



International Special Review District

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ISRD 128/25

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, August 12, 2025

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present

Heather Hargesheimer (HH), Chair
Kyle Jacobson (KL)
Samantha Wong (SW), Vice-Chair
Jade Yan (JY)
Eric Chan (EC)
Adrian Lam (AL)

Staff Present

Rebecca Frestedt (RF)
Nelson Pesigan (NP)

Absent

Gary Lee (GL)

Key

BM Board member
AP Applicant
SM Staff member

Chair Heather Hargesheimer (HH) called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

081225.1 ROLL CALL

081225.2 MEETING MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes to approve.

081225.3 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

SM Rebecca Frestedt informed the board that written comments had been received, which had been presented during the public comment portion of the Sound Transit Board meeting. The ISRD Board was copied on the comments. They are available for board members to access on the ISRD SharePoint site.

081225.4 BOARD BRIEFING

081225.41 South Downtown Hub Planning

Presenters: Sloan Dawson, Phoebe Wu and Brittany Robinson, Sound Transit (ST), Lizzie Moll, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT); Aberta Blect, Office of Planning and Community Development, and Tiernan Martin, Downtown Activation Coordinator (OPCD).

This briefing by Sound Transit provides an update on the South Downtown Hub project, including what was heard through engagement activities this spring. The South Downtown Hub project is a partnership between Sound Transit, the City of Seattle and King County.

Presentation in DON files and posted on the ISRD website.

Presenter Lizzie Moll summarized the last briefing in March prior to a community meeting in April.

Presenter Sloan Dawson went over the site context and Union Station activation, followed by detailed concept plans and implementation. There was a presentation about community engagement strategies and community workshop feedback.

Presenters Moll and Dawson went over alternate design approaches, including grid realignment, Union Station Great Hall activation improving the quality of pedestrian space and connecting the CID and Pioneer Square (“stitch area”).

Board Questions and Discussion:

BM Kyle Jacobsen asked about the differences between public and online surveys in collecting community feedback, and whether each method plays a distinct role in gathering and differentiating input.

Presenter Sloan Dawson responded by referencing the comprehensive engagement summary data, which outlines the various approaches used to collect and interpret feedback and emphasized the importance of engaging with diverse community groups, residents, and business organizations.

Presenter Phoebe Wu noted that surveys are a key method for collecting input from individuals unable to attend open houses, and added that surveys are just one approach. Sound Transit continues to partner with community-based organizations and holds ongoing meetings to gather feedback and share design concepts.

BM Jacobsen commented that online outreach allows for the collection of optional demographic data, which differs from in-person engagement.

Presenter Lizzie Moll explained that the team reviewed community feedback, conducted traffic analysis, and held multiple engagements to evaluate trade-offs related to pedestrian connectivity, and emphasized that they considered a range of viewpoints on this issue.

BM Jacobsen inquired about plans to improve Dearborn and King Street with trees, planting strips, and other enhancements.

Presenter Moll clarified that while a few areas along King Street have been identified for improvements, this does not necessarily mean tree planting, other landscaping options are being considered, and updated renderings will be provided to illustrate these concepts.

Presenter Dawson added that additional design concepts will be developed to show how landscaping and tree plantings could help activate King Street.

SM Frestedt asked whether proposed changes along King Street would affect areaways in the next phase of project exploration.

Presenter Dawson acknowledged that these concerns have been flagged, and the team will examine potential impacts on areaways and streetscapes in greater detail.

Chairperson Hargesheimer asked about interagency coordination and freight mobility issues related to the realignment along Seattle Boulevard.

Presenters Dawson and Moll responded that strong partnerships and coordination among the City, King County, and Sound Transit are essential. These agencies have already engaged in substantial coordination to advance the project and explore design concepts.

BM Jacobsen noted that most of the housing is north of the station. Most people coming to the station will have to cross Seattle Boulevard. He expressed concern about pedestrian safety. He encouraged planners to consider and explore new ways to enhance the CID area, noting that not all elements of the South Downtown Hub fall within the board's review guidelines.

Presenter Dawson said that the proposed entrance is north of Dearborn. He said to consider how the edge of the neighborhood could be extended across Dearborn.

Tiernan Martin, OPCD, said that in addition to the streetscape, they will also look at what land uses would inform in-fill development, noting industrial center south of Dearborn. BM Yan thanked the presenters and expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of the presentation and the incorporation of community feedback, and asked when the board would receive the next update.

Presenter Dawson stated that the team is currently in the implementation planning phase and will produce a final design concept for Certification of Approval, and plan to return to the board with updates on implementation.

Presenter Wu mentioned that a new draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ballard Link Station is being prepared and will soon enter a public comment period to present alternative.

Presenter Moll added that all design concepts are currently at a high level, and as they further developed, the board will have opportunities to review them.

BM Lam raised concerns from business owners in the CID regarding traffic and parking, and acknowledged the challenges associated with street improvements to address these concerns.

Presenter Moll shared that feedback has been received about activation strategies and land use-related community parking. She said that part of the plan is leveraging space and opportunity in the neighborhood.

Presenter Dawson noted that the team is exploring mitigation strategies for parking, including options for shared or structured parking near the south entrance of Seattle Boulevard.

BM Lam said that the street improvements are wonderful, more walkable and bike parking. He remarked that while landscaping is a beautiful concept for the new station, its impact would be limited if the station entrance is poorly located.

BM Lam and Chairperson Hargesheimer thanked the presenters for their thorough presentation and expressed interest in the next phase of the project.

SM Frestedt concluded by stating that the project team will continue to brief the board and looks forward to seeing how the project evolves to benefit the CID as a whole.

081225.5 STAFF SUMMARY AND BOARD BUSINESS

SM Frestedt has begun preparations for the upcoming elections and will provide an update on which board positions are up for election.

SM Frestedt also reviewed the applications that were processed administratively and summarized the scope of work for each.

Chair Heather Hargesheimer adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.