

CITY OF SEATTLE - UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting #84

March 13, 2007

Members

Matthew Fox (Co Chair)
Daniel Kraus (Co Chair)
Caroline Colon
Betty Swift
Kit O'Neill
Brett Frosaker
Eric Larson
Dave Eckert
Pat Cowen
Chris MacKenzie
Neal Lessenger
Matthew Stubbs
Heather Newman
Ashley Emery

Alternates

Chris Leman
Neal Wechsler
Tom Roth
Larry Sinnott
Brian Ramey
Ruedi Risler
Mark Holden

Ex-Officio Members

Cliff Louie - DON
Theresa Doherty – UW

Members Present

Dan Kraus, UW Representative
Chris MacKenzie, Wallingford CC
Lyle Bicknell, Montlake CC
Matthew Stubbs, Eastlake CC
Pat Cowan, University Park CC
Stan Sorscher, Laurelhurst CC

Eric Larson, Roosevelt Neighbors' Alliance
David Eckert, Roosevelt Neighborhood Assoc.
Brett Frosaker, Ravenna Bryant
Betty Swift, Portage Bay/Roanoke
Neal Lessenger, UW-at-Large
Ashley Emery, UW Faculty

Staff Present

Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods
Theresa Doherty, UW Regional Affairs

Others Present

Jan Arntz, Capital Projects Office
Marilyn Cox, UW Planning and Budgeting
Peter Dewey, UW Transportation
Kristina Kenney, UW Campus Landscape Arch.
Tony Mazzella and Casey Hildreth, SDOT

I. Welcome, Introductions

Daniel Kraus, co-chair, convened the meeting at 7 PM. Committee members and the audience introduced themselves.

II. Review and Approval of January 9, 2007 Meeting Notes

With corrections, meeting notes were approved.

III. Safeco Tower/UW Tower – Marilyn Cox

Marilyn Cox provided an update on the recently acquired Safeco Tower and several other properties in the area. Some of the highlights include:

- Active planning process -- the UW has appointed a committee and is looking at different options for departments that want to move in.

- Summary of properties acquired for Safeco purpose - tower, low rise office buildings around the tower, old A & P Grocery (vacant for a while), IHOP, Garage properties
- UW took ownership of the property on September 27. Safeco has leased office space back from the UW through 12/31/07 so they can continue to occupy and do business there.
- They are looking forward to consolidating some of the leased space in the tower property. Currently have 1.5 million square feet in Puget Sound region; hoping to free up some space on the campus for academic purpose by relocating administrative uses into office building and reusing the campus buildings for educational programs.
- Tower Team- working on the planning activities for turning those properties into UW uses. The Tower Team includes real estate office, parking and transportation services, computer and communication folks, facilities, and support people. The committee is now beginning to develop alternative occupancy plan of who might move into that space.
- Request for O & M to legislature. Funding is key piece because it helps to pay the debt for the building. Response expected in months. If this is successful then the space can all go to UW users, if not they might lease some to 3rd parties.
- College of Architecture and Urban Planning working on a design studio now. They are planning to design another one in summer. They are looking at all kinds of urban design opportunities.
- Tower policies- safety and security, approval to maintain same level as Safeco has now.
- Only use approved- new Data Center, basically a Server farm facility.
- Provost sent letter to campus community to ask for proposals; received 38 proposals from all areas of the campus.
- Leased space, campus proposals and administrative spaces are the candidates for developing alternatives.
- Collegiana- 29 rooms, each floor has a kitchen and game room. It is a residential or hotel facility that Safeco uses for visiting Safeco employees from other parts of the country. Medical Center will be using to provide facilities for patient family care at a reasonable cost. They will be occupying that on April 1.
- Both Old A & P Grocery and IHOP are not yet finalized.
- Building A- Old A & P Grocery
 - Temporary facility for staff coming out of the 45 building on 15th Avenue. They are going to use that building as surge space for the energy project.
- IHOP
 - Continue operation through end of year (hope IHOP can extend the lease till then)
 - Current lease ends May 7
- Planning Advisory Committee
 - www.washington.edu/admin/pb/UW-Tower/index.htm
- If money doesn't come through, might sell surface lots.
- Enhancing connectivity between campus and tower- In the early stage of this discussion, they have talked about looking at pedestrian routes, signage, ways to engage, and providing information about community services.
- Lawsuit for Collegiana- There are some problems with parking spaces. The lawsuit is still pending.

IV.

UW Transportation Management Plan Update- Peter Dewey

- Husky Stadium TMP- Established in 1997 as condition for expansion. It prescribed series of activities (providing transit for football games, etc).
- Other TMP plans include M-F Plan and Campus Master Plan.
- Plan more successful than estimated
- Campus Master Plan TMP
 - Hire company to distribute pneumatic tubes at a set of locations near campus. Use the tubes to calculate cars that pass by. Used since 1983.
- U-Pass program (since 1991) - more successful in recent years because parking prices have gone up (40%).
 - Two main components of U-Pass: aggressive pricing + subsidization
 - Cost comparison: \$84/mo for SOV parking (staff), \$20/mo for staff U-pass, and \$14.66/mo for student U-pass.
- Changes in Commute mode- % of Commute Trips: decline in carpool and increase in bike.
- Provide support and reward for bicycling. In the past 7 years, increase in bike lockers. 560 bike lockers on campus.
- Data information- random samples of staff and student surveys.
- October Parking Lot Occupancy- Last 5 years, decline in total occupancy.
 - Most vacancies in Montlake
 - About 11,200 parking cap currently, and 8,000 are used.
- Safeco parking spaces:
 - 2 parking structures at Safeco- 727 stalls + 2 surface lots
 - UW not going to use the spaces because they don't drive as much as the people in Safeco. Use less than the 2 parking structures.
- U-pass program very successful.
- Vehicle Trip Estimate:
 - 4 measurements- to U District, to campus, from U District, from campus.
 - Shows significantly below trip caps estimate in 2006.
 - UW pays for parking enforcement person- part of the master plan
 - People who drive SOV subsidize U-Pass program
 - Exceeding objectives- U-pass program is to limit number of trips

V.

City Transportation Study for University District- Tony Mazzella

- Tony Mazzella introduced himself as the Seattle Department of Transportation project manager for the University Area Transportation Action Strategy which deals with traffic and transportation management off campus; traffic forecasting updates needed. 20 year transportation plan looking at conditions that affect transportation. Study area is I-5 to 35th NE, 65th to CUT; Children's Hospital and Magnuson Park not included in study area.
- A major part of this plan is to place strategy for implementing projects that are already developed and laid out in prior analysis.
- Working to place a foundation for Growth Payment program. It is a voluntary payment program that developers could take advantage of to pay toward the transportation improvement.

- Trying to be better at identifying where the money is coming from to pay for transportation improvements, i.e. Bridging the Gap and Transit Now.
- Focus is on high growth nodes in study area.
- Assume Pacific Interchange will stay where it is, which is on the south side of the Cut.
- Tonight is just the beginning of the conversation, and SDOT will be back to discuss further. The study will not include Pacific Interchange.
- Whenever preferred alternative emerges, there has to be an additional overlay of analysis in order to see what mitigation is required in order to handle Pacific Interchange. The study will not be able to answer most of questions related to these alternatives. But it will provide a solid foundation to justify moving forward with study.
- Timeline
 - Existing conditions report in May
 - Issue ID & communication
 - Gather information over next month
 - Tony will send status report when done
 - Old Study online
 - New website for update information/comments
- Assumption for baseline condition; Sound Transit will be in place by 2030, two stations; street improvements associated with Sound transit included in assumptions.

The meeting was adjourned.