

April 29, 2009

Meeting held at El Centro de la Raza

Needs:

- More parks – especially “pocket parks” in between small parts of the neighborhood
- Improve and expand the children’s park at El Centro de la Raza
- Community swimming pool
- Walking trails/bike paths
- Affordable housing for low income earners/ develop south El Centro property next to tunnel
- No immigration status questions for renters
- Community health clinic
- Legal clinic
- Access to technology at no cost, with training on how to use
- Indoor Community gymnasium
- Performing Arts Center for youth which can be rented out to community for special events (especially if near train station)
- Improved traffic lights, reduced speeds
- Pedestrian barriers between traffic and pedestrians
- Safe access to Rainier Avenue
- Safety in at train stations, especially in and around the tunnel (concern about youth/loitering)
- Short-term free parking for small trips, errands, quick shopping and pick up of purchased items
- Long-term parking for non-resident train riders
- El Centro housing development should contain indoor parking and store fronts at street level and should include a kiosk and a fountain and a Latin American food market
- Riderships costs, transfers and parking permits need to be affordable for working people
- Small vehicle transportation in and around the neighborhood
- Public transportation access to West Seattle
- More open spaces for children, youth and families to gather
- More Social Services and Resources
- Free ESL classes for both English and Spanish speakers (Dual language)
- Vocational training
- Activities and events to get to know each other and understand the many cultures
- Gathering place with auditorium and small rooms to encourage community use/rental

Vision for neighborhood Businesses

- Pharmacy
- Butcher shop
- Fruit stand
- Farmer’s market
- Laundromat
- Beauty shop
- Botanical store/herb shop

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- Quick stop/shop store for essentials at regular prizes (unlike 7-11 and others who have exorbitant prices for food and other items)
- Taqueria
- Arts and crafts store, including textiles
- More restaurants and coffee shops

Positive Impacts of Light Rail service

- Trains are good for the environment
- Fast travel saves time

Negative Impacts

- Fear of increased crime as more people travel through or move into the community

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Themes

- Pedestrian Safety/ decrease speed limits on Beacon and 15th Avenues
- Coordinate and extend traffic signals that provide enough time to cross safely
- Increase safe crossing areas
- Increase traffic lights
- Increase police patrols
- Increase police response to calls regarding robberies, car thefts, accidents (police only come if there are injuries, otherwise they come hours after a report or not at all)

Housing

- Increase affordable housing units
- Develop property on southern edge of El Centro property to include parking and stores

Recreation

- Increase green zones
- Add a community center with space for cultural events, dances (Jefferson community center is too small and is always in use, also is very expensive)
- Add a community swimming pool
- Add community gymnasium for exercise and sports
- Add activities for youth, children and elderly
- Add community gathering hall for meetings and cultural events
- Add activities trail for walking and meeting neighbors
- Expand and improve El Centro's playground

Resources

- Legal clinic to assist with immigration issues
- Health clinic – for easy walk-in treatment (Odessa Brown and SeaMar are too far away)
- Improve travel inside the community
- Improve travel to So. White Center and West Seattle
- Improve access to Rainier Ave So.
- Free language schools for all
- Community wants art and institutions to be reflective of all Latino cultures in area (Mexican/ Salvadorean, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Guatemalan, etc)
- Increase Latin flavor and cultural icons
- Affordable child care
- Senior care

Parking/transportation

- Can we afford to ride the train?
- What will the cost be for transfers between buses and train?
- Street safety with increased traffic
- Pollution due to increased traffic

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- How will traffic and parking be monitored?
- Will there be long-term parking for non-residents?

Businesses

- We need a pharmacy
- We need a Laundromat for the community although we have access as residents of El Patio

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Needed businesses in town center:

- Pharmacy
- Taqueria
- Laundromat
- Farmer's Market
- Night life: Café's taquerias, dance hall , pubs,
- Mexican bakery
- Ice cream shop
- Locally owned businesses
- Multi-lingual bookstore
- Breakfast places, cafes
- Improved night life: Places that stay open later besides bars
- Organic/Health food store (*not expensive like PCC)
- Women' shop (boutique)
- Crafts store
- Hardware store
- Retail be owned by communities of color
- Affordable organic food store (locally owned and operated)
- Consignment shop
- Picture-framing shop
- Businesses
- Ice cream shop
- Butcher shop
- Mexican bakery/kiosks/fast ethnic food sotres (locally owned)
- Movie House or movie rental
- Import trade store/ local/ fair trade only
- Art gallery to promote local art/structures and construcion to maintain cultural community identity
- Development must provide green energy, green jobs
- Develop method for exchanging home grown crops with local businesses
- Food and vegetable stands
- Local post office
- Hardware store
- Multilingual bookstore
- Retail space and businesses to be owned and developed by communities of color

Needed resources:

- Employment training and training resources
- Assistance with small business development
- Free legal clinic/community health center/counseling services
- Community health clinic
- Increased transportation between Central Area, So. Park, White Center, and West Seattle

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- Increased access to Rainier
- Increased access to computers/technology/internet café/free training/WiFi
- Increased green spaces and parks
- Swimming pool
- Community gymnasium
- Senior activities
- Improve and expand El Centro's playground
- Free multi-language classes
- Foreclosure and mortgage assistance so people will not be forced to lose homes as neighborhood prices increase

Safety:

- Additional parking
- Speed bumps
- Decreased speeds
- Safe pedestrian crosswalks
- Timed and coordinated traffic lights to improve both flow of traffic and pedestrian movement
- Increased lighting on streets/playfields, Cheasty Blvd, in general
- Increased safety at viewpoints by increasing lighting, benches, fences, play areas, covered space
- Improve/widen Beacon Avenue
- Expansion of Beacon Avenue Boulevard to North Beacon Hill (Rizal Bridge); add bike path
- Change curbs to enforce traffic flow patterns
- Family, not professional bike access
- Widen curbs/add trees, green spaces, to reduce pollution, noise, and to protect pedestrians
- Improved signage
- Bicycle parking
- Strengthen emergency services/increased response system –police/hospital access
- Walking trails
- Barriers between traffic and pedestrians
- Green spaces with benches and play areas

Cultural recreational and open space needs:

- Important for viewpoints to be safe—reiterated—need fences, play areas, lighting, safe access, benches
- Cultural/recreation/some listed elsewhere:
- Performance arts theatre/place to learn about music, play instruments/buy music
- Auditorium/gymnasium for exercise and sports
- Dance hall
- Turf/ grass fields/soccer fields
- Murals and art works that reflect the multi-cultural flavor of the diverse Latino community

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- Youth facility targeting Latino youth
- Youth activities center for dance, poetry, instrumental, writing, tutoring and cultural activities
- Organized soccer league
- Affordable housing for seniors (wait-list is too long)!
- Public art to be representative of community
- Culturally relevant places stay open longer at night (other than bars)
- Central square – performance arts area, could be in center of new El Centro housing/business development

Housing needs:

- Affordable housing for work force families and individuals
- Raised organic beds for all homes with yard space or lawns (to be shared, sold, or exchanged in community or with local businesses, or for family consumption)
- Change zoning to allow for El Centro's development of its southern edge to include underground parking, street level businesses, and multi-use affordable housing for low income, workforce families and seniors.
- El Centro's housing development should include community performance and gathering space
- Ensure that current residents are able to continue to reside in the neighborhood without fearing that rents will force them out.

Environmental concerns:

- Pollution
- Need to increase number of trees/green educational programs, training/provide information/teach
- Increased green spaces and trails

Concerns:

- Safety between trains and cars
- Safety between trains and pedestrians