



APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

Marshall Foster
Planning Director, DPD

Julie Bassuk
Chair

Mary Fialko

Laurel Kunkler

Shannon Loew

Tom Nelson

Julie Parrett

Osama Quotah

Norie Sato

Donald Vehige

Debbie Harris

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Tom Iurino
Senior Staff

June 7, 2012

Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 4:30pm

Projects Reviewed

SR520 I5-Medina
Alaskan Way Tunnel – South End and Portal
Broad Street IRIS Holdings Street Vacation

Commissioners Present

Julie Bassuk, Chair
Julie Parrett (excused 8:30am-12:00pm)
Shannon Loew
Osama Quotah
Debbie Harris
Laurel Kunkler (excused 1:30pm-4:30pm)
Tom Nelson (excused 3:00pm-4:30pm)

Commissioners Excused

Norie Sato
Mary Fialko
Don Vehige

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino



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June 7, 2012	Project:	SR520 I5-Medina
	Phase:	Design Update
	Last Reviewed:	May 3, 2012; Apr 19, 2012; Dec 1, 2011; Oct 6, 2011; Sep 1, 2011; Jan 20, 2011; Aug 16, 2007; May 18, 2006; Aug 18, 2005; Jun 2, 2005; Jul 15, 2004
	Presenters:	Rob Berman, WSDOT consultant Alan Hart, WSDOT consultant
	Attendees:	Candace Goodrich, WSDOT consultant Don Forbes, WSDOT consultant Kerry Pihlstrom, WSDOT Mahlon Clements, WSDOT consultant

Time: 9:00am-11:45am

Summary of Project Presentation

The design team presented its draft vision statement for the Seattle Community Design Process and draft corridor design principles and criteria for the Westside portion of the SR 520 I-5 to Medina project. WSDOT currently has funding for design of the Seattle side of the SR 520 corridor, and continues to work with the State legislature to identify funding for construction.

The team described the project's draft vision statement, which was divided into three pieces: 1. what WSDOT aspires to achieve with the design of the corridor; 2. elements of expression and experience that balance aesthetics, functionality, and scale; 3. a catchall category for implementation and sustainability.

The team presented its corridor principles, which began as an audit of all the previously documented planning and design work. These principles and criteria were developed at the beginning of the SCDP in August 2011. The team divided the project into four geographic areas – the West Approach bridge, the Portage Bay bridge, the Montlake lid, and the 10th and Delmar lid – and used goals and themes to create aesthetic principles, which the team analyzed through the lenses of culture, nature, design and materials. The work done to date in the SCDP helped the team understand key issues and identify subareas within each of the geographic focus areas. Through the SCDP, the team is now focusing on these subareas to understand constraints and opportunities for design refinements that are currently being explored and discussed with the community.

SUMMARY (by Nelson)

The Design Commission thanked the team for the presentation of its vision for the SR520 Westside project and the SR520 Westside corridor design principles. The commission made the following recommendations:

Overall

- **Learn from the SR 99 design process. Create a design metaphor, use high quality materials, leave flexibility in guidelines to let designers do their best work, and hire a quality designer.**

Vision Statement

- **Develop the vision document so that it will be used by WSDOT and its consultants in the design and construction process to deliver a product that fulfills the vision.**

- Label the audiences and be inclusive of all users, such as pedestrians, bikers, bus riders, etc. Include boaters, kayakers and house boaters, as they will be interested in the experience underneath the project. Include car drivers, as they are a dominant user group and will be interested in the “through” experience. Do not be apologetic that the project serves users of vehicles.
- Make more clear the importance of the larger views to and from the corridor. Some elements are large, like the bridge, and will be seen from elsewhere in the region.
- Rewrite the statement to address the project’s significance in Seattle. Make it clear if and where 520 is to be seen as a portal or gateway.
- Develop a connectivity and scale that’s appropriate, such as region to region and neighborhood to neighborhood. Be more literal about the different types of scale that you’re connecting.
- Be more aspirational. For example, describe connecting as reknitting a neighborhood that had been fractured, or the fact that the project breaks new ground in sustainability and is a national leader. As it is written, it does not convey the significance of the challenges or solutions proposed.
- Find areas of opportunity to unify the project, while recognizing the need to find specific design elements more appropriate to a specific context.

SR520 Westside Corridor Design Principles

- Align the principles – culture, nature, design, materials – more closely with the vision statement.
- Provide more updated versions of the subareas, including information on constraints and opportunities.
- Revise the framework to: add the experience of the users, broken down by type; incorporate the work with community; layer an analysis of the project’s five objects – the bridge, traveling on the bridge, pathways along and next to the bridge, the bridge portals, and passing through a neighborhood – and their respective audiences; review whether items listed in the headings are located in their proper place; and add a 5th column to describe the specific, functional things at each site (e.g. trying to vent). Also, consider adding a section 4.5 for regional views, gateways and the overall experience.
- Consider the locations of gateways and areas where the project is most impactful to neighbors, and focus a greater attention to design and money on those areas.
- Organize the information presented from the regional perspective; don’t forget larger picture. Some neighborhoods have immediate needs that may conflict with larger vision, like view corridor or entrance to city.
- Sell the mitigation projects – such as improvements to habitat – of the natural environment, since the project requires them. Show related projects, like the parks department’s North Arboretum project, on graphics.
- Target questions specifically for the community. For example, ask them what they would want in a 5K sq ft facility. Use it as an opportunity to hold a dialogue about programming.