

Neighborhood Plan Update Phase II Workshop with Members of the Latino/Hispanic Community

June 2, 2009
El Patio Apartments

Part I: Places and Connections

Exercise to discuss gaps and opportunities for improving pedestrian, bike and transit connectivity. (Where do you live/work/shop and mode of travel)

- People walk a lot to: Beacon Hill Elementary; ABC Market and Red apple; El Centro de la Raza; parks & Jefferson community center, etc. But they find that it is dangerous both because of traffic, absence of safe crosswalks, and crime.
- Most drive to Beacon Hill Elementary due to unsafe Holgate/15th/Bayview configuration
- Tenants want access to Kimball Elementary
- People drive to Costco, Lowes and Sears
- SODO access is not walkable, unsafe, use #38 bus or drive
- Some work in Bellevue and drive down McClellan to Rainier, then to go.
- People take bus to White Center and downtown
- Accessing a pharmacy is difficult; People take bus to Rainier and McClellan and two buses to Walgreens at Rainier and Genesee which is less expensive than Rite Aid
- People take two buses to Garfield H.S. or drive
- People take buses to Mercer Middle School or drive
- More would walk to Jefferson Community Center if Boulevard was extended from Spokane to J. Rizal Bridge
- Some walk to Jefferson Comm. Center but dangerous to cross streets.
- Some walk to Macpherson's fruit/vegetable stand on Columbian Way; Most drive
- Beacon Elementary playground is the only one nearby but is extremely dangerous to access due crossing at 15th and Holgate
- People drive to work downtown because the bus doesn't come early enough and the train schedule will not meet that need, either.
- Need traffic light at 15th and McClellan; Need traffic light at 15th and Lander
- Redesign needed at Holgate and 15th/Bayview crossings
- Traffic going to Spokane St. makes area extremely dangerous to pedestrians
- Only access to West Seattle is #60 bus to White Center
- People walk to Franklin H.S. via 14th to Beacon to McClellan, across Rainier and MLK. This is very dangerous and a hard walk because McClellan's is very steep
- Children also attend Mercer, and schools in the North End and travel by Metro or school bus

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- Need Bayview to open up below 23rd to Rainier
- People work on Queen Anne, U-District and Capitol Hill; Some drive, others use bus

Part II: Building a Great Town Center

Exercise to explore relationships between number of households, retail destinations, parks and walkability. (Creating a town center, housing density, building heights, etc)

- Would like mixed housing, spread out heights, with open spaces and parks
- Building height not to exceed 8 stories and to include underground parking
- New construction should provide jobs by creating office space, janitorial services,
- Business development should be locally owned
- Housing should accommodate everyone together: Elderly, young families, etc.
- Support building on El Centro property. Change height code to provide mixed use development with underground parking and businesses at street level.

Part III: Emerging Priorities and Opportunities

Capturing new ideas or major concepts (new themes and remaining issues)

- Would like a Red apple alternative store because it is expensive
- Job training and activities for residents
- Concerned that rents will increase and force residents to move away
- Need youth center and mentoring programs with vocational education access,
- Expand el Centro's child care program
- multicultural, multi-ethnic, mixed income and should be affordable to local residents
- Need a Kiosk to serve as a fruit/vegetable stand and performance venue, preferably at station site on Lander St.
- Need soccer fields and baseball courts closer to 14th Ave and south of Holgate
- Possible seasonal open market plaza at Lander Station
- Want more parks and green spaces for children to play and for families to gather
- Need a Laundromat
- Want safer access to Mt Baker and Seward Park and Lake Washington
- Want safe places for children to ride bicycles