



Transportation Committee Meeting – March 5, 2018 – Skyline

In Attendance

- Alex Hudson, FHIA Executive Director
- Ann Ormsby, FH Resident
- Betsy Braun, VMMC
- Bob Terrell, FH Resident
- Doug Holtom, FHIA Staff
- Elliot Helmbrecht, SDOT
- Gordon Werner, Committee Chair
- Jim Erickson, FH Resident
- Ryan Packer, the Urbanist
- Sue Byers, SDOT
- Ted Klainer, HVMC
- Tom Gibbs, FH resident

Agenda

- Move Seattle Presentation
- First Hill Light Rail Discussion
- First Hill Streetcar Discussion
- Other Business

Move Seattle Presentation

SDOT is in the process of going through their annual report, which should be completed in April. This is the third year for Move Seattle. Years one and two were spent designing various projects for 2018 and beyond. 44 blocks of sidewalks have been installed. 50 miles of paving projects have been completed. Next year, there are 11 curb ramps planned for First Hill.

The largest First Hill project from Move Seattle is the Madison BRT. SDOT is hopeful that the Federal Government will help to fund the project. Curb ramps will be installed in 2019, with the goal of 1,200 installed every year throughout the city. Crossing improvements at 9th and Cherry and 9th and Columbia is planned. The 12 priorities for Safe Walks to School will be accomplished by the end of 2018 at Bailey Gatzert Elementary School.

There have been 4 1-block paving projects in First Hill. SDOT does not have any plans for upcoming paving projects in First Hill. Sue Byers mentioned that priorities for paving is in constant flux throughout the city. The Hub-Coordinator with SDOT mentioned that there are many construction projects coming beginning soon for the neighborhood. SDOT believes that due to active construction, fixing and repaving areas of the neighborhood will not be finalized until construction has ended.

Tom Gibbs suggested that Columbia between 9th and Terry and 8th between Cherry and James be a top priority for repaving. Sue Byers mentioned that SDOT tries to work with developers to partner to upgrade street quality. Betsy Braun encouraged SDOT representatives to focus on places near and around the First Hill Public Realm Action Plan. Gordon Werner asked if there was a place to track infrastructure projects. Elliot Helmbrecht said that it depends on the scale of the project to be included online with smaller projects usually being excluded. The Capital Projects dashboard is a tool that can be used for more information. The manager of the pedestrian master plan can also answer questions if information about a project is not available online. Tom Gibbs asked about the value of improvements to First Hill, besides the Madison BRT. The committee said that repaving, crosswalks, curb-bulbs and sidewalks as the most important infrastructure issues affecting the neighborhood. Sue Byer mentioned that the tree canopy complicates making sidewalk fixes.

First Hill Light Rail Discussion

Sound Transit is currently studying the alignment of a West Seattle to Ballard light rail route. There are concerns with duplication of stations at SoDo, King Street and the Stadium. A Midtown Station is proposed at 5th Avenue and Madison.



FIRST HILL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A First Hill station was dropped during the first expansion due to geotechnical issues. Alex Hudson, Executive Director asks that the committee support a study and analysis of First Hill light rail station. Alex Hudson also mentioned that the Deputy Mayor is not going to promise stations that cannot be delivered. A representative with Seattle Subway, advocated for a First Hill station said that there was pushback due to tunneling underneath Interstate 5 was challenging and risky. Betsy Braun said that FHIA should expect pushback from Sound Transit. Ted Klainer asked what the benefit would be to move it to First Hill. A representative of Seattle Subway mentioned that the sheer density of First Hill would suggest high ridership.

Ted Klainer suggested that there should be more discussion about employment ridership. Gordon Werner said that it should be included to say that First Hill is very dependent on transit. Betsy Braun said that statistics should be included. Ted Klainer suggested that employment commuter data be included as 24/7 (shift changes) rather than just peak time data.

Alex Hudson mentioned that volume of respondents and turn-outs at Sound Transit meetings is key. A Seattle Subway representative suggested that cities control the permitting and getting the city on board is extremely valuable. Betsy Braun suggested that the first letter replace signatories with business/residents that will benefit from a light rail station. Jim Erickson said that inclement weather makes bus service difficult, which can further make the case. Ted Klainer said that the letter should include a meeting with Sound Transit. Jim Erickson reminded the group that Sally Bagshaw would probably be an ally. A Seattle Subway representative suggested the Joe McDermitt would be another decisionmaker to talk with and suggest a stub be considered.

The Strategic Advisory Committee meeting for Sound Transit will be on March 14th at Union Station.

First Hill Streetcar Discussion

SDOT is proposing the elimination of turns off Broadway into First Hill. Alex Hudson invited that the project manager to speak at the FHIA public meeting. There will be no turns allowed on Broadway from Denny to Marion streets. Alex Hudson suggested that FHIA come up with alternatives could potentially look like. Ann Ormsby said that the benefits are not worth the changes proposed. Overall, the committee was unanimously opposed to SDOT's proposal.