

# CID Framework and Implementation Plan

## Work Group 5 - Public Realm

### January 4, 2018 Meeting

Time: 4:30-6:00 pm

Location: Hing Hay Co-Works 409b Maynard Ave S

#### MEETING SUMMARY

#### Work Group Members Present

Sonny Nguyen; Andrew Tran; Lizzy Baskerville; Erin Demmon; Jeff Hou; Ziyi Liu; Gordon Padelford; Tiernan Martin; Jamie Lee; Julie Yuan; Kelsey Mesher; Brien Chow; Betty Lau

#### City Staff

Gary Johnson (OPCD); Susan McLaughlin (SDOT); Chip Nevins (Parks); Rebecca Frestedt (DON)

#### Notes:

Workgroup Chair Sonny Nguyen opened the meeting and led a round of introductions.

Susan McLaughlin gave a presentation on public realm planning. She began with a definition of "public realm", showed examples of great streets from cities around the country and then led a discussion of elements that should be included in a public realm plan. Her initial list included:

- Condition of sidewalk (repair, material, design, width)
- Land use/building facades (active edges)
- Landscaping/street trees
- Pedestrian lighting
- Parks assessment
- Activation (sidewalk cafes, parklets, streateries, pavement to parks, festival streets, etc)
- Public art
- Seating
- Mobility
- Performance metrics
- Special Review District guidelines

Workgroup members suggested adding alleys, street ends and wayfinding to the list. It was noted that SDOT has a significant grant to advance a Center City-wide wayfinding system and that the CID will be included in the design process.



# CID Framework and Implementation Plan

## Work Group 5 - Public Realm

### January 4, 2018 Meeting

Susan also highlighted a “Public Life Data Protocol” project that SDOT has recently completed in cooperation with counterparts in San Francisco and Copenhagen. The protocol employs a methodology of monitoring the activity of people in public space, including both movement and stationary activities. Four block faces in the CID were included in the study (S. Jackson between 7<sup>th</sup> S. and 8<sup>th</sup> S.; S. Jackson between 6<sup>th</sup> S. and Maynard Ave. S.; S. Weller between 7<sup>th</sup> S. and 8<sup>th</sup> S.; S. Weller between 6<sup>th</sup> S. and Maynard Ave. S.). The CID count indicated a high number of elderly and a significant percentage of people engaged in stationary activities as opposed to passing through. Susan noted that lack of seating was an issue. Susan gave an overview of SDOT’s updated “Streets Illustrated” manual that articulates standards for right-of-way features and contains adopted street concept plans. The manual replaces SDOT’s Right of Way Improvement Manual. Susan also noted that proposed changes to the right-of-way in the CID need to be approved by the International Special Review District Board.

Gary Johnson gave a presentation on new and proposed private development in the CID neighborhood. He noted that two other workgroups- Community Development & Stabilization and ISRD & Design Review- are focusing on new development but suggested that the Public Realm workgroup should note development patterns, that private development implements streetscape improvements and that community articulated streetscape concepts can guide the improvements that private development makes.

#### General Discussion

- The area under I-5 along S. Jackson St. and S. King Street was highlighted as an area that needs implementation given the significant planning work that has already been completed for that area.
- Jamie Lee reported that SCIDPDA has received an “Only in Seattle” grant from OED to conduct a lighting study in the CID. A consultant hiring process is underway and results are anticipated mid-year. Seattle City Light has committed some funding for implementation. We will follow-up to get more clarity about what SCL plans to do.
- The issue of the need for a public restroom facility was raised. It was noted that Parks and SCIDPDA are collaborating on



# CID Framework and Implementation Plan

## Work Group 5 - Public Realm

### January 4, 2018 Meeting

developing a new public restroom in the Bush Hotel building immediately adjacent to Hing Hay Park.

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and community health/age friendly communities were mentioned as as elements we should keep in mind in public realm planning.
- It was noted that the Link Light Rail station at Union Station is named the International District/Chinatown Station, reversing the generally agreed upon name of the CID neighborhood. Gary noted that KC Metro and Sound Transit are currently negotiating the transfer of the Downtown Transit Tunnel and the IDS station to ST and promised to make them aware that there is interest in consideration of changing the name to reflect the neighborhood name.
- A question was raised about mobility planning. Susan and Gary stated that mobility planning would mostly be addressed as part of the One Center City project although Gary promised to check with Sam Woods at SDOT about the status of bike network planning in the CID.
- The following items were mentioned as requests for status updates at a future WG meeting: Programming/capital improvement implementation under I-5; bike network planning; Danny Woo Garden expansion.
- The issue of mobility elements was raised. Gary and Susan noted that mobility will primarily be addressed in the One Center City project but Gary will check with SDOT's bicycle program manager about the status of bike network planning.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Johnson

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 4:00 to 5:30 PM

