

MEETING MINUTES

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Director, OPCD

Jill Crary, Chair

Kevin O'Neill, Vice Chair

Adam Amrhein

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Caitlin Truong

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
Strategic Advisor

Windy Bandekar
Planner

Juliet Acevedo
Administrative Staff

**Office of Planning and Community
Development**

600 4th Avenue, Floor 5
PO Box 94788
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

TEL 206-615-1349

FAX 206-233-7883

seattle.gov/designcommission

October 17, 2024

Convened 9:00 am

Adjourned 4:00 pm

Projects Reviewed

Commission business

Memorial Stadium

Transforming Age Skybridge

SR 520 - Portage Bay Bridge and Roanoke Lid

Commissioners Present

Phoebe Bogert (attended virtually in morning only)

Jill Crary (attended virtually in afternoon only)

Kate Clark (attended virtually at Memorial Stadium
deliberation only)

Brian Markham

Kevin O'Neill (attended virtually in morning only)

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Caitlin Truong

Commissioners Excused

Adam Amrhein

Ben Gist

Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Windy Bandekar



Memorial Stadium- public realm enhancements (9:00 – 10:00 am)

The Commission completed its review of the schematic design phase of the Memorial Stadium project. The Commission started its review of the schematic design phase at its October 3 meeting. The Commission started the meeting by deliberating on issues related to visual and physical connections between Memorial Stadium and Seattle Center, Public Engagement, Public Art, and Transit connections. The Commissioners 7-0 to support the project, with the following recommendations (starts at minute 53):

Stakeholder engagement that provides an opportunity to have students comment on project designs
The following people were presenters and attended virtually:

- David Kunselman, Seattle Center
- Lance Lopes, One Roof
- Barbara Swift, Swift Company
- Angie Nygren, Generator Studio
- Brad Tong, SOJ

The following people attended virtually:

- Angie Nygren, Generator Studio
- Valancy Blackwell, Seattle Center
- John Liams, Generator Studio

Commissioners made the following recommendations

1. Continue engaging existing operational stakeholder groups for seamless operation in the new spatial configuration.
2. Evaluate feasibility of including public art infrastructure costs in project budget.
3. Study and clearly identify pedestrian/bike routes to and from site, particularly connecting to:
 - Future light rail
 - Monorail
4. Continue indigenous engagement
5. For corner buildings:
 - Consider opening to exterior
 - Evaluate impact on center
 - Consider material choices for "friendliness" if full programming access isn't possible
6. Enhance community engagement:
 - Conduct engagement at schools during lunch periods
 - Expand outreach to game attendees (current users)
 - Goal to expand user base beyond current users

Commission business – 10:00 – 10:30 am

The Commission was briefed on other projects to be reviewed for the day. Commissioners also participated in the Great Shakeout, a two-minute earthquake preparedness drill

Transforming Age skybridge (10:30 – Noon)

The Commission received its second presentation on this proposed skybridge. The focus of the meeting was to present updated skybridge designs, and the proposed public benefit package. The public benefit package included the following elements:

Public benefit matrix

PUBLIC BENEFIT	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED BENEFIT	CODE	ESTIMATED COST
1 Open Space Activation: Improvements to 8th Ave Landscape	New garden plantings, furnishings, and pet relief area	4,450 SF	Not required	\$100,000
	Planting Area	2,200 SF		
	Paved Area	160 SF		
	Furnishings	20 LF		
	Trash	Quantity: 2		
	Pet Relief Area	175 SF		
2 Public Art: Integrated Artwork by Norie Sato	Publicly accessible artwork within deep setback along 8th Ave		Not required	\$250,000
	Screen pieces	Quantity: 3		
	Sculptural pieces with integrated lighting	Quantity: 6-8		
3 Pedestrian Safety: 8th Ave. & Marion	Extension of existing curbs, curb ramps, crosswalks and adjustments to storm drain.		Not required	\$100,000
	COS standard curbs	280 LF		
	COS standard curb ramps	Quantity: 4		
	COS standard sidewalk paving	2,100 SF		
	COS standard crosswalk striping	Allowance		
	COS storm drainage inlet	Quantity: 4		
4 Interpretive Wayfinding Signage: Park to Park Loop Signage	Development and documentation of interpretive wayfinding signs for Park to Park Loop project		Not required	\$50,000
	Fabrication Documents	Each sign		
	Prototype sign(s)	Each sign		

The following people were presenters, or were present to answer questions:

- Mark Brands, SiteWorkshop
- Nori Sato, Artist
- Ryan Miyahara, Ankrom Moisan Architects

The following people attended:

- Amy Gray, SDOT
- Joshua Gawne, SDOT
- Holly Golden, HCMP
- Rebecca Fuchs, Site Workshop
- Doug Palmer, Skyline resident
- Deborah Cohen, Skyline resident
- Jim deMaine, Skyline resident
- Putnam Barber, Skyline resident
- Lourdes deMaine, Skyline resident

- Cathy Jarmelle
- Duncan Meyer (attended virtually)
- Kristine Matthews (attended virtually)
- Robert Farrell (attended virtually)
- Ian Macek, SDOT (attended virtually)

Commissioners deliberated by discussing and evaluating the individual elements of the proposed public benefit package. **Commissioners voted 6-0, with a condition that a subcommittee evaluate the design progress of the wayfinding plan and how it relates to improvements in the immediate neighborhood.**

SR 520 – Portage Bay Bridges/Roanoke Lid (1:00 – 4:00 pm)

The Commission evaluated update designs for the Portage Bay Bridges and Roanoke Lid, following the award of the Design/Build contract by Washington State Department of Transportation to Skanska and AECOM. The presentation was focused on the Portage Bay Bridges, the Roanoke Lid, and the Roanoke Trail crossing. Additional project segments will be reviewed in 2025.

The role of the Commission here following the award to Skanska and AECOM is to review and make comments and recommendations on how the project designs reflect the Commission’s recommendations on the proposal prior to the award of this design/build contact. The Commission’s initial review and recommendations on the Portage Bay Bridges occurred in 2014, and the review and recommendations of the Roanoke Lid occurred XXXXXXXX.

The following people were presenters:

- Brendan Kempf, AECOM
- Bradley Touchstone, AECOM
- Todd Harrison, WSDOT
- Matt Gurrard, WSCOT
- Robin Clarke, AECOM

The following people attended:

- Jeff Dye, WSDOT
- Bryce Binney, AECOM
- Rasha Jasim, AECOM
- Bradford Shaffer, AECOM
- Dawn Yankauskas, WSDOT (virtually)
- Gabriel Seo, SDOT (virtually)
- Amanda Tse, SDOT (virtually)
- Brianna Parks, AECOM (virtually)
- Zhiyu Wei, AECOM (virtually)

The Commission expressed appreciation for

1. Securing additional funding in order to deliver the project without significant reductions despite major challenges. The project is an important step in reknitting neighborhoods that were divided by the original construction of SR520.
2. Closely following the designs that were developed in pre-development phases and embedded in the RFP.
3. Recognizing opportunities for improving on the early designs while maintaining the integrity of the design vision.
4. Retaining the Harvard connection despite funding challenges.
5. The choice of using cast in place, integrated caps for landscape walls and precast caps for seat walls, and the commitment to quality concrete work.
6. The design team working closely with SDOT and SPR to draw from experience with plant viability in Seattle's changing climate.

The Commission endorsed the following changes to the early concepts:

1. Reduction of the number of columns at piers 2 and 3.
2. Changes to the planting palette to adapt to the changing climate in Seattle.
3. Loss of the belvederes on the Portage Bay Bridge. The Commission recognizes the need to eliminate this element of the design in order to adjust to unprecedented financing challenges to infrastructure projects in the United States.

The Commission voted to approve the preliminary design presented at this meeting with the following recommendations:

1. Continue to communicate clearly with us where the design departs from the RFP.
2. Where possible, ease the tight corners and pinch points for cyclists, especially where cyclists are traveling uphill. Prioritize the primary route of travel and provide clarity for the cyclist.
3. Reexamine overall grades, drainage, and shade studies to ensure the viability of plant selections for the great lawn and plantings that will be in shady areas of the project.
4. Continue to refine the transition point between new and old railings of the I-5 crossing.
5. Consider again how the cobble paving will read to car drivers and how pedestrians will be protected.

At future meetings, please:

1. Show and explain the major grade changes and provide shade studies. Explain where people who are moving through the project will experience tall walls and darker corners of the project. Areas of particular interest are the space between 10th Ave E and the west end of the loop walk, and the space east of Delmar Dr East and west of the helix/loop path.
2. Provide views and other drawings as needed to show the areas of interest expressed at this meeting, such as cyclists primary routes of travel, and areas that have large walls and are shady.
3. Demonstrate the accessible routes for people with mobility impairments.
4. Explain what drivers who are leaving northbound I-5 and heading east will see after they pass through the portal.
5. Choose topics for future subcommittees based on where there is room within the RFP for refinement related to what we have shown interest in.
6. Show us the project schedule.