank you for your thoughtful synthesis of the important issues facing the Center City. They align really well with the scope of work for the public realm part of the One Center City Long Range Plan. But, we don't have to wait too long to see improvements in our standards for pedestrian lighting, high quality plantings and more consistent implementation of our sidewalk width requirements. Those issues will be adopted as part of Streets Illustrated, the update to the existing right of way improvements manual that is anticipated for adoption in July/August.

In terms of the questions related to data- we have pedestrian activity data from the Gehl public life study that was done in 2009 and we will be using that as a baseline to build from in the long range plan.

As I have described in the past- one of the outcomes in the public realm plan is to identify the 'signature' pedestrian corridors in the study area and to define what makes a corridor 'signature' (ie safe, age-friendly, attractive, comfortable, ecologically beneficial, etc). This will help to prioritize pedestrian capital improvements and incentives for private development.

The public realm plan will also explore untapped opportunities to define new pedestrian networks, in areas experiencing high amounts of growth, or in areas that have opportunities to reclaim ROW for activation or greening.

In terms of timing, the immediate focus is on the near-term strategy recommendations before we turn our full attention to the long range plan. We hope to have a more defined schedule for the public realm piece of the long range plan in the next few weeks, so stay tuned.

Thank you for all you do to make our city a better place!

Cheers



Susan Mclaughlin AICP, LEED AP

Urban Design Manager

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