

**Open House Summary**

September 23, 2014

1. **Introduction and background**

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Fauntleroy Boulevard Project team held a public open house on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at the Senior Center of West Seattle. The purpose of the open house was to share the latest project information and 30% design with the public. Open house attendees were able to learn more about the project, meet with project team members, and provide feedback about the 30% design concepts.

1. **Outreach**

Outreach efforts for the September 23 open house focused on business and property owners along Fauntleroy Way SW as well as residents and businesses in the project area. Outreach activities included:

* + An email invitation to the open house to the seventy-nine (79) member project email listserv, including business and property owners within the project area
	+ An email invitation to approximately nine (9) stakeholder organizations that had shown prior interest in the project
	+ A postcard invitation to the open house sent to all addresses within a half-mile radius of the project area
	+ An update to the project website, including an invitation to the open house
	+ Updates to the SDOT blog, Twitter, and Facebook inviting the public to the open house
	+ A press release announcing the open house
1. **Materials**

Project materials at the open house included display boards and a project folio. Comment forms and laptop computers were also made available for attendees to submit questions and/or feedback to project staff.

1. **Display boards**
The open house display boards presented information on the following topics:
	* Meeting overview
	* SDOT’s mission, vision, and values
	* Project goals
	* Project area
	* Project elements
	* Project background and history
	* Project funding and schedule
	* Overview of 30% design, divided into three segments
	* Preliminary cross section
	* Examples of protected bicycle facilities
	* Examples of potential landscaping
	* Examples of potential pedestrian features
	* Community feedback heard so far
	* Connection to other bike facilities
	* Next steps in the design process
	* How to provide feedback
2. **Project folio**

The project folio included general information about the project, including information on the project background and history, project goals and elements, project funding and schedule, and the 30% design.

1. **Public comment form**

The open house public comment form was available to all attendees, and included the following questions:

* + What did you like about the project design concept?
	+ How could the project design concept be improved?
	+ Do you have any additional thoughts, comments, or questions about the project?
1. **What we heard**

Fifty-eight (58) people signed-in at the open house. Attendees included local residents and business/property owners, representatives of local community groups and organizations, and City of Seattle elected officials. The public was able to provide comments in a number of ways, including written statements on paper comment forms, typed comments submitted on laptop computers provided at the open house, and comments provided online via the project website. A total of thirty-three (33) comments were received, including nineteen (19) paper comments and eleven (11) online comments). Attendees could also provide informal feedback by writing down comments on sticky notes and placing them on the 30% design display boards.

1. **Key comment themes**

While comments submitted covered a broad range of topics and concerns, several key themes did emerge:

**Improved pedestrian features**

Comments expressed appreciation for improved pedestrian features and a more pedestrian-friendly street.

**Sample comments/questions:**

* *“*[What did you like about the project design concept?] *Improved sidewalk conditions including lighting”*
* *“Clearly marked bike & pedestrian lanes are nice as long as they’re place where people will use them.”*
* *“In selection of street lighting […] consult with the West Seattle Junction and new building owners and business to develop a ‘West Seattle Junction’ look [...]”*
* *“Very concerned about the lack of pedestrian crossing (or break in landscaping) at 37th and Fauntleroy. We would prefer to see either a crosswalk at 37th across Fauntleroy and/or a pedestrian break across Fauntleroy.”*

**Improved landscaping**

Comments expressed excitement about improvements to the appearance of the corridor to welcome people to West Seattle, but emphasized the need for proper maintenance.

**Sample comments/questions:**

* *“The landscaping and attractive entrance to the Junction is appealing.”*

* *“Adding a median […] will help West Seattle continue to be beautiful while facilitating increasing urbanization.”*
* *“How will trees be maintained?”*
* *“Planting median is very nice as long as easily maintained.”*

**Improved bicycle facilities**

Comments expressed excitement about improved bicycle facilities as well as concern over connection to bike facilities on other streets.

**Sample comments/questions:**

* *“Bike lane must be at street traffic lane elevation, not at [sidewalk] elevation.”*
* *“Improved bicycle accessibility – separation of traffic & pedestrians, better vehicle flow (safer).”*
* *“I appreciate bike lanes but hate to see them ‘dead-end’ into non-rideable streets. That transition becomes dangerous for cyclists.”*
* *“How much [are the bike facilities] currently used and what is projected use? Worth the effort, resources? Particularly when it dead-ends at the bridge.*
* *“Avalon is the key road for bicyclists to leave W. Seattle and in the current proposal, the protected bike lane ends at a the important intersection”*

**Impacts to businesses and traffic**

Comments expressed concern that changes to Fauntleroy Way SW will decrease business access, left turns, and parking as well as threaten local businesses along the corridor. There was also concern that these changes will create conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and bikes.

**Sample comments/questions:**

* *“How will cars be able to easily turn into businesses?”*
* *“More consideration to access businesses and ensure no net parking loss. Preserve left hand turns at intersections.”*
* *“I think the position of the planting median between the 2 directions of traffic will make access to the businesses difficult if you are approaching them from the wrong side of the planting median.”*
* *“Make a few breaks in planting median for more left turns off Fauntleroy.”*
1. **Next steps**

Project staff will review and evaluate all comments and questions received at the September 23 open house as part of the project design process.