HANDOUTS and PRESENTATIONS

Meeting of April 2, 2014

1. Amtrak Station Relocation
   (PowerPoint; for Discussion Item D-1)

2. 2014 Annual Amendment – Public Comments and Staff Responses
   (PowerPoint; for Discussion Item D-2)
AMTRAK STATION RELOCATION

A Key Component of the Point Defiance By-pass Project
Presentation to the Tacoma Planning Commission, April 2, 2014

By Donald K. Erickson, AICP
Member of the Planning Commission
Chair, Amtrak Station Relocation Citizens Advisory Committee
Point Defiance Bypass
Project Objectives:

- More frequent and reliable intercity passenger service between Tacoma and Nisqually
- Reduced travel times to accommodate growing intercity rail service including:
  - Two additional round trips of the Amtrak Cascades service to Eugene
  - Support longer distance Coastal Starlight service to LA
- Make improvements along 26 mile-long route including 8 miles of new track and re-aligning 15 miles of existing track
- Relocate and replace existing Amtrak Station on Puyallup Avenue to Freighthouse Square, and replace existing heavy timber trestle north of FH.
Earlier Components

Upgrades to “Sounder” commuter rail including:

- Pacific Avenue rail overpass
- Final link extension of Sounder rail service to South Tacoma and Lakewood Stations
- 1.4 miles of new track and signal systems between East “D” and South “M” Streets
- Preliminary needs analysis for station design including size, off-street parking, short-term parking, etc.
Timetable for Next Phases in Tacoma

• Decision on relocation of Amtrak Station to Freighthouse Square
• WSDOT outreach to advisory groups and stakeholders
• Station design advances in 2014
• Construction beginning in Spring 2015
• Amtrak rail service on the new bypass beginning in 2017
Amtrak Station Relocation Citizens Advisory Committee

• 15 members appointed by City in early 2013
• Committee represents broad array of stakeholders including:
  * Dome Business District
  * Brown & Haley Candies
  * Pierce Transit
  * Cross Cultural Collaborative
  * Puyallup Tribe
  * Huitt-Zollars
  * New Tacoma Neighborhood Council
  * Foss Waterfront Development Authority
  * Tacoma Planning Commission
  * Tacoma/Pierce County Chamber
  * UW-Tacoma
  * KPG

• 7 CAC meetings in 2013 and 3 CAC meetings already in 2014
Citizen Advisory Committee 2013 Recommendations

Initial focus on Dome District related to the following issues:

• Unnecessary blockage of East “C” and “D” Streets by trains and signaling devices;
• Excessive noise from train horns in proposed mixed-use district;
• Preference for relocating station to FHS;
• Calming devices were suggested for Puyallup Avenue;
• All day surface employee parking should be located outside the pedestrian “core” on East “D” and East 25th Streets;

• The future Amtrak Station should be designed to be integral to FHS with its primary ingress and egress through the buildings central concourse;
• Any short-term parking lost should be replaced by WSDOT; and
• Waiting areas in the new station should be informative not only regarding train scheduling and destinations but also regarding Tacoma’s multiple assets.
Initial CAC Recommendations
May 1, 2013

Initial Committee report included multiple recommendations grouped around four main categories:

• Parking
• Traffic Circulation
• Urban Design
• Station Design at FHS
What is unique about Freighthouse Square?

• Tacoma landmark for over 100 years
• Once the most western point and freight terminus for the Milwaukee Railroad
• Over 110,000 square feet of urban indoor shopping and food court
• Considered epicenter of Dome Business District
• Houses “Sounder Station”
• Adjacent to “Link” terminus
Initial WSDOT response, Dec. 2013

- Removed nearly 1/3 of Freighthouse Square threatening its economic viability as a retail mall
- Did not reflect historic character of FHS as a recognized community landmark
- Relied on exterior access with no pedestrian continuity with FHS’s interior concourse
- Reminded many people of a prefabricated storage building
- Disregarded many South Downtown Plan recommendations re: TOD, FHS, and community character
Back to the Drawing Board!

• WSDOT holds two additional community input meetings

• WSDOT and City jointly hire Tacoma architect, Jim Merritt, FAIA to develop multiple station layout alternatives within FHS

• Merritt develops 14 siting alternatives

• Majority of participants push for siting station at the multi-story east end of FHS.
Amtrak Relocation CAC Siting Recommendation

“That the new greater Tacoma Amtrak station be sited at the east end of Freighthouse Square for the following reasons:”

• It would consolidate construction activity and coordination between the trestle replacement and platform with that of the new station (key Owner concern!)

• It would leave the more iconic west end of FHS free to function as a gateway entrance into its interior mall or possibly retain this 100% corner for a major retail use

• It would facilitate pedestrian flow thru the building, critical to the viability of FHS as a pedestrian mall

• It would move station-related traffic, e.g. drop-off, pick-up, taxis, vans, etc. to a portion of FHS where it would impact pedestrian designated streets less

• It would accommodate, in a vertical format, a clearer separation between different station functions while potentially taking advantage of the open trussed sky-lit ceilings at this end of FHS

• It would allow the new station to function independently from the rest of FHS when the latter is closed, as well as assume chief responsibility for its own security (key WSDOT/Amtrak concern!)
Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee a special thanks must go to the following City staff who assisted us along the way:

- Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director
- Cheri Gibbons, Urban Planner

Others who contributed to the CAC include members of AIA SWW who help facilitate early committee meetings:

- Arron Winston, Les Geerstmann, and Ko Wiboro
Schedule

- March 19: Public Hearing
  (10 testified)
- March 21: Hearing Record Closed
  (23 written comments)
- April 2: Review Comments / Modify Proposals
- April 16: Commission Recommendation
- May-June: City Council Review / Adoption
# 2014 Annual Amendment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications (Proposals)</th>
<th>Amending:</th>
<th># of Comments Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Point Ruston Mixed-Use Center</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Point Defiance Park Land Use Policies</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mixed-Use Centers Code Review</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Affordable Housing</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Container Port Element</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Open Space Habitat &amp; Recreation Element</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sustainability Code Amendment</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Urban Forestry Landscaping Code Update</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Plan and Code Clean-up</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPA Environmental Checklist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Point Defiance Park Land Use Policies
  - Support comment

3. Mixed-Use Centers Code Review
  - No comment received

5. Container Port Element
  - No comment received
1. Point Ruston Mixed-Use Center

- Consistent support for designation
- Issues raised:
  - Transit
  - Affordable housing
  - Consistency w/ approvals
- Recommendation:
  - Approve MUC designation, with development of an Affordable Housing agreement
4. Affordable Housing

- Consistent support.
- Issues raised:
  - Street tree w/ small lots

- Responses / Recommendation:
  - Approval w/ no change
  - Landscaping Code Update allows flexibility
## 6. Open Space Element

- **Support (with refinements)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECOMMENDED CHANGES (MPT comments):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open space system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation and funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Canopy goal                              |
| Habitat stewardship                      |
| Transfer of properties                   |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMENTS NOTED (no changes proposed):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plans for specific areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive’s removal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Measuring progress                       |
| Encroachments                            |
7. Sustainability Code

- LID/Setback Exceptions: No Comments!
- Bicycle amendments: General support
- General comment:
  - Provide flexibility for campus wide approaches
- Electric vehicles:
  - Adds complexity to multifamily housing and potential cost impacts
  - Uncertainty over market
  - ADA parking
8. Urban Forestry Landscaping Code Update

- Support (with refinements)
- Issues - Utilities (recommendations in green):
  - Exempt utilities from street trees
  - Reasonable thresholds
  - Note resource demands
8. Landscaping Code (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECOMMENDED CHANGES (MPT):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant selection – avoid overhead utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree retention – minimum size reduced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-managed agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall site requirement – exempt parks/open space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffers – add intent-based option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMENTS NOTED (no changes proposed):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant selection - variety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No tree cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No non-natives near habitat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Plan and Code Cleanup

Comments – Pipestem Lots:
- Setback requirements limiting building size
- Height restrictions discriminatory

Responses:
- Larger footprint
- Same rights as abutting properties
- Neighborhood cohesiveness
SEPA Environmental Checklist

Comments:
- Contact Ecology re: Contamination
- Adopt Policies re: Smelter Plume
- Include MTCA as Conditions of Approval

Responses:
- 2014 Amendment a non-project action
- In practice / future consideration / on-going discussion