

Repurposing the Right-of-Way Issue Brief

- December LUT Committee: Preliminary Discussion
- March LUT Committee: Discussion of Themes
- April LUT: Draft Outline Discussion
- May 12 Full Commission: Draft Issue Brief Discussion (today)
- May 19 LUT Committee: Working Session – Finalize Draft Issue Brief
- May 26 Full Commission: Approve Issue Brief Content

Draft Issue Brief Outline

- I. Vision
- II. Background
- III. Opportunities for the Comprehensive Plan Major Update and Seattle Transportation Plan
- IV. Addressing Equity When Repurposing the Right-of-Way
- V. Opportunity to Repurpose the Right-of-Way to Prioritize Other Modes and Community Amenities
- VI. Building on Existing City Plans

Vision

The Seattle Planning Commission envisions a transition away from dominant use of the public right-of-way for automobile use towards a future condition that prioritizes active transportation options and other uses that primarily benefit the public and the environment.

This transition will balance transportation and equity goals by using right-of-way space more efficiently and at lower costs.

Repurposing the right-of-way to include multiple functions and uses will increase quality of life for Seattleites of all ages, income levels, and abilities, while also contributing to the City's climate and sustainability goals.

Opportunity to Repurpose the Right-of-Way to Prioritize Other Modes and Community Amenities

- Reduce single-occupant vehicle use and on-street parking
- Increase investments in transit and non-motorized infrastructure for bikes and pedestrians, including ongoing investments in the sidewalk network
- Build on Vision Zero principles to reduce speeds and incorporate safety measures
- Recognize the importance of the public realm for gathering and social interactions

Opportunity to Repurpose the Right-of-Way to Prioritize Other Modes and Community Amenities

- Maintain right-of-way uses that promote economic development such as streeteries and other vending opportunities
- Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure and other environmental benefits wherever possible
- Prepare for the transition to autonomous vehicles (car sharing versus car ownership strategy)

Individual Review Time

04:51

Discussion and Next Steps

- Suggested edits and comments from today's discussion will be incorporated into a revised draft issue brief
- Revised draft will be discussed during final working session at 5/19 Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting
- Final draft issue brief text will be presented for approval at 5/26 full Commission meeting