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NORTH DOWNTOWN

SUBAREA PLAN SCOPING MEETING

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Main Building Auditorium  
Bates Technical College  
1101 South Yakima Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington

June 26, 2013

5:30 p.m.

GINA M. CLARKE, CCR

9115 - 171st Street Court East  
Puyallup, WA 98375  
(253)279-3465

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. MUNCE: Good evening, everyone. I want to thank you all for coming. We'd like to get started, and then we'll have lots of time for visiting.

My name is Ian Munce, and I work with the Planning and Development Services part of the City of Tacoma. We're here this evening working with Bates Technical College, and Marty Mattes is here to provide moral support and bail me out if there are any really tough questions. But this is really a planning exercise, and I hope a number of you are passionate about planning the way I'm passionate about planning.

We had a little warm-up session here three or four weeks ago. I recognize a number of faces from that meeting. At that meeting, we sort of gave some of the background as to why we're here and answered a lot of questions. I would propose to do that a little bit this evening and take a few questions, but the real purpose of this evening is to hear comments from you as to what's important to you in this area, and this area that we're talking about is north of 15th Street, up to Stadium, up to MLK.

So we're going to take oral comment this evening. We've got a court reporter here to take your comments down. We'll be taking written comment through July 19th. We have

1 already received quite a bit of written comment and we  
2 expect to have more, but this is an opportunity for people  
3 who'd just like to get up and talk and we will keep track of  
4 your issues.

5 I'd like to first just describe a little bit why  
6 we're doing this, and I won't -- I'll try not to bore you,  
7 but under the State Growth Management Act and under the  
8 regional planning for the Puget Sound area, jurisdictions  
9 like Tacoma are required, under state law, to actively plan  
10 to take a lot more employment, a lot more population. The  
11 whole theory is that, you know, you can just keep building  
12 further and further up Mount Rainier or you can make more  
13 use of existing urban areas, redevelop those areas, have  
14 more density, and have more transit-oriented development.  
15 And so in order for us to attract the sort of federal  
16 investment, state investment, and private investment into  
17 downtown Tacoma, we need to do some advance planning for the  
18 next 20 years, planning that involves policies, regulations,  
19 and capital programs.

20 We are just finishing up an effort in South  
21 Downtown from 15th Street down to UWT, the Brewery District,  
22 and the Dome District, and if you have a chance at some  
23 point, you might look at some of the projects that came out  
24 of that exercise, things like relocating the Amtrak Station  
25 in a responsible way, working with UWT on some historic

1 building restoration.

2           In this area, as we move up here, we want to hear  
3 from you what your issues are, what you think we need to  
4 address as priorities over the next 20 years. Clearly, one  
5 of them will be the whole issue of the Link extension coming  
6 up St. Helens, somewhere up St. Helens, a route to be  
7 selected, going down MLK, so that's a -- you're all probably  
8 quite familiar with that. Over the next three months, they  
9 will be working on selecting a particular alignment -- this  
10 is Sound Transit I'm speaking of -- but there will be lots  
11 of other opportunities for you as individuals or groups to  
12 participate in that discussion. Does the light rail go up  
13 St. Helens? Does it go up Stadium? Where are those -- and  
14 where should the stations be? So there's an issue with  
15 that.

16           We've had quite a lot of comments already from some  
17 of the folks who are really interested in community gardens,  
18 really pushing hard to have additional community gardens  
19 located in this area.

20           The sort of range of issues that we can address are  
21 policy issues, zoning issues -- welcome, come on in.

22           For instance, down in the Tacoma Dome, there were  
23 some very stringent design standards for new construction,  
24 and the business folks down there said, "Well, we want to  
25 have some flexibility on those standards because we want to

1 get more residential development next to our transit hub,  
2 next to the station, next to the bus system," so we can  
3 consider issues about zoning.

4 We certainly can't get out of here without talking  
5 about parking. There's been quite a bit of discussion  
6 already on parking. In the downtown commercial core and  
7 down to the Dome/Brewery Districts, there really -- we've  
8 pretty much gone away from off-street parking requirements.  
9 It's up to the market to set the off-street parking  
10 requirements. We've already heard from the city business  
11 district -- and tell Denny that I said this -- that there's  
12 a lot of people that feel very strongly we need to keep  
13 off-street parking standards in place in Stadium, and so  
14 those are the sort of issues we'll get into.

15 What's happening, obviously everyone would like to  
16 St. Helens rebuilt. Anyone who wouldn't like to see St.  
17 Helens be rebuilt?

18 So what we want to do this evening, just to  
19 summarize, is to hear your comments about what's important  
20 to you. We will take a transcript of that. We will then  
21 start working on those issues, as well the standard issues  
22 about how do you get more people here by transportation,  
23 bus, or car? What are the priority projects? What are the  
24 key capital projects?

25 Now that we seem to be coming out of the recession,

1 there's a lot of interest popping up again about projects  
2 that were put on hold coming off hold, so it could be a  
3 pretty exciting time.

4           So our goal, by the end of the year, is to come up  
5 with what we call a Subarea Plan for this particular  
6 neighborhood that you're in, address planning policies,  
7 regulations if we need to make changes, and talk about  
8 priority infrastructure improvements, and we want to tie  
9 that in with your thinking, taking written comments until  
10 the 19th.

11           This evening I'm just going to sit down here in a  
12 minute and listen to your comments, and we will do our best  
13 to respond to those over the next six months. We will have  
14 lots more opportunity for advisory committees or public  
15 hearings/planning commission, public hearings/city council.

16           We are going along pretty strong with two other  
17 subarea plans we're doing -- South Downtown and MLK -- so we  
18 really have had a lot of outreach and a lot of consensus  
19 building. I don't know if we can build consensus on some of  
20 the issues here, but we need to start somewhere and that's  
21 why I'm here.

22           So before I open up the microphone -- and I'm going  
23 to ask you to stand over there, if you wouldn't mind -- I'm  
24 also going to suggest that people keep their comments to  
25 about four minutes for the first round, and then if they

1 want to come back later, they're welcome to, but at least --  
2 because I have been at hearings where someone takes 30  
3 minutes and then people just get fed up and leave, so I want  
4 to give everyone a chance to speak first and then we'll come  
5 back and hear more detailed comments.

6 I'd be happy to answer any questions about the  
7 procedure, about where we're going. And at this point,  
8 questions?

9 Everyone just wants to participate? Okay.

10 MS. BETSY ELGAR: I have a question.

11 MR. MUNCE: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. BETSY ELGAR: I'd like to have an opportunity  
13 to speak. That's all I want to tell you.

14 MR. MUNCE: You definitely will have an opportunity  
15 to speak. That's why we're here. You can be the first  
16 speaker, if you want. So take four minutes, and please just  
17 come to the microphone and tell us what your issues are, and  
18 we will keep going until people have run out of things to  
19 say.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BETSY ELGAR: I'm farsighted and nearsighted.

22 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, friends and  
23 families. I'm a parent advocate, a businesswoman, and  
24 caregiver.

25 Before I begin, what's going on in here stays in

1 here.

2 How many of you come from a military family, U.S.  
3 veterans?

4 THE REPORTER: Could I get your name, please?

5 MS. BETSY ELGAR: I just think you must not expand  
6 the Bates Technical College, but you can renovate this  
7 college. Hard to believe you have college on the Fort Lewis  
8 Military Base (unintelligible) to expand different courses.  
9 What do they want to be in the future? Do they want to be a  
10 doctor or a nurse? Do they want to -- do they want to be an  
11 auto mechanic or an engineer?

12 They have to be eligible to qualify to be in the  
13 program, because like Amanda Knox, she was accused of  
14 murdering her roommate. She's an American and the Italian  
15 government don't treat her right. How (unintelligible) our  
16 American government. She's an exchange student. Imagine  
17 what kind of funds or grants they come from. How are the  
18 colleges (unintelligible), because I support the American  
19 people and the U.S.A.

20 Based on my experience, I have good and bad, so  
21 that means I was discriminated. Why? Because they  
22 (unintelligible).

23 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. I can't --

24 MS. BETSY ELGAR: My funds are public funds  
25 (unintelligible). That's why I'm running for office. On



1 November 6, 2012, I did run for school board here in Tacoma  
2 in 2011.

3 Those are my facts and achievements. I want to  
4 thank you for listening to me. I appreciate it.

5 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

6 THE REPORTER: What is your name, please?

7 MS. BETSY ELGAR: My name is Betsy Pauline Elgar.

8 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

9 Come on, Liz.

10 MS. BURRIS: Good evening, everyone. My name is  
11 Elizabeth Burris. I'm the chair of the New Tacoma Neighbor  
12 Council. We are the neighbor council that encompasses most  
13 of -- all of downtown, Port of Tacoma, and part of the  
14 Stadium District, and basically I think it's really great  
15 that everyone has come here, because obviously you're  
16 concerned about what is going to be the future here in  
17 downtown Tacoma.

18 One of the things that I do believe is that the  
19 City has a bit of foresight in trying to make a plan that  
20 will encompass 20 years that would -- now, correct me if I'm  
21 wrong, Ian -- that would do away with separate environmental  
22 impact studies for folks that are coming in and building new  
23 multi-residential businesses, et cetera, et cetera. So it's  
24 extremely important that we really look at all of this and  
25 we make sure that this is the vision that we want. And I'm

1 not saying it's good or bad. You know, I just think it's  
2 really important we look, because this is what's going to be  
3 the harbinger for the next 20 years here.

4 And as a side note, I'd like to always invite folks  
5 to our New Tacoma Neighborhood Council meetings. We meet on  
6 the second Wednesday of the month up on the 7th floor. It's  
7 the lunchroom. I'm not sure about the actual room number,  
8 but it's in the City Municipal Building, which is 747 Market  
9 Street. We start our meetings at 5:30 p.m. We try to be  
10 done at 7:00. We try to be accommodating for everyone's  
11 time.

12 And one other thing that I can announce is, I know  
13 that -- and this has to do with downtown -- that there's,  
14 you know, the whole thing with the crosswalks and feeling  
15 like Tacoma wanted us to come live downtown but not feeling  
16 quite loved as far as being safe walking around. We're  
17 going to have a citizens stakeholders forum this July 10th  
18 starting at 5:00 up on the 7th floor. I believe it's Room  
19 708, 747, whatever. It's the lunchroom. You can't miss it.  
20 We're going to start at 5:00. We have invited the city  
21 manager to come and the city manager will be there present,  
22 along with other city officials. So that's going to be July  
23 10th -- just a couple weeks down the road -- Wednesday,  
24 starting at 5:00, so I'd like to urge everybody -- you know,  
25 it looks like folks here are interested in what's going on

1 downtown, and I think part of the grand scheme of downtown  
2 is making downtown safe for us that actually live downtown.  
3 I live downtown and I know lots of folks around here live  
4 downtown, and a lot of times I just don't feel that love  
5 when I'm trying to walk around, when I feel like, you know,  
6 it's the cars that have the right-of-way, even when it says  
7 "Walk."

8           So that's just my two bits.

9           And I've also got to put in kudos for Ian. He's  
10 really done a great job as far as getting folks together,  
11 coalitions, you know, figuring out what's going to go on.

12           We've talked before about the Amtrak station, some  
13 other things.

14           So, yeah, come on, come on to our meetings. We do  
15 do things and the City does listen to us.

16           Thanks.

17           FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where was that?

18           MS. BURRIS: It's at the City Building, the City  
19 Municipal Building, which is 747 Market Street, and our  
20 crosswalk forum is going to be at 5:00, July 10th.

21           MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did you say the 7th floor?

22           MS. BURRIS: Yes, the 7th floor.

23           Rick, what room is that? I thought it was 708, but  
24 maybe I'm wrong.

25           MALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: It is 708.

1 MS. BURRIS: Oh, it's Room 708. It's the  
2 lunchroom. You can't miss it up there on the 7th floor. I  
3 mean, you'll be able to see it, and here's your time to talk  
4 to the city manager about feeling like, hey, this is our  
5 city. We want this to be a walkable city. We want this to  
6 be a livable city.

7 Thanks.

8 MR. NICK CUTTING: Good evening. My name is Nick  
9 Cutting and I'm here this evening representing Cascadia, the  
10 Green Building Council, as well as a co-chair of the  
11 Sustainability Commission, the City of Tacoma's Council  
12 Planning Commission, and the two issues that I was asked to  
13 bring up were kind of related.

14 The first one is an eco-district. We wanted to  
15 find out how that is being potentially incorporated, if that  
16 is in the design scope. The second one is an architecture  
17 2030 city, how to move forward with the potential of that  
18 and want to potentially see if that could be incorporated  
19 into the long-range plans.

20 So those are the two things I want to bring to your  
21 attention. We can probably talk more about that offline.

22 MR. MUNCE: That's why we're here, is to get those  
23 ideas. Thank you.

24 MR. CUTTING: Okay, thank you.

25 MR. MUNCE: Well, we started so well.

1 MS. SEONG SHIN: Hi, Ian.

2 After living here all this time, I'm just going to  
3 share a few items with you.

4 Since I live here and work here in this area and I  
5 love Tacoma --

6 MR. MUNCE: And your name is?

7 MS. SEONG SHIN: My name is Seong Shin, S-e-o-n-g.

8 I observe how people live here and work here, so I  
9 just wanted to kind of share with you and the City. You  
10 know, since we have a chance to do it right, you know, why  
11 can't we do it right? We have this wonderful opportunity.  
12 Because this area, when you look at it, you know, we have  
13 really everything that you need. You know, we have good  
14 neighborhoods. We have a park here. We have water. We  
15 have beautiful historic churches every corner of this map  
16 here, and we have a beautiful theater. We have grand  
17 cinema. We have wonderful new businesses, you know, popping  
18 up everywhere.

19 So when you really look at this area, you know, we  
20 have this beautiful, walkable city actually, walkable score  
21 of 94, I found out that we have here, and then you see that  
22 when you actually walk to do what you need in daily life, we  
23 have pretty much everything in this area. That's the kind  
24 of density that we have already.

25 What is missing is that since this district has

1 been developed to support automobile society in the early  
2 1950s, '20s, it is not safe to walk around. You know, it's  
3 not a pedestrian-oriented district, so first thing that we  
4 have to really look into, when you are planning on having  
5 all these people move into this area, we have to make sure  
6 that our streets are pedestrian friendly.

7           Then also, since we have a new chance to develop  
8 this area, let's really think about eco-district sustainable  
9 design. You know, we have to live together with very  
10 minimum resources, so we need to rethink how we're going to  
11 utilize, you know, water, fuel, transportation, all this  
12 different kinds of issues.

13           And Tacoma we have really built on hills, so which  
14 means that, you know, we have a lot of stormwater problem  
15 and during rainy season, you know, we have all this water  
16 going down the hill, bringing all the dirty street debris  
17 all the way to, you know, the Foss Waterway, which we spent  
18 millions and millions of dollars, and so how can we manage  
19 at that level? So, you know, stormwater is important for  
20 us, too, bringing to this picture.

21           And then also, sustainable design practice, not  
22 only just functional utility infrastructure, but we have to  
23 really think about aesthetics of this district. Since we  
24 have so many layers and layers of things in this district,  
25 you know, this is going to be, really, a destination for

1 Tacoma. It is heart of Tacoma for visitors and urban  
2 dwellers and business owners and students as well, so I want  
3 to make sure that aesthetic aspects of beautifying this area  
4 is also one of the items that we pay attention to.

5 And another thing I notice, that LID, urban  
6 project, but when I walk around, there are ugly, plastic,  
7 dirty garbage cans everywhere on every corner, every block,  
8 so we have to really think about how we're going to do our  
9 waste management. You know, can we actually rethink, so  
10 that, you know, can they go underground, and, you know, what  
11 can we do?

12 When you actually look at it, there's one beautiful  
13 district called Hammarby Sjostad in Stockholm, Sweden, and  
14 just beautiful, beautiful district, all the way a hundred  
15 percent sustainable design. So if you have a chance, Google  
16 it and you will learn so much out of that, and also the City  
17 can learn so much out of that project as well.

18 So I think that's about it -- and, you know, think  
19 about transportation. You know, maybe nobody has to own  
20 bicycles in this district, if we can prepare that the City  
21 owns the bicycles everywhere, and so you can actually go A  
22 to B and utilize the City's bicycles, not, you know, our  
23 own. So really proactive programs like that will help us,  
24 you know, faster.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

2 MS. ELIZABETH SCOTT: My name is Elizabeth Scott.  
3 I live on G Street and I walked down here today, and I  
4 wonder if this committee will address the people problem in  
5 our area.

6 On Thursday, when I take my dog out for a walk, I  
7 walk past the needle van. To me that's a problem. It's  
8 been there for years.

9 There's lot of homelessness in this area. In my  
10 backyard I often have to run people away, and I live in -- I  
11 live in this area and I've lived in this area for 35 years.  
12 I've seen it go through many, many transitions, but no one  
13 really seems to address the people problem of this area, and  
14 I wonder if in our scoping, will that be taken into  
15 consideration?

16 Like I said, I could walk here today, but I walked  
17 here past cars where people live in them. I walked here  
18 past homelessness, so in all of the scoping, will we be  
19 dealing with the people problem?

20 MR. MUNCE: Okay.

21 MS. SCOTT: Secondly, I may have missed the  
22 information about the new transportation, but is there going  
23 to be Link light rail coming all the way up to Martin Luther  
24 King and is there someplace we could get that information?

25 MR. MUNCE: Yes.



1 MS. SCOTT: Well, like I said, my concern really is  
2 the people problem, and will that be addressed in all of  
3 this? The buildings are nice, but there's still people  
4 living on the street and they still present a danger.

5 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

6 MR. SCOTT HELLER: My name is Scott Heller. I'm  
7 with the Guadalupe Land Trust, and a couple things that are  
8 part of our mission is to preserve green space in the  
9 downtown area, and so anything that, you know, policy-wise  
10 that could support that, of course we'd like to see.

11 Also, personally speaking, I like to ride a bike to  
12 one of our gardens which is in this district at 14th and G.  
13 And, you know, oftentimes people will yell at me, you know,  
14 what are you doing on the street? And sometimes I wonder if  
15 the white bicycle on the street isn't a chalk line around  
16 somebody that got run over. You know, it is a very car-  
17 centric city, as a lot of people have mentioned, and I'd  
18 like to see safer bike lanes.

19 My dad just got back from Copenhagen and 60 percent  
20 of commuters commute by bicycle in the city of -- in the  
21 town of Copenhagen, which I just think is amazing.

22 And then, of course, also not just green space, but  
23 green belts. I think it would be awesome if some sort of  
24 green belt could be established along with, like, some sort  
25 of main bike thoroughfare. Maybe it's a dream, but then

1 you'd have a continuous, you know, green belt which provides  
2 access for bees and birds to move through the city and also  
3 bicyclists possibly removed a little bit from the hazards of  
4 traffic.

5 What else?

6 Oh, and public spaces, you know, where people can  
7 congregate. There's some already near the museum downtown,  
8 but, you know, city parks and plazas and open squares.

9 And, you know, we do have density and I'm all -- I  
10 think density is, you know, the thing that is crucial to a  
11 growing planet. I mean, we need to have more density, but,  
12 you know, in achieving that, I think -- you know, I heard  
13 somebody mention an eco-district and I'm not sure what that  
14 is, but I like that; I like the sound of it.

15 And then, you know, maybe public roof gardens if  
16 ground space is not available. If the buildings get too  
17 tall and the ground is all in the shade, then public roof  
18 gardens is another idea that works in other cities.

19 A friend of my sister's worked on a -- in New York  
20 City, they took an old elevated train line and turned it  
21 into a public garden, and that kind of stuff is happening  
22 around the world and I would like to see Tacoma be a part of  
23 that.

24 That's all. Thanks.

25 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

1 MS. HAVNAER: My name is Karen Havnaer, and like  
2 Scott, I'm a member, a board member of the Guadalupe Land  
3 Trust, and I just wanted to add a few things, specific  
4 things about our trust, and that is we have two important  
5 gardens. One is a pea patch garden that is at 18th and  
6 South G. It's about a half block in size. It has 65 plots.  
7 They are 10 by 12 feet and they are all occupied. We also  
8 have a Children's Garden at that location. And it's a very  
9 ethnically diverse garden, which is great. It's now called  
10 Viet Huong, because of our Vietnamese gardeners in part, but  
11 as I said, it's ethnically diverse.

12 We also -- Scott mentioned that we have a garden at  
13 South 14 and G Street. I hope you can take a peak at it  
14 sometime. It's beautifully landscaped. We call it the  
15 Gallucci Learning Garden. We have a workshop study group  
16 usually every Wednesday night, but not tonight because of  
17 this event. But we have an average of 10 to 20 people that  
18 come to those classes which are taught by experienced  
19 gardeners and master gardeners.

20 Anyway, just specific ideas: These gardens were in  
21 started in the '80s and '90s by Father Bill Bichsel and  
22 Carrie Little, who you probably know. She has Mother Earth  
23 Farms. At that time, they had four-point-some acres on the  
24 hill that they were planting. They started the first CSA in  
25 Tacoma.

1           Anyway, like our garden at South 14th and G -- not  
2 so much our pea patch garden -- but the one at 14th and G is  
3 very beautiful. You can walk in any time and relax.

4           I did also want to mention that we live in the St.  
5 Leo's community which does offer services to the homeless,  
6 and we have lots of folks walking by that garden every day  
7 and they respect it. It's a beautiful spot, good looking,  
8 and we have had no vandalization problems whatsoever.

9           Anyway, green space.

10          MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

11          MR. PETER BAKER: My name is Peter Baker. I live  
12 at Tacoma Avenue at South 6th. I just wanted to throw out a  
13 few things in here just to keep in mind in this whole  
14 process.

15          As has been mentioned before, it is a very walkable  
16 area. When I check my own address, it has -- I'm just short  
17 of 100 in the walkability score and that's only because  
18 there's no hardware (phonetic) nearby. But getting up the  
19 hill is the problem, so if we could make sure that while  
20 we're waiting for the light rail to come in, that transit  
21 gets us up the hill, that would be great.

22          We already have density. That's the good thing.  
23 On the negative side, we have -- in that yellow triangle is  
24 concentrated most of the high-risk, high-needs people in the  
25 county. My particular neighborhood is a SOAP and SODA area

1 and they don't stay out like they're supposed to, and I  
2 would like to know how the plan and the zoning is going to  
3 address, as she said, the people problem.

4 We have parks and gardens, as has been mentioned,  
5 and that's great. We also have vacant lots, and what we  
6 don't have is a dog park. Now, there's a perfect little  
7 vacant lot with a fence around it that would be a great dog  
8 park, if we could talk to the owners of that.

9 I'd also like the group to keep in mind the little  
10 details like street trees, sidewalk widths, particularly  
11 around businesses. I know that a lot of the coffee shops  
12 and restaurants like to put tables out on the sidewalks, but  
13 they also impede pedestrian traffic.

14 And I don't really want to get into the P word, but  
15 there are two huge parking lots across from the Stadium  
16 Thriftway that are empty most of the time, and until those  
17 fill up, I won't believe that there's a parking problem.

18 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

19 MR. MICHAEL KAGAN: Thanks, Peter, for a lead-in  
20 for what I wanted to talk about.

21 My name is Michael Kagan, and I've been very  
22 involved with the Stadium neighborhood for over 20 years,  
23 the business district.

24 Those two lots that he's talking about, in addition  
25 to the building where the Thriftway grocery store and Titus

1 Will Car Center is, are probably being bought right now by a  
2 developer who is going to tear down everything and build  
3 many, many stories of retail and residential units. The  
4 City has, in all of its wisdom, said that the developer does  
5 not need to provide any off-street parking, so the parking  
6 lots that you covet are going to be gone and there are going  
7 to be probably hundreds more cars put onto the streets, one  
8 of which is between G and Yakima at the corner of Wright  
9 Park on Division, where the City, in all of its further  
10 wisdom, is trying to put a bike lane in, thereby removing 14  
11 existing angle parking spaces. So not only are they taking  
12 away parking, they're asking developers to come in and  
13 saying, "Build whatever you want. Don't give any regard to  
14 parking."

15 This is on top of the area on Division where  
16 there's something called the Balcony above the Thriftway  
17 parking lot where people had been parking for many, many,  
18 many years and now they've been getting tickets because  
19 allegedly they have to cross a sidewalk to get to that.  
20 Now, how many of you live in areas where your driveway to  
21 your garage goes across a sidewalk? Why is that not illegal  
22 and it is illegal in this location?

23 There's also parking strips that are paved with  
24 asphalt right in front of Titus Will, and Titus Will is  
25 being told not to park, that they can't park on that parking

1 strip. So they have to park their cars that they're working  
2 on, between when they're working on them, on the street,  
3 which further limits the parking in our neighborhood.

4 So I think I recall seeing on Tacoma's Web site  
5 that Tacoma means business. I think what it means business  
6 about is driving business out of the areas where we're  
7 trying to encourage them. I don't see businesses popping  
8 up, in contradiction to what somebody earlier said. I see  
9 more and more "For Lease" and "Available" signs. Now, a lot  
10 of that is because of the general economy and how people  
11 have been -- had their hopes and dreams of having their own  
12 business dashed by the policies that the other Washington  
13 puts into place.

14 I would like the City, in all of this scoping and  
15 EIS studying, to find a way to encourage developers to have  
16 parking, not say that they don't have to have parking.

17 Thanks.

18 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

19 MS. JESSICA LUDWIG: Hi. My name is Jessica  
20 Ludwig. I'm here on behalf of Pierce County. I manage the  
21 resources conservation program for the county.

22 As many of you may know, we own quite a bit of  
23 property in downtown Tacoma, and the major buildings that we  
24 have are the County City Building, which is basically right  
25 across the street; and on that same campus we have two jails

1 which are frequented by the public. We have about -- I  
2 forget -- tens of thousands of visitors every year to those  
3 facilities.

4 We're definitely interested in starting the  
5 discussion of the eco-district. That's a big interest of  
6 ours, and then seeing what opportunities there are with  
7 possible stricter green building codes.

8 And, then, also, obviously, transportation is a  
9 huge concern of ours. We always are constantly having  
10 parking issues with the downtown area, so increasing  
11 accessibility for the public to public transit would be  
12 absolutely wonderful.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

15 MS. MONIQUE GRONDIN: Hi. My name is Monique  
16 Grondin, and I just wanted to sort of piggyback on what he  
17 said, is that I think the district [sic] should tread really  
18 lightly when they start deciding to take parking spots away  
19 from the neighborhood like they're looking at doing for the  
20 bike trail. I think we're all in agreement that walking  
21 scores and bike trails and things are important, but it's  
22 also not a neighborhood that you can get away with that  
23 people are not going to be driving into the area, so to take  
24 away 14 parking spots I think is a big mistake.

25 The second thing that I wanted to talk about is I



1 saw on the maps that there's going to be some walking areas  
2 and things around the waterfront, and it would be nice for  
3 our district to have some stairways or something down to  
4 that so that we become more walkable and we have access to  
5 the giant trails that are going to go down to Point  
6 Defiance.

7 I guess those are my two issues, is the parking and  
8 also trying to get more walking accessible.

9 MR. MUNCE: Okay, these are great ideas. I really  
10 can't thank you enough, so give me some more, please.

11 If there really aren't any -- I mean, the basic  
12 process is I think we've heard the parking issue pretty  
13 clearly, heard other issues this evening. We are working as  
14 part of this process with all the other stakeholders --  
15 Pierce County, Pierce Transit -- so we'll be talking about  
16 the idea about how we can improve transit pre the Link  
17 extension, which is a big issue.

18 Cheri Gibbons, who works with me, at the back of  
19 the room is our facilitator for this evening. We're both  
20 meeting with Pierce Transit next week to talk about how they  
21 can move forward on some of these issues.

22 So the real intent here is to condense down the  
23 issues you've given us this evening, from the community  
24 gardens to I like the hill -- the better access down the  
25 hillside, flesh those proposals out, give you a document

1 that tries to respond to those as well as we can, hear some  
2 more comment as to whether we got it right or not, and then  
3 go on to the planning commission and the city council.

4           So this really is a grassroots effort. We will  
5 take more comment this evening if you want. I was just  
6 trying to sort of warm you up again. But written comment  
7 e-mail by the 19th will be great. We will put a summary  
8 together on our Web page, our summary of what we've heard.  
9 You can jump in at any time and tell me I got it wrong and  
10 improve on it.

11           More comments this evening? Going once -- okay,  
12 okay.

13           MS. NANCY HAUSAUER: My name is Nancy Hausauer,  
14 and I'm a business owner on Sixth Avenue across from -- just  
15 across from Wright Park, and this isn't really anything new  
16 and pretty much what everybody else has been saying, but one  
17 of the things that I really love about Tacoma is how close  
18 to the surface nature seems. We've got like a thin veneer  
19 of the urban, of the concrete, all of that, but nature is so  
20 close to the surface here. So in the planning that's done  
21 for the future, I so hope that that is cherished and  
22 sustained. So all of the comments about sustainability,  
23 about strict green building standards, about green belts --  
24 I don't know what the eco-zone is, but it sure sounds  
25 good -- all of that is so important to me and, I think, to

1 the character of our city, really, to me, to the heart of  
2 our city. Yeah, so that.

3           And your comments about the people, too, I think is  
4 so important, because a building certainly isn't -- I mean,  
5 a city certainly isn't just the buildings. It's the people  
6 in it, and it needs to -- it needs to take into account  
7 everybody, and that includes -- that includes people who are  
8 homeless and it includes everybody, and so I just hope that  
9 the planning will really take into account the people who  
10 actually live here and what it's really like and that it  
11 will look to the future for our children so that the issues  
12 that we know we're going to have with water, with energy,  
13 are really truly taken into account in a creative way, not  
14 in just, you know, whatever -- but a really, really creative  
15 way.

16           MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

17           You brought your own audience.

18           MS. NORA LIGHTER (phonetic): I live and work a few  
19 blocks down the street, and I'd like to follow up.

20           MR. MUNCE: And your name is --

21           MS. NORA LIGHTER: Nora Lighter.

22           I'd like to follow up.

23           A couple of times I've heard referred to a people  
24 problem that we have. I think there are different ways to  
25 look at our people problem, and the way that I look at it is

1 that we have people that don't have a place to live.

2 I live very close to the needle van and it is --  
3 it has saved people's lives, and so I think that's actually  
4 an important thing in our neighborhood as well. It has kept  
5 people from -- people who are in pretty dire straits from  
6 dying of disease and of spreading that disease in our  
7 community, so I just want to make note of that.

8 I also want to note that one of the things that I  
9 love about this neighborhood is that it's mixed income and  
10 it's varied, and I think as we make this plan, I'm very  
11 interested that we preserve that mixed income neighborhood  
12 and that we don't create development which is going to make  
13 it impossible for the people who live here now to stay.  
14 Very interested in finding ways that we can preserve that  
15 diversity of all kinds.

16 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

17 Okay, we're getting some more people -- oh, you're  
18 leaving. Okay.

19 MS. LAURA JENSEN: My name is Laura Jensen.

20 I wanted to speak about the car problem. I notice  
21 the rush-hour traffic early in the morning, and this happens  
22 in the evening too. I haven't been out in the dark early in  
23 the past few years, but I'm a hundred percent certain that  
24 the rush-hour traffic has not gone away, and so I think that  
25 we have rush-hour traffic going through a historic district

1 and to me it just seems wrong.

2 I've never owned a car. I use public  
3 transportation or I walk or I ride a bicycle.

4 Also, my second point is that I -- and I've said  
5 this at other times -- that I think it's important to care  
6 about the wildlife that does live here. There is wildlife  
7 that lives here in our area.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. MUNCE: Thank you.

10 Other comments? I mean, Cheri and I are going to  
11 be here for a while. We would be happy to visit with you  
12 individually. But if we don't have any more comments, I'm  
13 going to thank you all for coming and hope that -- and if  
14 you're interested in being on the advisory committee, please  
15 sign up. If you're interested in coming to the New Tacoma  
16 Neighborhood Council, please do.

17 I'm really interested in the traffic calming issue.  
18 I think it's important to a lot of us, so that's an  
19 editorial comment from me.

20 So anyway, thank you all for coming. Stay in  
21 touch. We'll do our best to keep you informed. Thank you.

22

23 (Hearing recessed at 6:15 p.m.)

24

25

1 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 )  
 2 COUNTY OF PIERCE )

3

4 I, GINA M. CLARKE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
 5 and Notary Public in and for Pierce County, Washington, do  
 6 hereby certify there that the foregoing transcript was  
 7 prepared under my personal supervision and constitutes a  
 8 rendering of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

9

10 I further certify that I am not an attorney or  
 11 counsel of any parties, nor a relative or employee of any  
 12 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor  
 13 financially interested in the action.

14

15 WITNESS my hand and seal in Puyallup, County of  
 16 Pierce, State of Washington, this 5th day of July, 2013.

17

18

19

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notary public in and for the  
 21 State of Washington, residing  
 at Puyallup.

22

23

24 My commission expires 4-13-13.

25