



City Council Study Session

AGENDA Revised

June 13, 2017

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Call to Order

Estimate time

Public Comment

6:30 pm

Note: *This is an opportunity for the public to address the Council. Three-minutes limit per person or five-minutes if representing the official position of a recognized community organization. If you would like to show a video or PowerPoint, it must be submitted or emailed by 5 pm, the end of the business day, to the City Clerk, Melonie Anderson at manderson@sammamish.us. Please be aware that Council meetings are videotaped and available to the public.*

Topics

- Presentation: One Center City/Sound Transit, Metro, City of Seattle **7:00 pm**
- Discussion: Land Acquisition Strategy & Policy **7:45 pm**
- Discussion: Council Candidate Forum **8:30 pm**

Adjournment

9:00 pm

City Council meetings are wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available upon request. Please phone (425) 295-0500 at least 48 hours in advance. Assisted Listening Devices are also available upon request.



Memorandum

Date: June 7, 2017
To: City Council
From: Lyman Howard, City Manager
Steve Leniszewski, P.E., Public Works Director
Subject: One Center City Update

The City of Seattle, King County Metro, Sound Transit and the Downtown Seattle Association have formed a partnership to create a 20-year plan for how the region will move through ten of Seattle's most dense neighborhoods. The area of focus is the Seattle waterfront on the west to First Hill on the east, and South Lake Union to the north and Pioneer Square/International District to the south.

Representatives from the three public agencies will discuss the near-term major public transportation projects and development to the City Council on June 13th. There are very large projects that will cause significant direct and indirect disruption to mobility in many parts of the region. Also included will be the anticipated impacts to eastside commuters and residents whose destinations are to or through the area of focus, proposed bus route restructuring, outreach plans, and process and schedule for decision making.

The attached FAQ and website (<http://onecentercity.org/>) provide additional information about the plan and partnership.

ONE CENTER CITY PLANNING EFFORT: FAQ

1. Why is the One Center City planning effort happening?

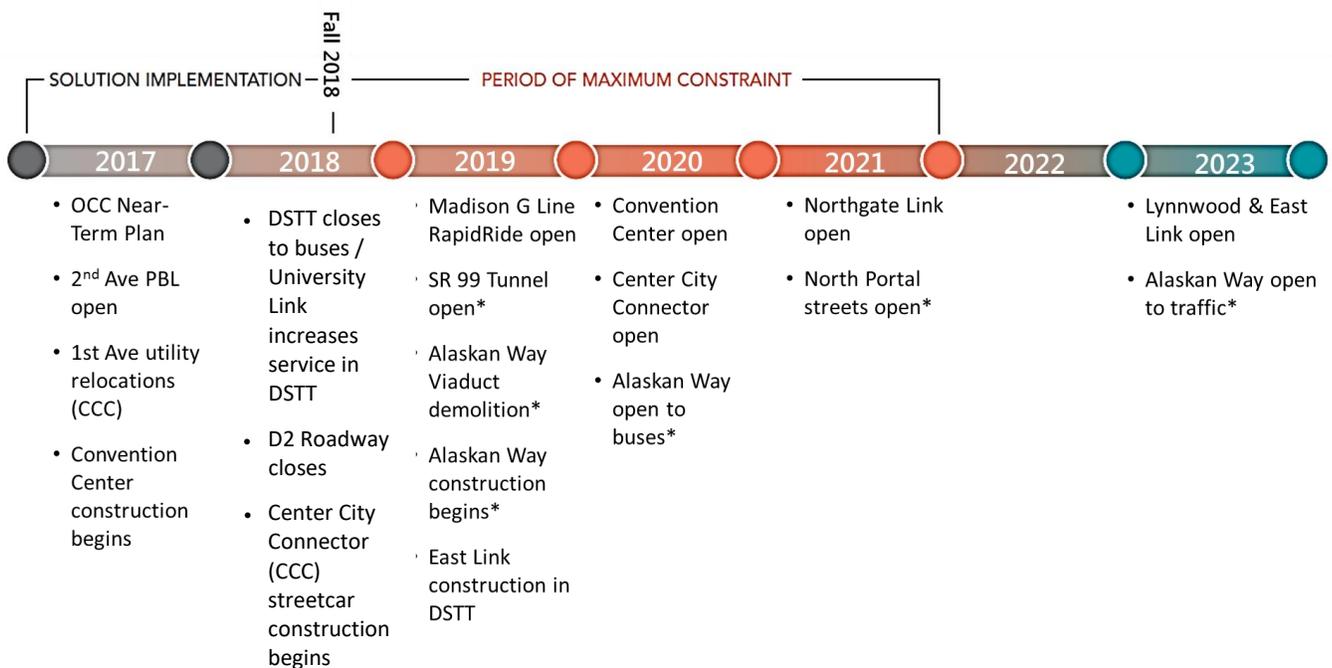
This planning initiative is aimed at creating a 20-year plan for how the region moves through, connects to and experiences Seattle's Center City neighborhoods. It is a public/private partnership between the City of Seattle, King County, Sound Transit and the Downtown Seattle Association.

The effort focuses on:

- Proactive planning for near-term major public transportation projects and public/private development that is anticipated to cause significant travel delay on the downtown Seattle street network.
- Longer term planning work with a 2035 horizon to inform the Center City's future transportation needs. The visioning work will include a place-making element – referred to as the Public Realm.

2. What are the factors and projects that are driving the need for the effort?

- **Regional Growth and Related Overlapping Construction – Projects affected the Center City 2017-2023**



- **Increased rail operations in the tunnel with Link Light Rail expansion East, North and South**
- **Record Regional Travel Demand** According to the Puget Sound Regional Council, transit ridership in Central Puget Sound has grown faster than any other large metropolitan area in the county over the last decade.
- **Center City Corridors Serve the Region**
 - Nearly 250,000 commute trips are made to and through Downtown Seattle each day.
 - 3rd Avenue is at the highest volume corridor in North America.

3. What do the draft solutions concepts include and what's the outreach process?

Draft solution concepts include a mix of the following:

- Street and traffic operational changes
- New transit lanes or priority transit streets
- New protected bike lanes and pedestrian enhancements

- Bus service restructures to make use of rail capacity, space and reliability
- Improvements at key transportation hubs to enhance the customer experience

BUS SERVICE RESTRUCTURES

The OCC interagency project team oversaw the evaluation of 29 potential bus service restructuring concepts for reducing the volume of buses in the Center City. Following initial public review and consideration by the One Center City Advisory Group, the Executive Steering Committee recommended the following four concepts be advanced for further analysis and public input:

1. Metro and Sound Transit SR 520 routes to serve the University of Washington Station instead of Seattle CBD.
2. Sound Transit Route 550 (Bellevue-Seattle) to end at the International District/Chinatown transportation hub.
3. Metro’s West Seattle/Burien/Vashon Island peak routes to end on First Hill instead of Seattle CBED
4. Metro Route 41 to end at Westlake instead of International District Station.

STREET OPERATIONS

Another broad set of strategies would alter street operations to reduce acute traffic bottlenecks or to gain transit capacity. These strategies include signal and turn improvements as well as more significant addition of transit priority, such as making 5th Avenue a transit focused street while moving buses off of 2nd and 4th Avenues.

4. How are decisions being made for the One Center City Plan?

The OCC citizen Advisory Group comprised of 37-members is providing feedback on the initial planning concepts. The One Center City initiative is a planning process, not a decision-making process. All final decisions about roadway/traffic operations, public realm and transit service changes will be made by governing bodies of each partner agency.

Group / Role	Estimated Timeframe
Advisory Group’s Input	Began in September 2016; near-term mobility input to be completed in May 2017; Long-term Public Realm work (urban design elements within Seattle’s 10 most urban downtown-area neighborhoods) and customer experience of transit hubs: April 2017 – April 2018
Stakeholder Outreach	Stakeholder outreach: Feb. 2016 – January 2018 Stakeholder/customer input on transit service change concepts will be gathered through 2017 to prepare service change proposals that will be presented to the KC Council or ST Board in spring 2018. For SR 520, King County Metro launched formal outreach process in March 2017 based on Eastside interest and feedback that began summer of 2015. Metro’s Route 41 and Southwest corridors have an outreach process that will begin summer 2017
King County Council	King County Council members will be included in public engagement phases through briefings and will consider service changes as part of regular consideration for the fall 2018 service change, in Spring 2018. Approved 2017-18 capital budget includes funding for improvements to ensure approved bus service restructuring proposals meet transit operating and customer needs.
Sound Transit Board	Sound Transit Board will consider SR 520 service changes in November 2017 as part of their annual Service Improvement Plan adoption. Sound Transit Service Planners will begin outreach in the I-90 corridor in late Summer / early Fall 2017.
Seattle Mayor and Council	Operational improvements will be funded through existing programs. Improvements beyond the operational improvements, if recommended, will be phased depending on feasibility and resources, and would likely go through the City’s budget process.



Memorandum

Date: June 07, 2017

To: City Council

From: Angie Feser, Director of Parks & Recreation
Anjali Myer, Parks Project Manager

Re: Land Acquisition Strategy & Implementation Policy

Summary:

The Land Acquisition Strategy & Implementation Policy is scheduled for discussion at the June 13, 2017 City Council Study Session. The City's consultant, Otak, Inc. will present property prioritization criteria and selection criteria for the three program areas identified for targeting land acquisition.

The aim of this project is to arrive at a strategy for selection of property to be purchased and to develop an implementation policy for City Council to adopt next month in July. The strategy will guide near-term and long-term land acquisition activities to support the community's growth and diverse needs and interests.

Community Needs and Priorities

In addition to inventorying current assets, the City conducted a public engagement program to better understand the community's needs and priorities with regard to land acquisition and the specific community uses desired with new acquisitions. Residents overwhelmingly support land acquisition, and indicated a preference to focus on land acquisition for passive recreation uses and preservation of existing environmental character. The highest priorities were land acquisition for new trails, preserving tree canopy, and linking streams and fish or wildlife habitat corridors.

Strategy Components

The City has identified three program areas for targeting land acquisition, composed of up to five sub-components each:

1. Active Recreation Use
2. Passive Recreation Use
3. Preservation

Attached to this memo is a document with general initial screening criteria that prioritizes all potential acquisitions, as well as ranking criteria related to each category.

Initial Screening Criteria

Property Prioritization Criteria

The initial evaluation of candidate properties involves a review of key overarching criteria which emphasizes the needs and priorities of the community. The following is a summary of those criteria:

- Property has legal public access.
- Acquisition will support expanded trail use.
- Acquisition will support preservation of existing tree canopy. Acquisition will support linking streams/wildlife corridors, wildlife viewing, or special sensitive areas protection.
- Acquisition will support expanded waterfront recreation for the community.
- Acquisition will support an increase in other active recreation use, such as playgrounds, athletic fields, and sports courts (but not including waterfront recreation).
- Acquisition supports expansion of other passive recreation uses, such as historic/cultural resources, picnic areas, community gardens (but not including trails).
- Acquisition provides for City operational needs such as administrative, maintenance, and storage facilities.
- Property is adjacent or connects to existing City-owned property or other publicly-owned open spaces.
- Property acquisition directly fulfills implementation goals of adopted plans (Comprehensive Plan; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan; Trails, Bikeways, and Paths Plan; Transportation Plan; and Urban Forestry Master Plan, etc.).

Each property will be evaluated based on a point system with some criteria having a greater weighting in association with public response to needs and priorities. Upon completion of the evaluation, each property will be placed in three categories: High, Medium and Low priority acquisition opportunities. It is expected that the high priority candidate properties will be the initial area of focus and will be further evaluated under its greatest potential use category, either active recreation, passive recreation or preservation.

The property characteristics that would best support each of those categories are very different. Each candidate property will be further evaluated for its appropriateness to support the strategy goals under its most likely use category. Below is an outline of the specific types of uses under each category and the additional criteria that will be utilized to determine the effectiveness of each property being considered for potential land acquisition to accomplish the land acquisition strategy goals.

Ranking Criteria for each Category

Active Recreation Use. Active recreation uses are characterized by amenities for solitary or group activities with specific play surface requirements and suitable space for spectators. The property characteristics required for these types of uses include relatively flat topography, limited existence of critical areas, minimum parcel size, utility availability, etc. Examples of active and recreation uses include:

- **Playgrounds:** Spaces for children to play that include improved surfaces and may or may not include play structures and/or splash pads.
- **Athletic Fields:** Natural or synthetic turf fields with markings for organized sports such as soccer or lacrosse.
- **Sports Courts:** Improved surface with markings for organized sports such as tennis, which may or may not have netting or fences.
- **Waterfront Recreation:** Waterfront access for water-based activities such as swimming, kayaking/canoeing, and boating.
- **Indoor Recreation:** Enclosed spaces, typically with facilities for organized and informal sports or play areas. Indoor recreation facilities may include aquatic activities such as swimming.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The property is adjacent to an existing City-owned open space.
- The property is in an underserved area for active recreation as identified in an adopted City Plan.
- The property is relatively flat (5% slopes or less) or can be easily developed for the intended use.
- The property has no mapped critical areas on site or has enough developable area that mapped critical areas will not constrain development.
- There is an identified partner for development, operation, or maintenance of new facilities.
- The property is walking distance from neighborhoods as defined by the PROS Plan.
- The property is well-connected to neighborhoods by existing sidewalks or trails.
- Utilities are available at the perimeter of the property.
- The property has a minimum of 5 developable acres.
- The property provides new access to Lake Sammamish, Pine Lake, or Beaver Lake.
- Property rights can be acquired for desired use for a cost below fair market fee simple value.
- Property acquisition aligns with RCO grant funding eligibility.

Passive Recreation Use. Passive recreation uses are characterized by walking trails and spaces for quiet enjoyment, and may include informational, educational, or interpretive signage. The property characteristics required for these types of uses include an opportunity to create trail connectivity, existence of critical habitat areas, location along a wildlife corridor, cultural significance, etc. Examples of passive recreation uses include:

- Picnic Areas: Cleared areas with furniture such as tables and benches for communal gathering. Picnic areas may or may not be sheltered with an open-sided roofed structure.
- Trails: Linear paths with pavement or soft surfaces used for non-motorized transportation such as bicycling, walking/running, and equestrian use.
- Wildlife Viewing: Lookout points or platforms with excellent views of certain habitat features where wildlife is found, such as wetlands, lakes/ponds, tree snags, etc.
- Cultural & Historic Sites: Properties with significance in the history of the community, such as Native sites or historic farms.
- Community Gardens: Land divided into many small garden plots rented by individuals or families for a growing season. Community gardens may include storage sheds, water service, compost bins, and other structures to support gardening.

Evaluation Criteria:

- The property is adjacent to an existing City-owned open space.
- The property is in an underserved area for trails or passive recreation as identified in an adopted City Plan.
- There is an identified partner for development and/or maintenance of new facilities.
- The property provides a high-priority trail connection as identified in an adopted City Plan.
- The property connects to an existing trail system or desirable destination (Town Center, schools, shopping, parks, etc.) identified in an adopted City Plan.
- The property offers a variety of terrain types and difficulties.
- The property provides an east-west connection in the community.
- The property contains desirable habitat features (wetlands, snags, water features, etc.).
- The property is part of a riparian or wildlife corridor.
- The property has historic, tribal or cultural significance.
- Property rights can be acquired for desired use for a cost below fair market fee simple value.
- Property acquisition aligns with RCO grant funding eligibility.

Preservation. Preservation is intended to protect natural areas for aesthetics and/or ecological benefits, and generally remain undeveloped. The property characteristics required for preservation include high ecological value, existing contiguous forested canopy, location along wildlife/stream corridor, high quality wetland, etc. Preservation purposes include:

- Preserving Tree Canopy: Areas with mature forest. Preserving tree canopy can reduce the urban heat island effect, provide wildlife habitat and corridor connections, and provide natural stormwater retention.
- Linking Streams and Fish and/or Wildlife Corridors: Areas with high-quality habitat used by wildlife in migration and/or breeding. Many fish, mammal, and bird species are migratory or traverse across a wide range in their natural habitat, and providing corridors is important in retaining wildlife diversity.
- Wetlands and Sensitive Areas with Ecological Benefits: Areas with high-quality natural features such as wetlands, streams, and ponds or lakes. Preserving these areas will protect wildlife habitat and provide natural stormwater retention.

Ranking Criteria:

- The property is adjacent to an existing City-owned open space.
- The property is undeveloped and of high ecological value (mature trees and habitat).
- The property can connect two or more existing preservation-use open spaces that are not currently connected.
- The property is within walking distance of residential neighborhoods.
- The property has existing, mature, contiguous tree canopy.
- The property is primarily forested with coniferous trees.
- The property is forested with diverse natural features, including snags, healthy understory, and a variety of tree species.
- The trees are free of diseases and pests that would necessitate significant tree removal.
- Preservation of the property will preserve existing neighborhood character.
- The property is adjacent to or includes an existing stream, fish, or wildlife corridor.
- The property provides or significantly contributes to a missing link in a desirable stream, fish, or wildlife habitat corridor.
- The property has a Category I, II, III or IV wetland on site.
- The property contains steep slope areas.
- Property rights can be acquired for desired use for a cost below fair market fee simple value.
- Property acquisition aligns with RCO grant funding eligibility.

The intent of this evaluation process is to narrow the list of candidate properties, while also categorizing the likely use of each candidate to assure a balanced approach to acquiring property to fulfill the strategy. The intent is to balance the utilization of allocated funds between the three categories as much as possible. Properties that have the potential to fulfill the goals of more than one use category will likely be a higher priority consideration.