



Meeting Notes

(These notes are not formal meeting minutes. They are staff notes which capture the general topics and main points discussed during the meeting.)

TIME: Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Clyde Hupp Board Room, Downtown Campus, Bates Technical College,
1101 S. Yakima Ave Tacoma, WA

A. Call to Order

B. Co-Chairs Report

C. Items of Business

1. **Streetscape Engineering Update** [Goal: To keep HEC members up-to-date on Streetscape portion of the project.]

Ian updated the group about the progress on the streetscape work: a firm has been selected and contract negotiations are underway. The next step is for the final contract to be approved by the Tacoma City Council, which is scheduled to happen in mid-April.

2. **Equity and Empowerment Consultant Tasks (possible action):**
[Goal: HEC members provide final input and reach consensus about the draft consultant tasks.]

Ian opened up the discussion about the solicitation related to Equity and Empowerment. The initial idea for the solicitation came for the desire to ensure that Hilltop residents have the range of skills necessary to get and maintain jobs working for the Link Light Rail Expansion Project and other employment opportunities (jobs at the hospitals, downtown, etc.). Hilltop residents, having strong access to high wage construction jobs, is one avenue to ensure current residents will be able to stay in their homes if costs go up due to TOD investment.

The Links to Opportunity Project's Equity and Empowerment Initiative focuses on economic development and empowerment and is charged with procuring services (through an RFP) to learn more about the gaps to economic opportunity on Hilltop and ways that those gaps can be addressed. Ian opened the discussion up to HEC members to ask about issues that are important to include in the RFP, how to frame the questions and how to define the geographic area to be covered by the RFP.

Some issues and questions raised are listed below:

- *How should peoples' connection to Hilltop be validated? Should this RFP be geographically focused given that many former Hilltop residents now live elsewhere in Tacoma. The expansion of the hospitals have already displaced many people.*



- *Approx 12,000 people live on Hilltop yet only 200-300 work in the downtown area. Why is that? Is TOD the solution? How do we connect people in Hilltop with those jobs?*
- *We need to be very clear about the questions we're asking, the programs we're trying to carry out.*

The HEC decided that they would email further suggestions about the upcoming RFP to Monica by March 15.

3. Presentation by Councilmember Lauren Walker Lee (discussion only):

[Goal: To inform and educate HEC members, City staff and other stakeholders about community driven projects, programs and initiatives which are led by organizations represented on the HEC.]

This agenda item was moved to the begin. Councilmember Walker Lee talked about the work of the organization she directs, Fair Housing Center of Washington. The Center works on safeguarding equal opportunity to housing for the residents of Washington.

She talked specifically about the Center's Community in Bloom work which encourage elected officials and planners to invest in equal opportunity so that communities bloom and that people living in those communities have access to those opportunities. A "community in bloom" invests in the following areas: housing and neighborhood quality, quality education, economic health, economic development, mobility and transportation, and health and environment.

**4. Presentation by HEC Members about related initiatives (discussion only):
Olga Inglebritson, Evergreen State College-Tacoma Program**

[Goal: To inform and educate HEC members, City staff and other stakeholders about community driven projects, programs and initiatives which are led by organizations represented on the HEC.]

Olga talked about the history of the college, demographics and its intention to stay and expand programs on Hilltop.

**5. Briefing about Technical Assistance
Lauren Flemister, Planning and Development Services, City of Tacoma**

[Goal: For HEC members to learn about the consulting resources awarded to enhance the Links to Opportunity Project from the Federal Transit Administration and Smart Growth America]

Lauren Flemister provided background about the Federal Transit Administration/Smart Growth America Technical Assistance grant awarded to the City's Links to Opportunity.

Lauren explained that this is an award of consulting services. The City will be provided access to consultants with expertise in economic development, affordable housing, and transit-oriented development. These consulting services present an opportunity to delve deeply into issues related to but not covered by the Links to Opportunity Project such as neighborhood stabilization, job growth and market studies for business and real estate growth.

HEC members will be asked to provide input into this work and will be kept up-to-date on the progress.

D. Other Business

E. Public Comments

Comments must be pertaining to items on the agenda and limited to up to three minutes per speaker.

F. Adjournment

DRAFT