

U DISTRICT PLANNING BACKGROUND



Agenda

2

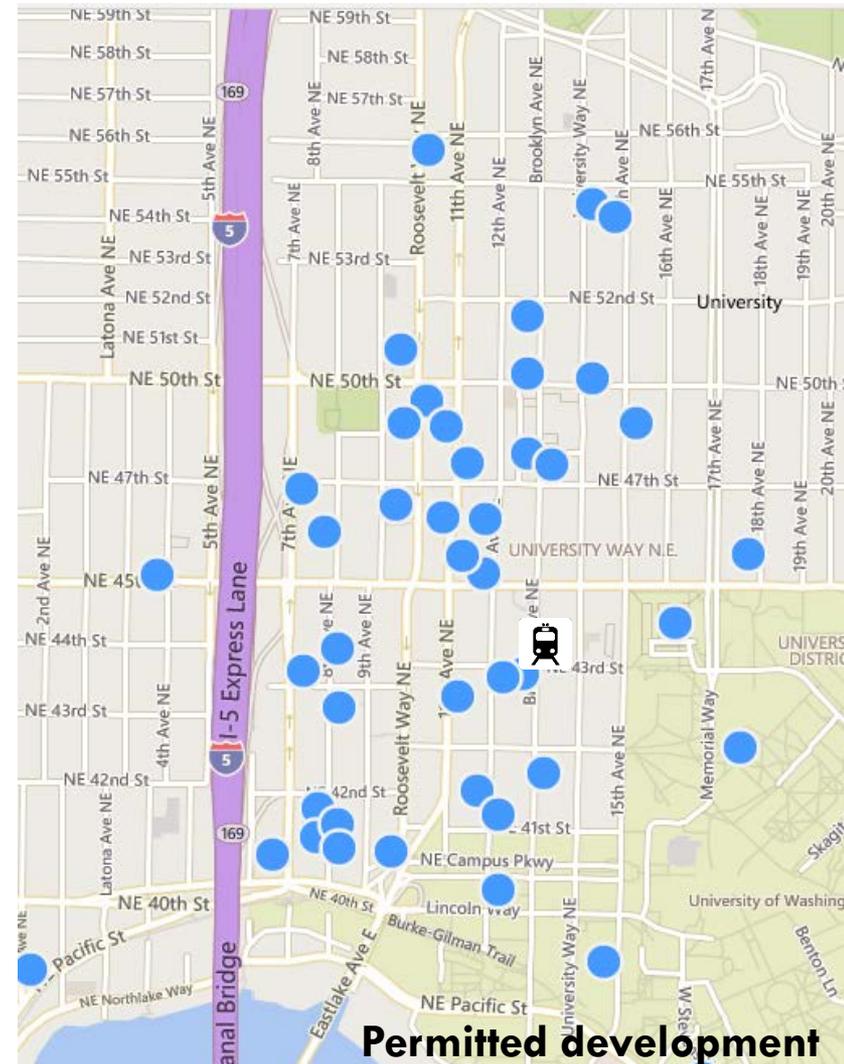
- Why plan in the U District?
- Project timeline, 2011-2016
- Key themes – what we've heard
- Planning process results
- Partner projects:
 - ▣ Business district enhancement
 - ▣ Clean and safe
 - ▣ UW partnerships and initiatives



Why plan in the U District?

3

- One of Seattle's 6 urban centers: priority area for growth and investment
- Light rail in 2021
- Significant development underway, more coming
- Active community: strong interest in shaping growth, supporting businesses
- HALA – need to incorporate housing affordability



Community engagement

4

- 80+ public meetings since 2011
- Different approaches: working groups, open houses, community events, coffee chats, social media, public hearings
- Input from residents, students, property owners, homeless youth, businesses, UW, social services, faith community...



Urban Design Framework open house, 2013.



Key public input dates

5

Dates	Outreach
2012-present	Urban Design working group
Oct. – Dec. 2012	“Community Conversation” events
April 2013	Urban Design Framework open house
September 2013	Environmental Impact Statement scoping meeting
May 2014	Draft EIS public hearing
Oct. – Dec. 2015	Open Space Forums
May-July 2016	Draft zoning open house & public comment

What we've heard

6

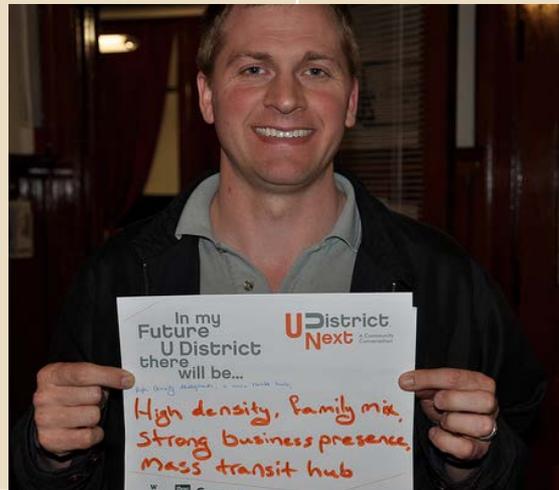
- People view growth with both excitement and concern:
 - ▣ Many eager for new investment, energy, and walkability.
 - ▣ Many worry about the speed and scale of change, the potential loss of character and livability, and the rising cost of housing.



Specific priorities

7

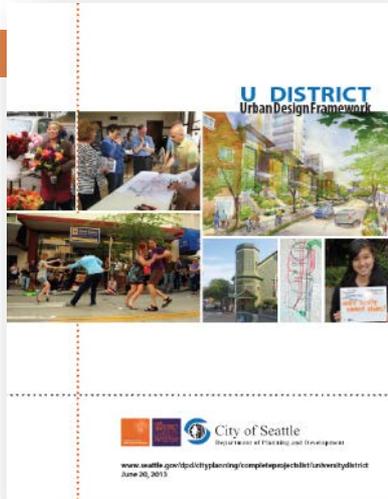
- Making the most of light rail – density and walkability in the core
- Building an open space network to support a denser neighborhood
- Addressing the loss of affordable housing
- Achieving architectural variety and good design
- Dealing with traffic congestion
- Preserving historic buildings
- Services to support growth
- Protecting tree canopy



Results of planning process



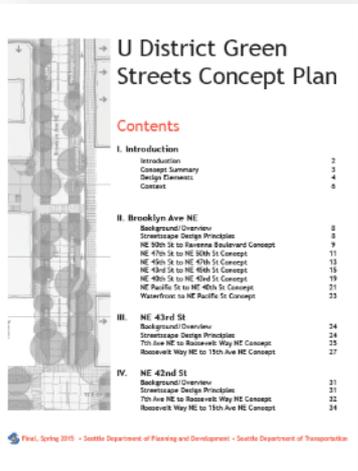
Strategic Plan (2013)



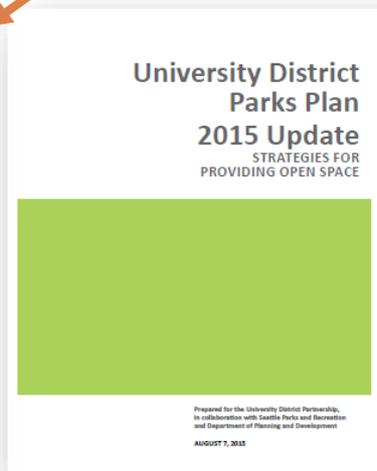
Urban Design Framework (2013)



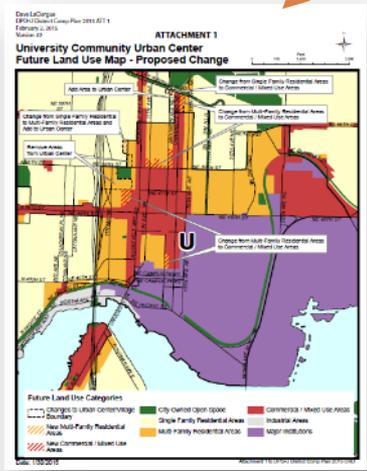
EIS (2013-2015)



Streetscape Plan (2015)



Parks Plan (2015)



Neighborhood Plan amendments (2015)



Zoning changes

Draft rezone (May 2016)

9

- Proposal incorporates a wide range of views. Accommodates and shapes growth while addressing neighborhood concerns.
- Draft ordinance included
 - ▣ Zoning changes, including greater height and density in the core
 - ▣ Design standards for building quality, neighborhood context
 - ▣ Requirements and incentives for affordable housing, open space, historic preservation, human services, other neighborhood priorities
- Public response: majority support the proposal outright (35%) or with qualifications (30%), some fundamentally opposed (25%)
- Plan to transmit, with revisions, later this month



U District Partnership

10

- UDP is a coalition of business leaders, residents, property owners, social service providers, and UW.
- Initially supported by City's "Only in Seattle" grant program
- Expanded Business Improvement Area approved in April 2015 - \$750K annually
- Committees
 - ▣ Business development
 - ▣ Events & Marketing
 - ▣ Urban Design
 - ▣ Clean & Safe



“Clean and Safe” efforts

11

- Top priority for businesses and residents alike – key for livability
- Monthly community cleanups
- Working with Cleanscapes and “Find It Fix It”
- Proposed ambassador program
- Homeless Youth Employment – ROOTS completed a pilot, now working with City and UW to build an ongoing program.



UW planning and investments

12

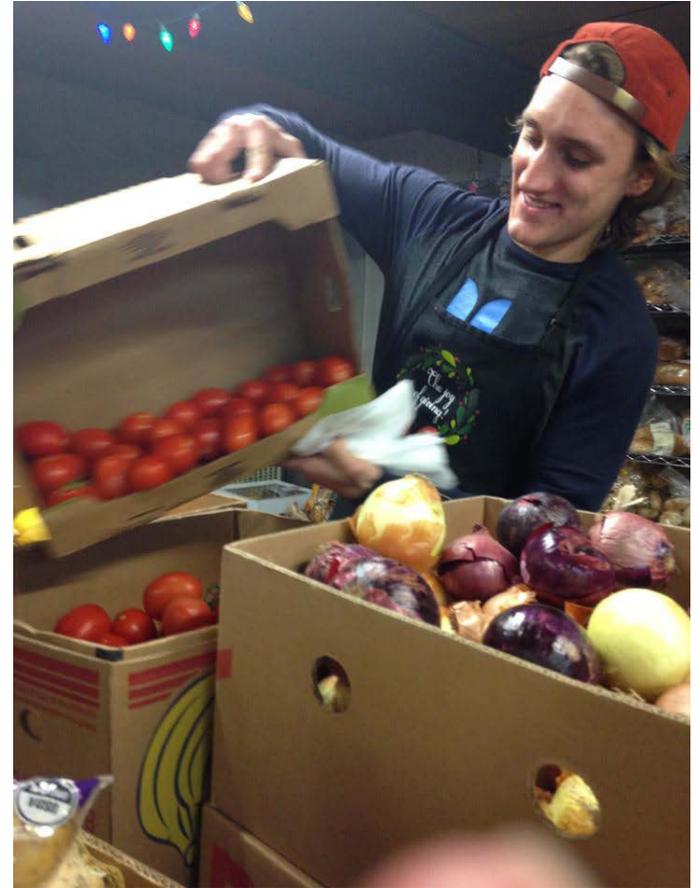
- ❑ Institutional reorientation toward U District: UDP investments, Burke Museum design
- ❑ Faculty and staff housing: Bridges @ 11th, studying more options for affordable housing near campus
- ❑ Innovation District: Station site, CoMotion on 45th, StartUp Hall, arts



UW planning and investments

13

- Expanding childcare: ~140 new slots in 2016
- Service learning and student volunteers – 95 placements in 2015-2016
- Campus Master Plan – update for next 10 years of growth



detailed background: www.seattle.gov/dpd/udistrict



Seattle
Office of Planning &
Community Development

S. Bowler