

City of Seattle  
Strategic Planning Office

Denna Cline, Director  
Paul Schell, Mayor



Thursday, September 21, 2000

Andrew Taylor  
Chair, Miller Park Neighborhood Association  
501 - 19th Ave. E.  
Seattle WA 98112

Re: Follow-up to September 5th meeting

Thank you very much for the opportunity to meet with the Miller Park Neighborhood Association this month. I think it was a good discussion and I hope that it will prove to have been a useful exercise on your parts. I'm writing this letter in order to make sure that we heard what you were saying, and to confirm the next steps that the City is taking to work with you to address your group's concerns.

We heard the following concerns voiced by various community members:

1. Traffic that can not turn left from 23rd Avenue onto arterials (Madison and John/Thomas Streets) is taking detours through the neighborhood.  
There may be a couple of options for next steps to address this. As a first step, Kristine Baldwin of SEATRAN's arterial operations program is looking at the area in order to see if there are ways that they can improve the intersections so that cars aren't forced to turn onto neighborhood streets. Her phone number is 684-7631.  
In addition, SEATRAN's Neighborhood Planning support section is interested in working with you to explore developing a Neighborhood Matching Fund project to develop the type of integrated transportation plan that was talked about for the area. A similar project was recently undertaken in Jackson Place and representatives of that community are available to talk about their experiences if you have questions. Tony Mazzella of SEATRAN's neighborhood transportation section will be contacting you to discuss this idea further. His phone number is 684-0811.  
Tony also mentioned that neighborhood traffic control devices, such as traffic circles, chicanes and speed bumps might be appropriate for the area between John/Thomas and Madison St.. These can either be explored as part of an area-wide transportation planning effort, or, if there are specific locations that are of particular concern, SEATRAN can work with you for that location. John Marek of SEATRAN (684-5069) can assist you with that work.

2. There is interest in seeing a new crosswalk put in at the intersection of 20th Avenue and Madison St.

SEATRAN is looking at this intersection again in light of the amount of development that is going into the neighborhood, and at that intersection. They are considering new criteria that would indicate when a location is appropriate for a new crosswalk. Tony Mazzella will be reporting to Liz Ellis from your neighborhood on progress on this project.

3. There is concern over a number of aspects of parking: lack of enforcement and potential increases in parking as a result of increased development.

I mentioned the concern about parking in the area between Madison and John/Thomas to Julie Erickson of SEATRAN. She stated that the RPZ currently proposed can be extended south to Madison St. and east to 23rd Avenue if residents desire. This is probably the best tool to address concerns about parking spilling over from Madison Street businesses. An RPZ will also be a good tool for discouraging abandoned cars.

The Mayor has proposed increasing the number of parking enforcement officers in the 2001-2002 budget.

The issue of what the correct parking ratio is comes down to the debate that was highlighted in your meeting between keeping housing prices low and discouraging people from having more cars than they need on the one hand and providing on-site spaces for all cars on the other hand. If you want to have further discussions about parking ratios and strategies for addressing parking as a result of new development, I can arrange for someone from SPO to meet with you on this topic.

4. Staging for construction has been occurring on the sidewalks along Madison, causing pedestrians to cross this potentially dangerous street.

Kristine Baldwin is talking with SEATRAN's street use section to see if there are opportunities to encourage construction staging off of Madison St.

5. Enforcement of development conditions is not always consistent. Examples include construction occurring outside of the required time period and staging along Madison St. consuming more than the permitted amount of right-of-way.

The most effective way to address these issues is for community members to complain when they note something wrong. DCLU's complaints line for projects not meeting permit conditions is 684-7899.

Carolyn Jensen, in SEATRAN's Traffic Control section can help with traffic and pedestrian related concerns around construction areas. If community members call her with the name of the contractor, if possible, it would help her track down the Street Use Inspector. She can be reached at 684-8482. For other issues related to construction staging in the right-of-way (along the sidewalk) you can contact Rich Burgunder (684-5279), the Street Use Manager, or Don Nelson (684-5044) who handles street use permits for private contract work.

6. There was some talk about frequency and speed of bus service.

Your neighborhood may be interested in following the work of the City's Seattle Transit Study. This study is developing transit options for Seattle that will give people real transportation choices between busy neighborhood centers, between neighborhoods and downtown, and between neighborhoods and the new Sound Transit light rail system. One of

the seven corridors that this study is looking at is a link between Columbia City and the University District, either along 23rd Avenue or Martin Luther King Way, with a potential spur to Downtown around S. Jackson or Yesler Sts. There will be public meetings on this project on Monday, October 2, 2000 at Thurgood Marshall Elementary Auditorium, 2401 South Irving Street and Tuesday, October 3, 2000 at West Woodland Elementary Auditorium, 5601 4th Avenue NW. Both meetings will be from 7-9 p.m.

7. After the meeting, I heard from you that you were interested in exploring the property tax exemption program for encouraging moderate-income housing development in the neighborhood.

Walter Zissette from SPO has offered to meet with your group to talk about the program. His phone number is 684-8903.

If you have any questions about any of these issues, or if I missed a significant issue, please let me know.

Respectfully,

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CC: Teresita Batayola, Strategic Planning Office  
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Anne Fiske-Zuniga and Darlene Flynn, Department of Neighborhoods  
Tony Mazzella and Kristine Baldwin, SEATRAN