

I-5 Lid Feasibility Study
DON Outreach Report
August 2019

Activities

- Finalize design on I-5 Lid Outreach handout and presentation
- August 14th – Five City Commissions Focus Group: Women’s, LGBTQ, People with DisAbilities, Human Rights, and Immigrant and Refugee
- August 19th – Horizon House Resident’s Council Presentation and Q&A
- August 20th – Olive Tower Resident’s Presentation and Q&A

Insights

- The Five City Commissions Group was extremely concerned around the equitable design and access around potential new land. Only one attendee present (from the LGBTQ Commission) had heard of the project idea and had previously attended a public meeting hosted by the Lid I-5 campaign group. That attendee, however, thought that the proposed land use had already been completed and designed, and was unaware that the engineering study around what was possible had not been completed yet.
- The Horizon House Resident’s Council meeting was very well attended - over 100 guests and the group was extremely engaged. They were predominately pro-Lid for a number of different reasons, including: managing sound and air pollution from I-5 and Hubbell Place, creating more and safer spaces for their residents to walk nearby, and the potential of building more affordable housing for their staff to live closer to work.
 - One resident was concerned around the safety of a lid in an earthquake prone area.
 - One resident was part of the original “Block the Ditch” protests when I-5 was being built and supported the Lid to re-connect neighborhoods.
 - One resident believed we should cut car emissions by filling in / eliminating I-5 and creating green space.
- Oliver Tower residents meeting was much smaller in size (5 guests), but deeply interested and engaged. Their living space has been very disrupted by the Convention Center expansion construction. There were some concerns around mitigation money going to study a lid for I-5 as opposed to addressing current social issues like housing or food insecurity. There were also concerns around whether or not a potential lid would threaten their homes/building.
 - In general, they were interested and would support a space that was accessible and open to all. Feel the Convention Center and areas around it don’t benefit larger community.
 - Interested in walking spaces that felt safe – expressed concern that greenery and design of freeway park made visitors feel uneasy/unsafe.
 - Needed to include restrooms and take into account the unhoused who need central resources. Concerned about displacement of those currently living in tents in I-5 side spaces.

Common Themes

- Most do not want dense commercial development
- Park space: Want to see greenery / natural plants - The “Central Park of Seattle”
- Accessibility: Make sure it is accessible for all people (i.e. visual aids for deaf people, ramps for wheeled accessibility, lights for low vision)

- Affordable housing: Need more subsidized housing—deeply affordable, shelter services, social services, non-profits, community center space
- Restrooms: Accessible 24 hours a day
- Homelessness: Concerned about the encampments and making sure we have places for people we are displacing
- Concerns about crime and safety, especially visibility and lighting
- Concerns about earthquakes and structural integrity of lid
- Air and noise pollution

September Work Plan

- Materials translated to Somali, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, and Vietnamese
- Set up online space for public access to presentation, translated handouts, and feedback survey
- Schedule meetings with Central Area Collaborative, Plymouth Church, Equitable Development Initiative Advisory Board, Seattle Central, Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) and Chief Seattle Club.