



Seattle Design Commission

MEETING MINUTES

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Director, OPCD

Kevin O'Neill, Acting Chair

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Caitlin Truong

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
Strategic Advisor

Windy Bandekar
Planner

Robin Magonegil
Administrative Staff

April 3, 2025

Convened - 9:00 am

Adjourned - 12:20 pm

Projects Reviewed

Commission business

SR520 Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid

Commissioners Present

Phoebe Bogert

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist (left at 12:05 pm)

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi

Kevin O'Neill

Molly Spetalnick

Caitlin Truong

Commissioners Excused

Kate Clark

Zubin Rao

Staff Present

Windy Bandekar

Valerie Kinast

Robin Magonegil

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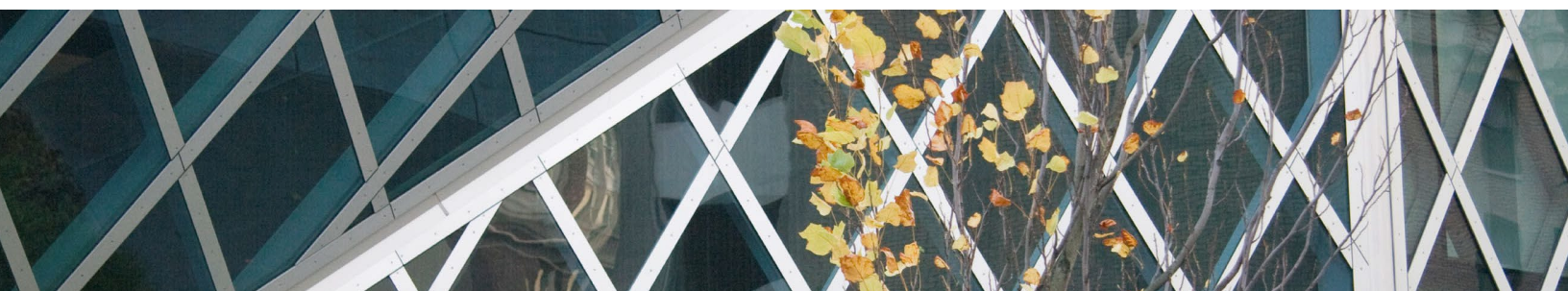
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Commission Business (8:30 – 9:00 am)

The Commission received a briefing on the projects to be reviewed, adopted the minutes of February 6, 2025, March 6, 2025, and March 20, 2025, and discussed a letter to the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department and Seattle Parks Foundation on plans for Westlake Park.

SR520 Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid (9:00 – 12:20 pm)

The Commission reviewed designs for the Portage Bay Bridges and Roanoke Lid, following the award of the Design/Build contract by Washington State Department of Transportation to Skanska and AECOM. This was the second of three presentations to the full SDC during the design build process. Designs for the Portage Bay Bridges, trail connections and overlooks, Fire Life Safety Building, and Roanoke Lid were presented. Later this year, at the third presentation of the project, the Roanoke Lid will be the primary subject. Wayfinding will also be presented in more detail.

The role of the Commission here following the award to Skanska and AECOM was to review and make comments and recommendations on how the project designs reflect the Commission's recommendations on the proposal prior to the award of this design/build contract. The Commission advised on the SR520 Rest of the West projects starting in 2012, and endorsed the designs represented in the 2022 RFP for the Portage Bay Bridges and Roanoke Lid project.

The following people were presenters:

- Brendan Kempf, AECOM
- Fran Terry, TubeArt
- Bradley Touchstone, AECOM
- Michael Monis, AECOM

The following people attended:

- Tony Black, WSDOT
- Lacy Brown, DKS Associates
- Kyle Capizzi, Friends of Seattle Olmstead Park board member
- Robin Clarke, Skanska
- Cody Crow, Skanska
- Michael Fitzpatrick, WSDOT
- Chelsey Funis, WSDOT
- Graham Golbluff, WSDOT
- David Goldberg, WSDOT
- Matt Gurrad, WSDOT
- Todd Harrison, WSDOT

- Spider Kedelsky, Community Member
- Martin Liebowitz, Community Member
- Luis Loaiza Garzon, WSDOT
- Lee O’Conner, Roanoke Park Historic District
- Ryan Packer, The Urbanist
- Brianna Parks, WSDOT
- Rosario Revilla, WSDOT
- Dillan Quigley, Skanska
- Bradford Shaffer, AECOM
- Jim Simpkins, Roanoke Park Historic District
- Carl Stixrood, Community Member
- William Witucki, FHA
- Zhiyu Wei, AECOM
- Eugenia Woo, Community Member
- Dawn Yankauskas, WSDOT
- Christine Yokan, Community Member

After the presentation the SDC heard public comment from Jim Simpkins, Kyle Capizzi, Marty Liebowitz, Spider Kedelsky, and Lee O’Conner, expressing deep concern for the design of the Fire and Life Safety Building. The Commission had also received written comments from Anne Knight, who could not attend.

After public comment, the Commission expressed appreciation to the project team for:

1. The striking public spaces and trail enhancements that will be provided with this project.
2. How the project team has closely followed the designs that were developed in pre-development phases and enhanced the objectives with refinements.
3. Recognizing opportunities for improving on the early designs while maintaining the integrity of the design vision.

The Commission endorsed the following changes to the early concepts:

1. The protrusion of the bridge piers above the waterline two to four feet.
2. The approach of providing a clean, simple transition between those round piers and the rectilinear bridge columns that rest on them and not attempting to ease the transition in some other way.
3. The 10th Ave street design.

The Commission had strong concerns about the design of the Fire Life Safety Building.

With a unanimous yes vote of 7 to 0, the Commission approved the preliminary designs presented at this meeting with the following condition:

1. Explore more extensive refinements to the Fire Life Safety Building and site, so that it becomes an element on par with the other elements that will be enhancements to the neighborhood that include:
 - A. Consider drawing from the architectural and landscape language of Fire Station 22 and developing the FLS as a part of an ensemble with it.
 - B. Treat this location as an urban and not residual space. Create a more neighborhood-oriented corner anchor.
 - C. Incorporate more plantings as part of a comprehensive scheme to develop it as a cohesive urban place within the new built context.
 - D. Be mindful that this will be part of the neighborhood and a highly visible location along an important regional trail.

The Commission also provided these recommendations:

1. Continue to keep the communities up-to-date as the design is refined.
2. Continue to resolve what may be an oppressive atmosphere in the area under the east end of the bridge near the NOAA parking lot. Ease the constrained feeling of the space. Consider the fence height and location, and how the grade difference between the trail and parking lot is resolved.
3. Explore how to reduce the appearance of the structures holding the Delmar Connector/RSUP Ramp.
4. Explain choices made for the texture of the walls at the Delmar Connector.
5. Carefully refine the Olympic Overlook design, including the tree planting scheme below it.
6. Refine the east portal wall area to soften its appearance.

At future meetings, please:

1. Please show how the design has advanced in the area between E Roanoke St/Delmar Dr and the loop path of the lid, where natural stone walls were envisioned but alternatives were under consideration.
2. Remember to pull out and show the relationship of what is being designed to other parts of the overall project and nearby urban context.
3. Explain universal design, especially where main and accessible routes diverge.
4. Provide a rendering that clearly illustrates the area under the bridge east of the NOAA parking lot.
5. Report on which are the tightest turns for bikes, how they will be navigated, and interactions with other trail users.
6. Report briefly on recent community and stakeholder engagement.
7. Report on integration of art in the project both to date and opportunities in the future.
8. Show views of wall 27W from the roadway.