



City of Seattle

Seattle Planning Commission

McCaela Daffern and David Goldberg, Co-Chairs
Vanessa Murdock, Executive Director

SEATTLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

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| Commissioners Present: | Andrew Dannenberg, Matt Hutchins, Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson, Rick Mohler, Dalton Owens, Dhyana Quintanar, Monika Sharma, Julio Sanchez, Jamie Stroble, Kelabe Tewolde, Nick Whipple |
| Commissioners Absent: | McCaela Daffern, Roque Deherrera, David Goldberg, Radhika Nair, Lauren Squires |
| Commission Staff: | John Hoey, Senior Policy Analyst; Olivia Baker, Planning Analyst; Robin Magonegil, Commission Coordinator |
| Guests: | Radcliffe Dacanay, Seattle Department of Transportation |

Seattle Planning Commission meeting minutes are not an exact transcript and represent key points and the basis of discussion.

Referenced Documents discussed at the meeting can be viewed here:

<https://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/meetings>

Chair's Report & Minutes Approval

Commissioner Rose Lew Tsai-Le Whitson called the meeting to order at 7:36 am and announced several upcoming Commission meetings. Commissioner Whitson offered the following land acknowledgement:

'On behalf of the Seattle Planning Commission, I'd like to humbly recognize that we are gathered on Indigenous land, the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples. We thank these caretakers of this land who have lived and continue to live here since time immemorial. We acknowledge the role that traditional western-centric planning practices have played in harming, displacing, and attempting to erase Native communities and we respect Indigenous rights to sovereignty and self-determination. We commit being better listeners, learners and to lifting indigenous voices. We also commit to identifying racist practices, to practice allyship and strive to center restorative land stewardship rather than unsustainable and extractive use of the land.'

Commissioner Whitson noted that this meeting is a hybrid meeting with some Commissioners and staff participating remotely while other Commissioners and staff are participating in the Boards and Commissions Room at Seattle City Hall. They asked fellow Commissioners to review the Color Brave

Space norms and asked for volunteers to select one or more of the norms to read aloud. They suggested to Commissioners that they collectively agree to abide by these norms.

Announcements

John Hoey, Seattle Planning Commission Staff, reviewed the format of the meeting. He noted that public comment could be submitted in writing via email at least eight hours before the start of the meeting or provided in person by members of the public attending the meeting at City Hall. Mr. Hoey stated that full Commission meetings will be recorded and posted to the Planning Commission's website. He noted that these recordings are not in lieu of the Commission's minutes, which are approved at the next full Commission meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Rick Mohler moved to approve the July 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kelabe Tewolde seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this portion of the meeting.

Commission Business

Olivia Baker, Seattle Planning Commission staff, provided an overview of the Commission's Hybrid Meeting Guide. The Commission uses Microsoft Teams Live Events for its public meetings. This document includes information for Commissioners on hybrid meeting etiquette, troubleshooting tips, guidance on asking for staff help, and how to use the audio line option if necessary.

Update: Seattle Transportation Plan

Radcliffe Dacanay, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Mr. Dacanay stated that the draft Seattle Transportation Plan (STP) will be released today. He stated that the draft Plan is an opportunity for the public to provide comments on its contents. There will be a sixty-day comment period ending on October 23. SDOT's Phase Three engagement begins with the release of the draft Plan. Staff will be going to community events and libraries for pop-up events. The first of these will be held with the Vietnamese Senior Community.

Mr. Dacanay stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will likely be released next week and will have a forty-five-day comment period. This comment period will overlap with those for the draft STP and the draft Comprehensive Plan in September. He acknowledged that this will be a lot of material for the Commissioners to review, but hopefully they can see the links between land use and transportation. He stated that the DEIS for the STP is a non-project environmental review document. The DEIS will be a high-level document and will not include calculations, modeling, and other quantitative information that would normally go into a DEIS for a specific project.

Commission Discussion

- Commissioners asked for more information on specific issues that the community may have concerns about. Mr. Dacanay stated that the upcoming Comprehensive Plan will consider land use scenarios related to the existing transportation plan. The STP considers the most intense land use scenario proposed in the Comprehensive Plan and analyzes three different transportation scenarios with a range of investments. He stated that the timing of the two documents is a challenge because it is not known at this point which land use alternative will be selected.
- Commissioners asked about the types of impacts that have been identified in the DEIS. Mr. Dacanay stated that the growth predicted in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan's land use alternatives results in impacts to the former transportation plan. The DEIS will show no significant adverse impacts because they would be mitigated by multi-modal transportation investments.
- Commissioners requested information on reductions in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Mr. Dacanay stated that information has not yet been calculated and will probably be in the Final EIS. He stated that one significant change that could reduce VMT is the City's transportation strategies aligning with the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2050 plan. Policy direction to reduce VMT will be established in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan. This year's state legislature passed House Bill 1181, requiring local governments to plan for climate change. The City's 2013 Climate Action Plan used 2008 data in its goal to reduce VMT by twenty percent. Mr. Dacanay stated that the City has not determined the best way to calculate VMT. For example, it is difficult to measure VMT from commuters going in and out of Seattle. There are several issues that the City needs to work on in coordination with the State, the Mayor's Office, and the Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD). The fifteen-minute city concept provides the opportunity to select alternative travel modes. It is difficult to change the current dynamic related to transportation choices, especially when so many people are working from home. SDOT is working to communicate to the public that shifting travel space for non-car travel can ease traffic in the long run even if it feels like something is being taken away in the short term. They are open to ideas for how to better share that message.
- Commissioners asked for more information on the relationship between the City's growth projections and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) transportation modeling. Mr. Dacanay stated that the City will be coordinating with the region, other neighboring cities, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to determine an appropriate planning framework for meeting the intent of House Bill 1181. The City will need to work with partners to minimize the need to drive. We need to have more affordable housing closer to where we work.
- Commissioners asked if parking and parking requirements are addressed in the draft Plan. Mr. Dacanay stated that curbside management and residential parking zones are addressed in the draft STP. Minimum parking requirements will be addressed in the upcoming draft Comprehensive Plan.
- Commissioners asked if the draft STP includes any targets on ambitious goals related to increasing bikes and reducing noise and air pollution. Mr. Dacanay stated that the draft Plan includes high-level measures that cascade down into mode-specific measures. SDOT's Phase Three engagement will likely identify what areas they should be looking at and measuring.
- Commissioners requested more information on how the draft STP addresses the need for more robust action on Vision Zero. Mr. Dacanay stated that safety is front and center in the draft Plan, expanding on SDOT's recent Vision Zero top-to-bottom review. Strategies include various ways to manage traffic and slow down speeds in residential neighborhoods and school zones, including

expanding camera enforcement. SDOT will be working with communities to define how they want to close streets to cars and open neighborhood streets to walking and cycling. Speed limits are currently twenty miles per hour in neighborhoods. SDOT may consider lower speed limits. For example, the standard in Europe is twenty kilometers per hour (approximately twelve miles per hour). Freight in neighborhoods should slow down also. SDOT will explore repurposing streets to reduce capacity and increase slower, lower capacity modes.

- Commissioners asked if the draft STP included any strategies related to autonomous vehicles. Mr. Dacanay stated that the Plan includes a section on new and emerging mobility. He stated that SDOT staff are actively engaged in developing policies on how to manage streets for autonomous vehicles if/when they arrive. Staff is learning from work done in San Francisco to make sure Seattle has the right policies in place. Some select pathways such as from the airport or train station to cruise ships, for example, could be a way to introduce these policies.
- Commissioners requested more information about SDOT's Phase Three engagement. Mr. Dacanay stated there are community engagement events happening every day for the next sixty days, including weekend events, fairs, and other outreach activities. These include opportunities to work together with OPCD, King County Metro, and Sound Transit. Events will be posted on the engagement plan website. SDOT has a planner dedicated to coordinating with community-based organizations.
- Commissioners thanked Mr. Dacanay for his update and asked how the Planning Commission can help with the draft STP. He stated that the Commission can hold SDOT accountable for what ought to be in the Plan. This is a plan for the community and an opportunity to be big and bold. The STP is a great starting point for the future of transportation in Seattle over the next ten to fifteen years. He stated that he looks forward to receiving comments from the Planning Commission.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 am.