



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

ISRD 3/25

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, January 14, 2025

Time: 4:30pm

Place: Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present

Heather Hargesheimer

Kyle Jacobson

Adrian Lam

Gary Lee

Samantha Wong

Jade Yan

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt

Melinda Bloom

Absent

Eric Chan

Chair Adrian Lam called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Key:

BM Board member

AP Applicant

SM Staff member

ROLL CALL

011425.1 PUBLIC COMMENT

Betty Lau commented on the Sound Transit project and said the benefits from transit projects don't make it into the district. She didn't support the S. Dearborn station location and said it is an equity issue. See written comments in DON file.

Paul Sweum said he did not support the 5th Avenue S options that would destroy the historic Uwajimaya building. He noted the destruction of the community that would accompany the project. He said the 4th Avenue S location would work but the project needs better planning.

Brien Chow supported the 4th Avenue S but not the 5th Avenue S alternative. He said both involve construction impacts to the community. The 5th Avenue alternative erases historic structures and has dire social, cultural and economic impacts. He spoke of repeated damage done to a community that has been ignored, forced out, and excluded.

Joe Reilly, Transit Equity for All, said he works for Providence Swedish. He spoke of the need for a functional system for medical providers and patients and noted that he had not received any notice about the project from Sound Transit.

011425.2 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

011425.21 Right-of-way at 676 S. Jackson St.
Record number: DONH-COA-01546
Applicant: Paul de Barros, Jackson Street Jazz Trail Committee

Proposed installation of an art wrap on a traffic signal box, to serve as a stop on the Jackson Street Jazz Trail commemorating “Women of Jackson Street Jazz”.

Paul de Barros proposed to install a vinyl wrap on traffic box depicting Ernestine Anderson, Patti Bown, Edyth Turnham, Zelma Winslow, Evelyn Williamson, Dee Dee Hackett and Evelyn Bundy-Taylor. The collage style art is a symbiosis between Asian American and African American communities.

BM Lam said the art speaks to the history of the neighborhood. He expressed concern about potential tagging.

The applicant said they had extensive conversations about the issue. The wraps in Little Saigon have been tagged already. Discussed graffiti prevention coating.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for installation of an artistic wrap commemorating the Women of Jackson Street Jazz on a traffic signal box, per the submitted application materials.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the January 14, 2025 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director. This action is based on the **following applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance and relevant Standards:**

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC)

SMC 23.66.030 – Certificates of Approval – application, review and appeals

Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a

special review district, and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Secretary of the Interior Standards

#9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property

MM/SC/HH/KJ
6:0:0

011425.22 Seamless Seattle Pedestrian Wayfinding expansion
Location: Multiple locations in the Right-of-Way
Record number: DONH-COA-01544
Applicant: Joshua Gawne, SDOT

Proposed expansion of Seamless Seattle pedestrian wayfinding signage, west of I-5, consisting of installation of 15 new signs.

Joshua Gawne, SDOT, proposed installation of 15 signs. Five existing signs would be removed. They presented proposed expansion areas and went over sign types, components and functionality, and pole versus 'nudge' type signs. They shared community engagement methods done.

BM Lam said the sign standard is cohesive, modern and functional and appropriate for the historic district.

BM Yan appreciated the presentation and asked clarifying question about sign number 12.

The applicant explained that the pole is a red lantern pole which was not appropriate for a pole sign, so a nudge sign is now proposed instead. Responding to clarifying questions they said all signs are reviewed with SDOT operations division to confirm safety, etc.

Board members agreed on staff approval for final design approval for pattern drawings.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for installation of 15 new signs, part of the Seamless Seattle pedestrian wayfinding expansion, per the submitted application materials with staff approval on final design for pattern drawings. The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the January 14, 2025 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

This action is based on the **following applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance and relevant Standards:**

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC)**SMC 23.66.030 – Certificates of Approval – application, review and appeals**

Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a special review district, and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

23.66.334 - Streets and sidewalks

Review by the Special Review Board and approval by the Director of Neighborhoods are required before any changes may be made to sidewalk prism lights, sidewalk furniture, sidewalk widths, or street paving and curbs. Review by the Special Review Board and the Director of Neighborhoods, with respect to the International Special Review District goals and objectives in Section 23.66.302 as applicable, are required for any street design concept plan prior to inclusion in the Right-of-Way Improvements Manual.

Secretary of the Interior Standards

#9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property.

MM/SC/HH/GL

6:0:0

Motion carried.

011425.3 BRIEFING

011425.31 Board briefing by Sound Transit will provide an overview and update on the Ballard Link Extension link light rail project, which includes a second station serving the CID neighborhood, along with a brief presentation on the South Downtown Hub workshop series, which is a partnership between Sound Transit, the City of Seattle and King County.

Detailed documents in DON file.

Presenters from Sound Transit included Phoebe Wu, Leda Chahim, and Stephen Mak. An overview of the proposed system was provided with focus on alternatives explored for the second station. Three alternatives were discussed: 4th Avenue Shallow, 5th Avenue Shallow, Dearborn Avenue.

There are differing opinions in the community about where the station should be cited. Community concerns include destruction of historic fabric, displacement of business, social-cultural-economic harm to community, and decisions made without community buy-in.

BM Hargesheimer left the meeting at 6:10 pm.

The draft EIS will be published in spring 2025; it will have a public comment period. The final EIS will be published in 2026 with selection of final project to be built.

BM Lam asked about community concerns mentioned by public.

Leda Chahim said the public has been engaged and that outreach has been done with each iteration. All comments and summaries are available. They are now looking at properties that will need to be acquired and will show development potential around the transit hub.

BM Lee asked who would own property rights.

AP Chahim said Sound Transit would acquire the properties at market value.

BM Lee asked who would get the development rights and said that the owner would get today's value only, not the potential development.

AP Chahim said it is a good follow-up question and note there is another team involved in that process.

BM Jacobson commented on the borders that have been placed on the district by automotive development, stadium development, outside development and the lack of new positive connections.

BM Lam said the community has a vested interest in the project – any location will impact the surroundings.

AP Chahim said the next briefing can be more specific on what activation might look like. There are more years of study to make the best choice that would take less time and have less impact on the community. The team is taking in feedback to learn as much from the public about activation and the public realm.

Rebecca Frestedt noted the presentation information is a lot to take in and part of an ongoing discussion. Additional questions and comments may follow.

BM Wong asked if public commenters would receive a response from Sound Transit and noted there is not a clear line of documentation.

AP Chahim said they thought it was done but would do so.

BM Lam said there was no preferred solution and asked why one site might be preferred over another.

011425.4

Staff Summary and Board Business

Rebecca Frestedt went over administrative approvals issued since last meeting.