



Seattle
Office of Planning &
Community Development

**ONE SEATTLE PLAN
PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT:
EARLY ENGAGEMENT
January-June 2022**

CONTENTS

I. Engagement Strategies

a. Online Engagement

- i. One Seattle Plan Project Website
- ii. Social Media
- iii. Media Coverage
- iv. One Seattle Plan Engagement Hub

b. Stakeholder Engagement

- i. Community-Based Organization Partners
- ii. Community Liaison Cohort
- iii. Presentations to City Council, Commissions, & Agencies

II. Preliminary Engagement Findings: What We're Hearing

a. Housing

b. Transportation

c. Climate & Environment

d. Race & Equity

e. Economic Development

f. Parks & Open Space

g. Community Well-Being



PHASE 1: PROJECT LAUNCH

The Office of Planning & Community Development launched the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update in spring 2022. The central purpose of our work during this Phase was to introduce the One Seattle Plan to the public, and to establish early and ongoing outreach to Seattle’s communities in order to obtain critical feedback that will shape Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan Update.

This report summarizes some of the key engagement strategies launched during Phase 1 and provides an overview of the central themes and takeaways from input received during the first two quarters of 2022. To boost the transparency of our engagement findings, we have provided both a feedback overview (“What We’ve Heard”), as well as links to the full engagement datasets in both raw and summarized forms.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

During Phase 1, OPCD began implementing three key engagement strategies in a citywide effort to engage with a broad and inclusive range of stakeholders and communities. We focused our community engagement resources on strategies that center race and equity to amplify the people and communities who historically have been systematically prevented from accessing opportunities to influence policy decisions, frequently resulting in inequitable outcomes, disparate harms, and unequal access to benefits created by growth and investment.

- Online engagement strategies designed to reach more people than in-person engagement alone, lowering barriers to engagement and encouraging participation across the City and beyond
- Collaborative engagement partnerships with Community Based Organizations and Community Liaisons
- Leveraging existing City relationships and coordinated with outreach to key stakeholders

Online Engagement

One Seattle Plan Project Website

OPCD created a City website for the One Seattle Plan, which serves multiple functions as a tool for engagement. It will serve as a clearinghouse for public information about the engagement and planning process, and as a portal for posting key documents and updates in the planning and EIS process. This website features recordings of environmental review presentations, presentations to Council, our Comprehensive Plan Issue Briefs and Comprehensive Plan 101 presentation, and the One Seattle Plan Public Participation Plan. Finally, this website catalogues key technical reports and background documents that provide the public with a context for the kinds of technical analysis OPCD staff will be considering, along with engagement findings, when updating the current Comprehensive Plan.

From January-June of 2022, the One Seattle Plan project website was viewed 4,972 times.

During Phase 1, the following websites and social media were used to share information and provide opportunities for citizen feedback to help shape the Plan:

City Website: www.seattle.gov/opcd/one-seattle-plan

Email: OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov

Mailing List: [Sign Up Link](#)

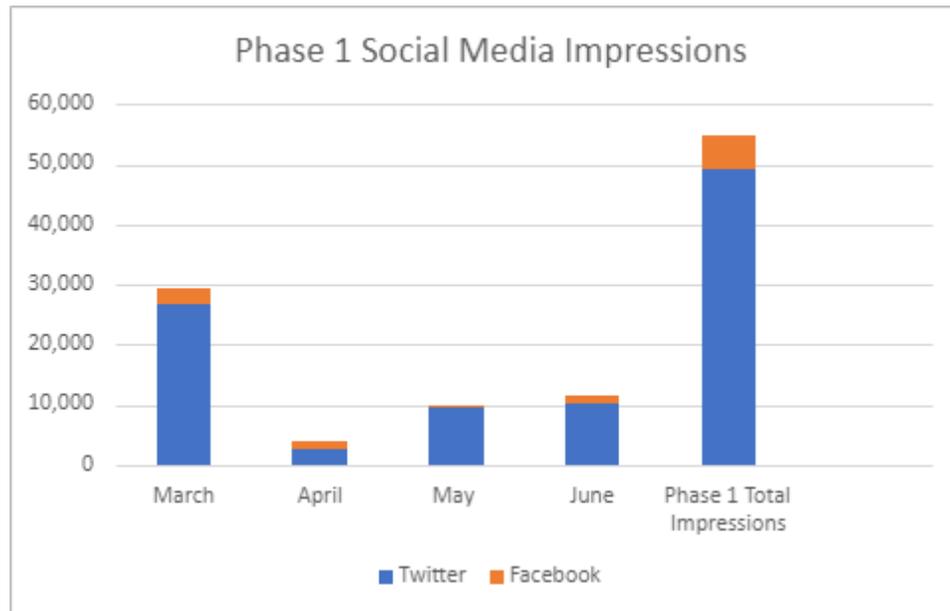
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SeattleOPCD

Twitter: www.twitter.com/SeattleOPCD

Social Media

During this first phase of engagement, OPCD paired virtual outreach via the Engagement Hub with extensive social media engagement. Social media allowed staff to present information about the Plan to the public, and to encourage engagement through discussion and sharing. **The combined**

reach of OPCD’s Twitter and Facebook messaging around the One Seattle Plan from March-June 2022 was 54,954 impressions.¹



Media Coverage

July 2022

Crosscut:

[How Seattle is planning for a quarter million more residents | Crosscut](#)

KUOW:

[KUOW - Spokane's embrace of missing middle housing sets up competition with Seattle](#)

[KUOW - Where should Seattle build homes for newcomers?](#)

[KUOW - Former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice and the origins of Seattle's growth strategy](#)

MyNorthwest.com:

[Seattle mulls a rezone of all residential neighborhoods - MyNorthwest.com](#)

The Urbanist:

[A Housing Advocate's Guide to Commenting on Seattle's Comprehensive Plan Update | The Urbanist](#)

CapitolHillSeattle.com:

[More 'urban villages' and more 'complete neighborhoods' — Capitol Hill EcoDistrict helping to shape new comprehensive plan for Seattle | CHS Capitol Hill Seattle News](#)

June 2022

The Urbanist:

[Seattle Reveals Rezoning Concepts and Invites Scoping Comments for Big 2024 Update | The Urbanist](#)

Seattle Times:

[Seattle planners ask for public input on growth plans | The Seattle Times](#)

¹ An impression is defined by Twitter and Facebook as the number of times a tweet or post was seen on Twitter or Facebook, respectively.

Urban @ UW:

[‘Something has to change:’ These architecture students are challenging Seattle’s housing norms | Urban@UW](#)

KUOW:

[KUOW - Housing Density: What we're missing without a middle option](#)

OPCD’s Daily Plan It Blog

- March 9: [Community Partnerships Will Drive “One Seattle” Comprehensive Plan Update](#)
- May 24: [Introducing the One Seattle Plan Engagement Hub!](#)
- June 23: [One Seattle Comprehensive Plan Seeks Input on Environmental Review](#)

One Seattle Plan Engagement Hub Launch

At the end of March, OPCD launched its citywide virtual engagement platform, which we are calling the [One Seattle Plan Engagement Hub](#). One of the main goals of the Engagement Hub is to lower barriers to engagement by making both information about and opportunities to provide feedback on the One Seattle Plan as accessible as possible. The Engagement Hub can be accessed anytime, and anywhere, and meets people where they are rather than asking them to come to the City. To further boost accessibility, particularly amongst non-English speaking populations, OPCD has ensured that the entire Engagement Hub, including report outs and educational materials, are available in all of Seattle’s Tier 1 languages with the click of a button. Finally, the Engagement Hub is designed to be interactive, allowing the public to comment, up or downvote, and enter discussions about the topics and engagement materials that it showcases.

To date, the Engagement Hub has garnered **6,447 page views**. Of these, **70.8%** of users accessed the platform via a **mobile device**.

OPCD heard from 2,348 individuals who provided both quantitative and qualitative feedback on our “Phase 1 Survey”. We also received 165 individual comments via the One Seattle Plan Engagement Hub. Including comments received as part of the Phase 1 Survey, **OPCD has received 10,243 feedback comments relating to the One Seattle Plan through the Engagement Hub**.

One Seattle Plan Materials on the Engagement Hub

We have used the Engagement Hub to educate the public and encourage users to engage with Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan Update. Staff has created and published two narrated slideshow videos:

- [“Comprehensive Plan 101”](#): this video walks viewers through the Plan, explaining the planning process and providing information about how the public can get involved.
- [“Centering Equity in the Comprehensive Plan”](#): this video explores the historical roots of the inequities we see in Seattle today, and explains how the One Seattle Plan is seeking to address these inequalities through the updating and engagement process.

We’ve also used plain language and graphics to break down the Comprehensive Plan’s elements into an approachable series of [Issue Briefs](#) that focus on some of the most talked-about issues and

elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Included in each Issue Brief are a set of questions designed to prompt discussion that supports engagement around these issues.

The Engagement Hub is our central location for members of the public to submit their comments and feedback about the One Seattle Plan, and is designed to foster open discussion among community members around this feedback. In Phase 1, we provided opportunities to submit public comments on the Engagement Hub through our:

- [“Phase 1 Survey”](#)
- [“Leave a General Comment”](#) section
- Comment and upvoting/downvoting features of all Engagement Hub Content
- Link buttons to email OPCD directly at OneSeattleCompPlan@seattle.gov

Looking forward, the public is also encouraged to submit formal comments on the One Seattle Plan’s environmental review through August 22nd, 2022.

Community-Based Organization Partners

Identifying and uplifting the voices of marginalized communities is a central driving principal for OPCD's overall community engagement strategy. To that end, OPCD has invested in community partnerships which will elevate the voices of marginalized communities in the creation and implementation of this engagement process.

OPCD partnered with five community-based organizations to help design and carry out public engagement strategies for the update of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan. Each organization worked with OPCD to create and refine a unique engagement workplan that centers the voices, needs, and visions of the BIPOC communities they serve and whom have been historically underrepresented in City planning and engagement processes. Beginning in Phase 1, OPCD has had the pleasure of partnering with the following organizations working in the following communities:

- [Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance \(APALA\)](#)
 - Beacon Hill, Downtown Seattle, Capitol Hill, First Hill, South Seattle, Central District, Ballard, Northgate, Greenlake, University District, Skyway & Displaced Residents Commuting to Seattle
- [Capitol Hill Eco District](#)
 - Capitol Hill, Central District, First Hill
- [Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association/ Duwamish Valley Youth Vision Project](#)
 - South Park, Georgetown
- [Estelita's Library](#)
 - Central District, Beacon Hill
- [Khmer Community of Seattle/King County/ Noio Pathways/ KIMYUNITY](#)
 - Southeast Seattle, White Center, Highland Park

Each of these community-based organizations are being compensated for their work through 12-month contracts at \$30K each. Their engagement workplans which are being implemented in community reflect and respond to the unique communication needs of its community, and anchor the One Seattle Plan's public outreach process in OPCD's [equitable approach to engagement](#).

CBO Engagement Snapshots

Each engagement workplan created by OPCD's five CBO partners reflects the different challenges and opportunities for engagement within each of the communities they serve. Accordingly, the timelines, methodologies, and engagement activities facilitated by each group vary widely. In this report we are providing a set of "CBO Snapshots" that offer a sense of the kinds of engagement work being done by each group during Phase 1. These are examples from a larger body of work being conducted by these five CBOs, which contribute to their overall feedback deliverables, and which will be shared with OPCD policy staff. The CBOs' engagement activities will also ultimately inform a set of policy recommendations for the One Seattle Plan written by the groups at the conclusion of their work with OPCD.

In June, **Khmer Community of Seattle King County, Noio Pathways, and KIMYUNITY** kicked off their in-person engagement by leading a fieldtrip with a group of Khmer elders. The engagement event was designed to allow this group to engage with the intersection of downtown development patterns and transit. The elders used the monorail and bus lines to commute from White Center to the Armory, where they engaged in a listening-circle style debrief of their experience of Seattle's transportation network, housing, displacement, public safety and access to the amenities they observed downtown. A group of Khmer youth, who are also conducting their own engagement events, provided technical support and documentation for the event, recording audio and taking photographs to document the feedback provided by the elders.



Khmer Elders enjoying the view from the monorail during an CBO partner-led engagement field trip in June. Photo credit: Judy Khun, KCSKC

In July, **Estelita's Library** worked with local planning firm Smash the Box to host an event soliciting and hearing its community's visions and needs around equitable transportation and housing. The event featured a chalk wall where members of the public could add their comments, as well as a hybrid component that allowed online visitors to add their feedback through social media. The event showcased key social justice literature that relates to and informs many of the policy changes the community wishes to see implemented in the One Seattle Plan.

Screenshot from Estelita's Library's Instagram account, which was used to collect additional comments for a chalkboard wall feedback exercise at an engagement event in July. Photo courtesy of Estelita's Library (@estelitaslib) on Instagram

Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association has worked to stand up a youth cohort that has begun exploring and documenting the needs, desires, and visions for the future of their South Park community through a series of walking tours. Using a photo documentation app developed with Gehl Architects, the youth cohort has been documenting issues and opportunities in their community in real time and will be using the datasets collected via the app to serve as source data for engagement analysis. After each walking tour, the youth leaders host a debrief about the



experience to determine what issues are most pressing in their community to inform their feedback on how the One Seattle Plan can address these issues.

DVSA Youth leaders on a walking-tour of South Park and Georgetown. The youth are piloting a photography app to document the conditions of their neighborhood. Photo credit: Joanne Ly, DVSA



Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) debuted its citywide digital survey in June at a recurring meeting of local union organizers and community-based organizations. It is planning on working with its extensive network to gather feedback from the public about the intersection of housing and transportation, and how these interrelated issues can be addressed by both the One Seattle Plan and SDOT's Seattle Transportation Plan.

In April, the **Capitol Hill EcoDistrict** hosted a plant sale in Cal Anderson Park where they engaged attendees in conversations around issues raised in the One Seattle Plan. The community discussions were aimed at gaining responses and promoting the launch of a digital survey that the group will be carrying out over the course of the summer; results from the Plant Sale outreach have informed engagement at subsequent in-person events, such as a 25 vendor Juneteenth Pop up event and a community charrette scheduled for September.



Members of the public engaging with Capitol Hill EcoDistrict staff at a Plant Sale event in Cal Anderson Park in April. Photo Credit: Alex Garland/ CHS 2022

Community Liaison Partners

In partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods, OPCD contracted with a cohort of ten Community Liaisons to develop and carry out both broad and deep engagement that has strategically amplified the voices of key underrepresented. OPCD's community liaison cohort is collectively conversant in Somali, Amharic, Oromo, Vietnamese, Chinese (Mandarin), Cham, Spanish, and has worked to engage with populations speaking these languages as well as with African American, Indigenous, Latinx, Seniors, People with Disabilities, and Unhoused populations across Seattle.

- By using their deep connections with those who have been historically underrepresented in past planning processes, Community Liaisons have been successful in ramping up participation in key engagement efforts such as the [Phase 1 Survey](#).
- Community Liaisons have also incorporated translation and interpretation to facilitate the use of the translation feature and translated content offered on the [Engagement Hub](#), further reducing barriers and increase participation on this virtual platform. In particular, the community liaisons' hybrid engagement methodology has boosted feedback contributions in the "[Leave a General Comment](#)" section, as well as views and downloads of the video presentations and educational materials available in the Hub in of Seattle's [Tier 1 languages](#).

The community liaisons are currently using similar strategies to ensure that their communities are well-represented in the feedback for the One Seattle Plan's environmental review process. In the coming months, each of the community liaisons will be facilitating a series of either in-person and virtual community conversations that explore the most pressing needs and visions that have emerged through each of their engagement efforts thus far.

Presentations to City Council, Commissions and Agencies

On July 12, 2021, the Seattle City Council's Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee held a hearing to learn about the racial equity analysis of the existing Urban Village strategy conducted by OPCD and the non-profit PolicyLink, which described the effectiveness of the current strategy in steering 83 percent of new housing to urban villages, but also its effect in accelerating displacement of people color and limiting housing choices in other areas of the city.

On September 24, 2021, OPCD staff returned to the committee to outline the Racial Equity Toolkit and other strategies that will be used to center racial equity in the outcomes of the comprehensive plan update, as well as describe the public engagement strategies that focus the City's limited financial and staff resources on seeking out and lifting up the perspectives of Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

On May 11, 2022, staff presented to the Seattle City Council Land Use Committee on progress on implementing the public engagement strategy for the update that is intended to center the voices from historically marginalized communities of color.

OPCD staff has attended and made presentations to both liaisons and full board meetings of 21 Boards and Commissions. At these presentations, staff introduced the One Seattle Plan and requested feedback from Board and Commission members regarding how they would like to be involved our engagement process, as well as soliciting feedback on specific policy topics that are being addresses as part of the Plan. Staff plans to return to each board over the course of the project to provide updates and continue to solicit feedback. Since September of 2021, OPCD staff has met with the following Boards and Commissions:

Community Involvement Commission	Seattle LGBTQ Commission
Green New Deal Oversight Board	Board of Parks and Recreation Commission
Mayor's Council on African American Elders	Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board
Human Rights Commission	Seattle Planning Commission
Seattle Arts Commission	Seattle Renter's Commission
Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board	Seattle School Traffic Safety Commission
Seattle Disability Commission	Seattle Transit Advisory Board
Seattle Freight Advisory Board	Seattle Women's Commission
Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission	Seattle Youth Commission
Seattle-King County Advisory Council for Aging & Disability	Urban Forestry Commission

Over the course of Phase 1, OPCD has worked closely with the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) Advisory Board, meeting periodically to obtain feedback on key elements of the One Seattle Plan including our Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) process, outreach to BIPOC stakeholders, equity-focused engagement strategies, and other aspects our engagement and planning efforts.

OPCD staff have also worked with the Indigenous Seattle Workgroup to ensure that our engagement is also specifically tailored to the indigenous community. Building our relationship with this community is an iterative process that will continue to evolve over the course of the One Seattle Plan, with the goal of centering the values, visions, and desires of Seattle's Indigenous population in this engagement and planning process.

WHAT WE'RE HEARING

Through the end of June, OPCD has heard from 2,348 individuals in our Phase 1 Survey and through the 1,001 registered users of the Engagement Hub. **In total, since the launch of the One Seattle Plan at the beginning of Phase 1, we have received 10,289 comments that provide critical community feedback through our Engagement Hub.** The feedback from these comments will inform both our planning and engagement as we move forward.

This report out provides a preliminary overview of these engagement findings. More detailed findings of the Phase 1 Survey publicly available in both a [written report out](#) and also as an interactive [survey analysis tool](#). Also available are a [detailed summary](#) and an unfiltered [dataset](#) of all 10,289 comments.

In our “Phase 1 Survey”, the subjects identified as being the highest priority for being addressed in the One Seattle Plan were: **housing availability and affordability, transportation and mobility, climate change, and racial and social equity.** The prioritization of these top three elements—Housing, Transportation, and Climate Change, in this order, remained the same across categories of race/ethnicity, homeownership, age, and gender. This report leads with these four elements, and also includes sections summarizing feedback content related to **economic development, parks & open space, and community well-being** as the next three most frequently discussed Plan elements.

The comments organized and analyzed here represent a huge range of thoughts and ideas about the future of Seattle, touching on many challenges and opportunities for communities across the city. Many issues fall within and be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan; some can be better addressed through plan implementation and other specific actions by various City departments who are working with OPCD on the update. This analysis simply reflects what we are hearing from community and provides a foundation for future feedback that will continue to grow over the course of our engagement for the One Seattle Plan.

Engagement feedback has been reviewed by OPCD policy staff, who are incorporating this feedback into their work to update the Comprehensive Plan. Over the course of 2022, we will combine this data—along with additional feedback obtained through our Engagement Process—with technical analysis of the Plan’s elements. Together, developing this technical analysis and obtaining more community input will allow us to create a Draft Update to Seattle’s Comprehensive Plan, which will be released for public review and comment in 2023.

HOUSING

Affordable Housing

The vast majority of the feedback we heard about Seattle’s need for new housing focused on the critical need for more affordable housing.

Many comments directly linked the need for affordable housing to the need for increased density, and to access to transportation, housing near parks and green space, and community resources. Expanding affordable housing was mentioned as particularly important for marginalized, low-income/low-wage, BIPOC, middle-class, and vulnerable communities (such as the elderly and/or

disabled communities). Frequently proposed strategies for addressing housing affordability included:

- Removing exclusionary zoning restrictions and support for multi-family residential and mixed-use buildings and increasing housing density
- Creating incentives and requirements for developers to build affordable housing
- Creating “pathways to ownership for low-income renters”
- Implementing rent control and rent assistance
- Investing anti-displacement and anti-gentrification strategies

Expanding Housing Options Citywide

Among all “Phase 1 Survey” responders, the responses to the question, “what types of new housing should we be adding as the city grows?”, ranked the top housing choices as: duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes (21.4%); 2 and 3-bedroom apartments (20.2%); and condominiums and co-ops to provide ownership opportunities (18.09%).

Less than 5% of all survey respondents thought that we should be adding new detached homes on small lots.

This result was consistent among those that identified as owning a home and renters. **Only 1.47% of those experiencing homelessness thought that we should be adding new detached homes on small lots.**

The majority feedback we heard indicated specific support for reducing or removing exclusionary zoning in Seattle were linked to comments urging the City to prioritize:

- Multifamily zoning or mixed zoning
- Developing housing near transit or with equitable access to transit
- Growing housing supply in all neighborhoods
- Increasing density through duplexes, triplexes, apartments, and mixed-used developments

Where We Need More Housing Density

Comments that focused specifically on density specified increasing housing density in and around:

- Current and expanded urban villages
- Public transportation, bike lanes, and transit corridors
- Both inside and outside of current zoning boundaries
- In and around retail hubs
- In support of more walkable neighborhoods

A significant number of comments in support of more density focused on the need for policies that allow for the creation of “missing middle housing”. Middle housing describes a range of multi-family or clustered housing types that are compatible in scale with detached homes or transitional neighborhoods. Missing middle housing is intended to meet the demand for walkable neighborhoods, respond to changing demographics, and provide housing at different price points. Comments pointed to the need to achieve greater density by:

- Allowing more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, six-plexes, eight-plexes, and townhomes throughout Seattle
- Upzoning Neighborhood Residential zones to allow missing middle housing in these well-resourced areas
- Removing complex regulations (related to height and parking requirements) to allow missing middle housing
- Concentrating density near transit hubs and corridors

Rent Control & Homelessness

There was frequent overlap in comments that addressed housing affordability and rent control. Many responses directly tied the lack of affordable housing in Seattle to the homeless crisis and suggested the adoption of housing policies and programs to respond to the struggles experienced by the unhoused community.

While policies governing the legalities or implementing rent control are not specifically addressed in the Comprehensive Plan, it bears noting that we received many comments advocating for rent control as an anti-displacement and anti-gentrification strategy. The same can be said for comments advocating that homelessness be addressed through the provision of more City-funded mental health services and halting the displacement of encampments.

TRANSPORTATION

In our Phase 1 Survey, 67.6% of responses to the question, “what strategies and opportunities should we incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan to reduce Seattle’s carbon footprint?” focused on changes to our current transportation system. Specifically, respondents called for the Comprehensive Plan to:

- “Expand access to public transit” (29.8%)
- “Expand Neighborhood Greenways, Stay Healthy Streets, and other strategies to provide more space for people to bike and walk safely” (20.7%)
- “[Invest in] more sidewalks and crosswalks” (16.7%)

Comments focusing on public transit called for the City to:

- Expand transit access both within the city and regionally
- Invest in a transit system that is both economically and environmentally sustainable (zero emissions and free ridership)
- Allow areas around the stations to be developed as mixed-development hubs with services like apartments, bars, hotels, & restaurants

Comments focused on alternative transportation (biking, rolling, and walking) emphasized improving safety, convenience, and access to these modes through infrastructure improvements (such as bike lanes and bike parking). Many of these comments suggested prioritizing these mobility options over investments in car-oriented infrastructure, noting the damaging effects of existing car-dominated infrastructure (parking constraints, congestion, and safety concerns related to vehicle crashes).

Comments also focused on improving walkability, specifically advocating for

- Improved safety for pedestrians
- Creating walkable neighborhoods
- Designating spaces/zones for pedestrians
- Prioritizing pedestrian networks throughout the city
- Improving/cleaning up existing sidewalks

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

As noted above, most responses to the Phase 1 Survey question, “what strategies and opportunities should we incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan to reduce Seattle’s carbon footprint?” were focused on changes to our transportation system. The remaining responses focused on supporting business owners and individuals:

- Almost 20% of respondents (19.3%) identified providing supports to business owners as the next most important arena for carbon reduction, by: “expanding supports to help business owners install solar panels” (10.1%), and providing “incentives to help businesses convert to electric heating” (9.2%)
- 13.5% of respondents identified making carbon reduction easier at the individual level, by providing “resources to help homeowners with building weatherization” (7%) and “providing more electric vehicle charging stations” (6.5%)

General comments addressing environmental and climate-related topics frequently touched on:

- Improving noise and air pollution
- Meeting city, regional, state, and national climate mitigation goals
- Prioritizing environmental and climate justice
- Protecting trees and planting new trees to combat the urban heat island effect and improve air quality
- Reducing emissions as a top priority and shifting transportation away from cars and towards greener alternatives

By far, the two biggest climate threats identified by commenters were air quality and extreme temperatures. Respondents frequently cited air pollution, wildfire smoke, hot and cold weather changes, and the related health implications in communities, particularly among those communities most vulnerable to these extreme shifts.

Water-related climate threats in the comments included rain, droughts, heavy rain/flooding, water scarcity, sea-level rise, water table rise, ocean acidification, and water pollution.

Concerns about trees and green space specifically called attention to loss of tree canopy due to temperature increases or development, resulting in worsened urban heat island effects, habitat loss, and lack of shade, poor air quality, and erosion. Suggested strategies for combating these effects of the loss of green space and tree canopy included protecting existing trees and green space and planting more trees.

RACE & EQUITY

We acknowledge that Seattle’s BIPOC communities—which are the central focus of our engagement work—are not as well represented in this initial engagement report out as we would like, despite

our efforts to center these communities in our outreach. Overall, in Phase 1 we received responses at around about 25% BIPOC compared to 75% White respondents, compared to Seattle’s BIPOC population of around 33%. We will continue to focus our limited staff and budget resources on uplifting the voices and perspectives of these communities as our Engagement Process unfolds.

However, it is important to note that while we heard from a smaller percentage of BIPOC respondents than we would have liked, the kinds of comments we received from BIPOC respondents tended to mirror those of White respondents *in terms of the kinds of priorities they wished to see represented in the One Seattle Plan*. That is, what was important to BIPOC communities—things like access to more equitable housing, transportation options, and climate change adaptation strategies—was also important to other respondents as well. The central task of the One Seattle Plan, therefore, becomes a question of how to deliver access to these amenities in a more equitable way than has been done in the past.

Comments about equity envisioned equitable access to resources like parks and green spaces, community centers, medical facilities, grocery stores, libraries, and schools. Comments about race touched on improved equity for BIPOC community members, specifically around income, wealth and generational wealth, housing, and gentrification and displacement concerns.

Comments about the need to address climate-vulnerable populations mentioned the need for equitable, environmentally just investments, particularly around housing, among low-income, BIPOC communities, elder and youth. Many respondents also focused on:

- Affordable childcare
- More preschool options
- Cleaner and safer green spaces
- Cleaner and safer transportation routes to schools

Most comments that identified the need to center race and equity did not signify specific ways underrepresented community members want to be engaged in the One Seattle Plan, but instead specified groups that should be involved the planning process itself. These groups included BIPOC communities generally, BIPOC homeowners, the unhoused community, low-income communities, LGBTQ+ communities, immigrants and non-US citizens, pedestrians, elders, and youth and young adults.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Many comments related to economic development addressed economic divides present in Seattle, and how this creates challenges in related areas like housing, equity, and community well-being. Strategies mentioned include:

- Building mixed-use developments with retail opportunities on the first floor and residential above
- Creating workforce housing and other affordable housing to address income gaps between tech workers and others
- Considering the needs of community members who work outside of the corporate world, especially in relation to transportation and childcare
- Implementing job training programs
- Supporting the strategies developed by the Green New Deal to create green jobs

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Respondents suggested investing and improving existing parks and greenspace as well as increasing equitable access to these places. A few comments specified safe, clean, and natural spaces. Some suggested:

- Expanding existing programming in Seattle’s parks and open spaces
- Improving connectivity between existing parks and open spaces
- Adding service-learning opportunities
- Increasing the number of outdoor play areas
- Utilizing street parking as open space
- Better managing the relationship between the unhoused community and the City’s parks and open spaces

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

The majority of comments falling under the “Community Well-Being” element of the Comprehensive Plan Update focused on three general categories: homelessness, public safety, and public health. The granularity of some of the proposed solutions could mean that they do not necessarily fall within the purview of the Comprehensive Plan Update; however, we are including them both to reflect the frequency of these comments and their relationship to key policy areas that are set by the Plan Update.

Homelessness

Responses that addressed homelessness discussed:

- The need for more affordable housing for this population
- The negative effect of exclusionary zoning on housing affordability
- The importance of City-funded resources to address what many respondents called, “root causes” of homelessness, including physical and mental health resources, stable housing, job and technological literacy training, and education

Public Safety

Many of the comments received discussed a need for increased public safety generally.

- Some respondents specified the need for safety improvement related to public transportation issues and traffic violence, including improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians
- Comments about safety specified a need for increased safety in/for
 - Between and within neighborhoods
 - Affordable housing and rent control
 - Parks, businesses/organizations
 - Public spaces for marginalized groups

Public Health

Comments calling for better public health were also linked to the need for specific community resources and services such as: community centers, family services, holistic approaches to health and education, mental health services, and a broad spectrum of social services more generally.