

02 SEATTLE COMMUNITY DESIGN PROCESS OVERVIEW

“Pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicle drivers each experience a street differently... each of these users’ eye levels and peripheral vision will be at different heights and ranges. These details significantly affect perceived distances, the ability to recognize signage and overall enjoyment of a route.”

Seattle’s Neighborhood Greenways Toolkit,

University of Washington Green Futures Lab, 2012

SEATTLE COMMUNITY DESIGN PROCESS OVERVIEW AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Seattle Community Design Process (SCDP) is an iterative and inclusive process that meets WSDOT's requirements to continue working collaboratively with the City of Seattle and Seattle neighborhood stakeholders to refine the project vision and design. WSDOT made this commitment as part of a 2010 legislatively mandated multi-agency workgroup (ESSB 6392) and in the Seattle/SR 520 project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). WSDOT continues to fulfill this commitment by working with the City of Seattle and a broad range of stakeholders to develop a refined vision and draft design preferences that improve the SR 520 project corridor and reconnect Seattle neighborhoods and activity centers.

An iterative and inclusive approach

Through the SCDP framework, the WSDOT design team:

- Shares baseline information about the SR 520 project requirements and designs
- Listens to feedback and explores ideas from other design professionals, partner agencies, and regional and community stakeholders
- Informs stakeholders about identified new design opportunities and listens to feedback
- Integrates best practices for urban and sustainable design into the SR 520 project
- Continues to collect additional input from agency partners and community stakeholders as the process moves forward

Previous Project Commitments

All design ideas explored in the SCDP considered the: aesthetic guidelines established by the 2006 Design Advisory Group (DAG), the approved environmental footprint, baseline design features, and previous project commitments as identified in the 2011 Record of Decision.

Urban Design and Sustainability Expert Review Panel (ERP)

A group of North American design professionals gave independent feedback about major opportunities and challenges. These professionals provided expertise in city planning, urban and sustainable design, water resource management and large-scale public infrastructure delivery.



Source: Tim Whelan

The Seattle Design Commission (SDC)

The Seattle Design Commission helped refine the project's vision. They also provide a regional and citywide perspective on design preferences and the associated effects on individual Seattle neighborhoods. The Commission also provides guidance in areas where there is diverse and conflicting feedback.



Bridge Architecture Consultant

WSDOT hired Donald MacDonald, a nationally recognized bridge architect, to help design a new Portage Bay Bridge that can serve as a signature gateway to the City of Seattle while remaining sensitive to the surrounding landscape and neighborhoods.



How do we collect feedback?

During the SCDP, WSDOT engaged multiple stakeholders to gain input from a broad range of perspectives.

Broader public

The public has provided ongoing and extensive feedback about design issues, opportunities and refinements. Input was collected at geographically focused community sessions, seven open public sessions and numerous small meetings with neighborhood councils and advocacy groups.



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Groups

The SR 520 project/City of Seattle MOU shared and discussed design concepts with the groups. The *Executive Advisory Group* includes senior leaders from WSDOT and the City of Seattle. The *Oversight Group* includes technical staff and managers from WSDOT, the Mayor's Office, City Council, Parks and Recreation and the Seattle Department of Transportation.



Internal Sustainability Workshops

WSDOT hosted internal workshops to apply lessons learned from current SR 520 projects under construction. This resulted in a list of strategies and actions to implement sustainability measures for the west side.

West Side Community Design Collaborative (WSCDC)

This group of neighborhood participants and partner agency staff served as a sounding board for WSDOT staff on community concerns and feedback and helped WSDOT direct the development of new design opportunities and preferences.



Partnering with the public

Between October 2011 and July 2012, WSDOT hosted a series of public sessions to inform people about the project, collect their feedback, and explore design opportunities with the broader public. At the final public session, WSDOT shared a synthesis of the project vision and design preferences based on the work to date. Between 110 and 220 people

attended each of seven public sessions. WSDOT collected hundreds of individual comments and held many interactive conversations. These meetings, along with electronic and written input, represented the avenues for broader public participation. Below is a timeline of WSDOT's engagement with the general public for the SCDP:

"Great neighborhoods bring residents together to foster relationships and support a greater sense of community... Neighborhood Greenways can significantly improve the safety and social experience of getting around one's own neighborhood, inviting more residents to choose to walk or bike to local destinations."

- Seattle's Neighborhood Greenways Toolkit
University of Washington Green Futures Lab, 2012





Conceptual Rendering

Looking northeast where the stormwater treatment facility will be designed as an accessible open space and integrated into East Montlake Park and the Lake Washington shoreline