



Meeting Minutes

Downtown Strategy Stakeholder Work Group

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Amy Buckler
360.570.5847

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 12 - Committee member Janice Arnold, Committee member Clydia Cuykendall, Committee member Janae Huber, Committee member Meg Martin, Committee member Karen Parkhurst, Committee member Connie Phegley, Committee member Karen Reagan, Committee member Mike Reid, Alternate Carole Richmond, Committee member Annette Roth, Committee member Bob Wubben, and Committee member Missy Watts
- Excused:** 7 - Alternate Tessa Andrascik, Alternate Kim Murillo, Committee member Jessicarae Nunez, Alternate Ruben Nunez, Committee member Dave Platt, Committee member Terry Wilson, and Alternate Vita Zvirzdys-Farler

OTHERS PRESENT

City Staff Present:

Community Planning and Development: Senior Planner, Amy Buckler; Director, Keith Stahley

MAKERS Consultant Group Present:

John Owen, Kendra Dahlen, Rachel Miller and Lauren Squires

1. WELCOME

Ms. Dahlen welcomed group members and the public. She indicated the meeting is open to the public; however, there is not a public comment time. Members of the public may send comments or questions to dts@ci.olympia.wa.us.

2. MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Update on Downtown Strategy status, schedule and upcoming events
- Review and discussion of potential street improvements: opportunities, options, impacts, trade-offs and developing priorities
- Review and discussion of viewshed analysis: survey results, status and next steps
- Share results of recent on-line survey

3. AGENDA ITEMS

[16-0466](#)

Explanation & Attachments

Ms. Buckler provided an update on the Downtown Strategy upcoming schedule:

- April 26, 2016 and May 10, 2016 - The City Council will review and provide direction on the draft guiding framework. The guiding framework will reflect all the engagement and analysis completed thus far, including expressed strategic priorities. This framework will inform subsequent steps to complete the strategy, including what is ultimately recommended for street and sidewalk improvements, updates to City design and development standards, and any programmatic initiatives. Formation of the guiding framework will mark a major milestone in this process; at the same time significant work will continue to determine the most strategic, realistic and impactful steps necessary to move our downtown vision forward over the next six years.
- April 12, 2016 - meeting with the Olympia Heritage Commission and MAKERS Consulting Team to discuss historic preservation efforts.
- April 28, 2016, 6:00 p.m. in City Hall - Business and Developers Forum - About 40 business and development representatives have been invited to participate in a round table discussion. This meeting is open to the public, but there is not a public comment opportunity.
- May 23, 2016 - Urban Design Discussion (public meeting) at the Olympia Center at 6:30 p.m.
- June 6, 2016 Public Workshop #3 will focus on viewshed analysis and other elements of the Downtown Strategy.
- Possible cancellation of the June Stakeholders Work Group meeting because of its proximity to the public workshop. Also it may be more advantageous having one in September instead.
- Possible date change of July 6, 2016 Stakeholders Work Group meeting due to its proximity to 4th of July.

Ms. Miller, Mr. Owens and Ms. Squires presented:

- On-line Survey Results: What we've learned and how we use it
- A review of potential street improvements:
 - Bike Corridors
 - Festival Streets
 - Shared Streets
 - Pedestrian walkways and access
 - Pavement
 - Landscaping
 - Streetscapes
 - Traffic Study
 - Transit Study

Committee Member discussion:

Priorities

- The group stressed the importance of setting context for the transportation challenges facing downtown. Need to acknowledge that while it is important to plan for non-motorized modes, we are also planning for vehicles. Riding bikes and taking the bus will not be practical for all users at all times. Routes going east-west across the City go through downtown; these routes serve the entire region, including: citizens that live in or outside of downtown; local business deliveries; shoppers for the West Side, Lacey or Tumwater; the freight type trucking with the Port and other "manufacturing type businesses" in the urban area; and rail. At the same time it is important to acknowledge that many people do favor planning that includes traffic calming and other improvements to transform the street network from one dominated by vehicles to a multi-modal network that also works for transit, bikes and pedestrians.
- John Owen stressed that study after study shows walkability to be a key factor of success in any downtown
- Keep visitors/commuters from outside Downtown in mind
- Hard to get behind ideas without traffic analysis or idea of more study
- Biking/transit options help to reduce vehicle traffic congestion
- Street trees critical
- Artist designed crosswalks are liked
- Design blocks that work for everybody
- Heavy freight corridors and rail - add to modal priorities map
- Indicate the potential timeline
- Simplify

Jefferson St.

- North-South bike route OK

Washington St.

- Are movable planters feasible? - on festival street, paving good enough
- Great street location for future North-South bike route
- Talk with businesses
- Washington Center - buses, drop-off/pick-up, loading equipment
- Balance modes

Cherry St.

- Already feel comfortable biking on Cherry - low traffic
- 5th Ave. intersection - there are site issues for crossing

Union Ave

- Include bike route
- Is additional sidewalk necessary
- Buffer pedestrians from cars
- Railroad crossing

4th Ave.

- Capacity problem
- If you reduce lane width then you need to make sure freight access is sufficient
- Want traffic analysis of decoupling 4th & State
- Need to consider parking loss

Legion - Festival

- Include traffic analysis
- Growth necessitates new ways of getting around - accept being more crowded
- Support for slowing Downtown traffic
- Concern about 7 foot sidewalk - need wider

Legion - Shared Street

- Legion is a big street for this
- Just bike lanes
- Uphill - even with shared street, bikes need space
- Optimal street for this

Legion - Climbing lane/sharrow option

- Great near term idea

Capitol Way

- Left turn lane is useful

Thurston

- Congestion at Food Bank where customers line up
- Truck movement

The review and discussion of viewshed analysis was tabled until the next Stakeholder Work Group meeting.

The information was received and discussed.

5. ADJOURNMENT 8:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.