

April 16, 2009

Meeting held at the Lighthouse for the Blind

Question: Why have you chosen to live in this neighborhood?

- proximity to work
- accessible public transportation
- my job is here

Housing

- need more single-family housing that is affordable
- need to preserve single family homes from the property value and safety impacts of apartments
- choice of where to live is influenced by fast, reliable, prompt response of emergency services
- like a mix of affordable housing, townhomes, apartments, etc.
- affordable we define as housing for families ranging from low/working class to lower-middle class, workforce housing, affordable to service workers

Sense of Place (now)

- area around the station is not welcoming
- feels unsafe after dark
- high school student can be cause of concern

Sense of Place (in future we would like)

- full-service supermarket
- satisfied with nearby QFC
- info booth/kiosk at station, staffed to answer questions
- audible pedestrian signals, also with vibrating device for deaf persons
- US mail drop boxes
- sidewalks – smooth, grade-separated (curb), wide, clear, free of obstructions, land-side edge of sidewalk should be well-defined
- good street drainage (puddles in street impact pedestrians)
- street trees are beautiful, but leaves need swept up because wet leaves are slippery for pedestrians
- slip hazards for pedestrians – gratings & utility covers – use textured rubber on covers
- need street lighting
- different surface for crosswalks – detectable with a cane but OK for wheelchairs
- recreation center, arcade – to give kids something to do
- movie theater with audio descriptions
- smaller scale mall
- day care
- books on tape bookstore
- dry cleaners and Laundromat

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- PacMed clinic – serving low & moderate income
- gym for exercise/YMCA
- dog park for the many guide dogs in the area
- vets office
- community college
- store with blind-friendly products
- community resource center/mini city hall
- police station
- family-oriented restaurant such as Denny's
- pea patch

Transportation

- currently a dangerous pedestrian crossing at 25/Massachussets – cars speed on the hill, maybe need speed bumps, need signage saying there are deaf/blind in the area
- need pedestrian overcrossing on Rainier at Walker
- need well-maintained sidewalks
- buses should announce the route number at each stop (for benefit of those waiting to board)
- need a shuttle bus from Lighthouse/Red Cross to light rail station – there is a Metro bus sitting at Center Park apts. all day
- currently a problem with semis blocking sidewalks at Pepsi bottling
- currently huge puddles on 25th Ave. S sidewalk from Walker to McClellan
- problems with bushes/trees encroaching on sidewalks
- need yellow truncated dome tile as a demarcation of curb/corner/ramp on all sidewalks (should retrofit, not wait for new construction)
- problem with cars parked blocking sidewalks and crosswalks
- paint the curb edge a bright color (visual indication of curb edge)
- currently use public transportation, primarily ACCESS bus, also walk, use bus, cabs, sometimes given rides by others
- will ride light rail, but need shuttle to/from station, this would decrease need for ACCESS rides
- sidewalks to light rail station are in very poor condition

Parks

- want a multi-use trail, with restrooms, paved
- OK with security cameras in parks
- fountains – help as audible cues for orientation
- safety is a concern
- need benches for resting & enjoying sunshine
- meditation garden would be good
- linked trails – need audible signals, link Lighthouse to Greenway, need information/signage

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- on trails
- need lighting in parks
- would like some urban pocket-parks with benches

Sense of Place

- Make the station area a disability-friendly locale
- accessible
- tactile sculptures
- fountain
- paths for the blind
- landscaping for all the senses
- different surfaces, textures, high-contrast
- would provide opportunity for community to interact (abled and disabled), provides a “teachable moment”
- hold integrated sports events (abled and disabled)
- disabled could participate in building/laying cornerstone
- Disability Learning Center – where people could experience challenges faced by disabled
- Universal Design principles

The idea of creating a unique identity for the McClellan light rail station area by making it very accessible/disability friendly was very strongly supported by the entire group. It generated quite a bit of discussion!

Neighborhood Plan Update Workshop with People Living with Disabilities Community

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Meeting held at Center Park

(These responses include written responses provided by blind and deaf/blind participants)

Housing

- need more housing for handicapped and low-income
- also need low-income housing such as condos for the physically disabled
- need housing that is accessible & affordable especially for families and those with caregivers (2 bedroom units)
- utilities should be included in the rent
- apartments and condos including businesses, restaurants, coffee shops
- more wheelchair accessible housing
- keep the same mix as now

Character (now)

- fast food
- Starbucks
- great bus service
- the lake, parks, and BBQ

Character (in future we would like)

- restaurant, diner, buffet"
- store for one-stop shopping such as Fred Myer, Target
- coffee spots (like Starbucks) that are open later in the evening
- easy pedestrian access
- businesses accessible to wheelchairs
- theater
- dollar store
- pedestrian skyway over Rainier
- 2nd hand shop, Value Village
- pet store
- book store & video store
- more artwork, murals, rock and water fountains (more visual interest)
- need more accessibility for disabled and blind people
- more stores

Pedestrian Concerns

- better traffic enforcement (cars don't yield to pedestrians)
- sidewalks – better, accessible, gentle grades (no sudden curbs or drops), wider especially on
- West side of Rainier, tree roots can raise sidewalks
- don't like when cafes encroach on sidewalk (blind & wheelchairs need clear path that is wide as the rest of sidewalk)
- bus shelters can take up too much of the sidewalk – I like the ones with an awning & leaning bar
- like at Benaroya Hall

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- bus shelters need to leave room for the people exiting the bus, sometimes are too close to curb
- unmaintained trees and stumps are a problem
- currently sidewalks are poorly maintained
- like bus shelters with seats
- signal timing is often too short, especially MLK/Rainier where cars making right-hand turns are
- a problems for the blind and slow walkers
- audible traffic signals can be a problem because they sound like birds, I like the audible signals
- need awnings on buildings
- more streetlights – need to be brighter and energy efficient
- need more buses to stop at the high school, the students jam the sidewalks after school as they
- go to catch the bus
- by the Pepsi bottling building the trucks often block the sidewalks and those sidewalks are narrow and dirty
- when walking, there are many pedestrian/vehicle potential conflicts because of driveways --
- would like fewer curb cuts (driveways) and fewer two-way left turn lanes
- need a clear pedestrian path from sidewalk to front door of business
- need a network of sidewalks
- need to feel safe, the area should be clean
- need public restrooms
- drivers need to be reminded to be alert, watch out for pedestrians and cyclists
- need better lighting, bright lights
- would like rails along sidewalks so easier to guide (for blind persons)

Parks

- need a P Patch -- good for the community, should be accessible (easy to get to and with raised beds)
- need more green space
- people don't know where local parks are
- need accessible restrooms
- need more flowers and trees

Transportation

- we travel now by bus, taxi, taxi-van, Center Park's own bus, volunteer transportation services
- for seniors, ACCESS bus
- concern over potential changes in bus routes due to light rail
- want the stops announced
- need public restrooms at light rail stations or nearby
- to get to light rail station we will wheel, walk, or use Center Park's bus, but crossing Rainier will
- be a problem

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Business center near light rail station

- should be accessible, also with signs in Braille
- shops that offer technology items/aides for the disabled
- would like a branch of Sight Connections (store)
- employment, shops, and service centers close to light rail station

Misc.

- we want to know if light rail cars will have tie-downs for wheel chairs
- we would like a Councilmember to meet with us

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