**MLK Subarea Plan & EIS**

**Working Group Meeting**

October 11, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

People’s Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr. Way

* **Justin Leighton(Central Neighborhood Council)**
* **Mike Denney(MultiCare)**
* **Mike Wark(UW Tacoma)**
* **Eric Crittendon**

**Minutes**

**Welcome & Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves. Mike Wark from UWT was in attendance.

**Sound Transit’s Link Expansion Alternatives Analysis**

Justin began the discussion regarding the Sound Transit Link expansion in Tacoma. While the options have been discussed and narrowed the locations have not yet been revealed. Brian thanked Tom for the letter that was sent and continued by proposing another letter be sent supporting a route through the MLK subarea if it remains one of the options. Mike Denney asked that the letter be drafted earlier next time to allow adequate time for all parties to review and sign. Everyone present was in agreement.

**City Council Study Session – September 25th**

Brian Boudet discussed the comments received from the September 25th City Council session regarding the work being done with the MLK subarea plan. While the council was in support of the process so far there were questions about the market feasibility future development. Councilmen Mellow also had concerns about the degree to which urban design should be focused on. Specifically how restrictive design requirements might be cost prohibitive for future development. Justin also said he and Dawn had positive feelings about their involvement in the council session.

Brian also brought up the potential for an LID opportunity in the MLK area. While $400,000 was set aside by City Council in 2006 for an MLK LID $120,000 was spent in 2008. One reason this money may not have been spent yet is because of the uncertainty of the Link expansion. There is hesitation to use that money for improvements when Link construction may come a few years later and undo the work that has been done. There may also be opportunities to build on the momentum Link expansion may create. However, the time limit on the availability of these LID matching funds is approaching in the next couple of years.

**Update on the DEIS and Draft Plan**

Tom updated the group on the process of the DEIS by saying it has not been vetted by the city yet and there are still three elements or half of the DEIS that have not been written. The public technically author the plan and the city edits the EIS. The group must decide how they want to comment on the plan and EIS. There was discussion regarding the release of both the plan and the EIS and if members of the steering committee would be able to see it before the general public in order to discuss it ask questions and make recommendations before the official comment period begins. Justin said it was important to be able to read the mitigations in order to understand the impacts the plan will have. In reference to potential mitigations Mike Denney said the Health Department has a map of brown field sites but isn’t ready to release it to the general public yet. Mike Wark said because of the geology of the area some current brown field sites on land owned by UWT are a result of contaminating sites flowing down from the MLK area. There are claims of up to 40 different gas stations or Laundromat polluters in the history of the MLK area.

**Upcoming Open House**

The date for the next open house has been changed to December 5th from 5:30 to 7:30pm. It will still be at Evergreen College in Lyceum Hall room 105. Part of the reason for this is the timing of the public comment period. The Plan and EIS should be finished before the open house so the public can see all the work that has been done. The timing of the open house may also be advantageous as a start to the public comment period. Justin requested the comment period extend through January to avoid holiday conflicts. In light of this Tom suggested that instead of making the period 30 days with a potential 15 day extension, the period should just be 45 days from the beginning with no extension. However, inevitably most of the comments happen at the end of the period regardless of length.

**Historic Tacoma Update**

Brian summarized the process for Historic Tacoma’s Brown’s Star Grill application. Historic Tacoma is finalizing their application and will be submitted soon. Following the submission a hearing will be set and the buildings will be inspected. This will be a hot topic for council, particularly in how historic status will affect its reuse. The resources that can be mobilized for its development may also affect the outcome.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm**

**Next meeting:** Second Thursday of the month

November 8, 2012; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; People’s Community Center