

DRAFT

CITY OF SHORELINE

SHORELINE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

April 5, 2016
5:30 P.M.

Shoreline City Hall
Room 303

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Malek
Commissioner Mork
Commissioner Moss-Thomas

Staff Present

Steve Szafran, Senior Planner, Planning & Community Development
Kurt Seemann, Senior Transportation Planner, Public Works

Appointed (but not acting) Commissioners Present¹

Commissioner Montero
Commissioner Maul

AGENDA

There was one item on the agenda - Multi-Modal Transportation Improvements.

INTRODUCTION

Staff started the meeting with an introduction of the staff members present and thanked everyone for attending this informational meeting of the Planning Commission.

Staff went over some housekeeping issues. There is no quorum of the Planning Commission. There are three Commissioners who terms have ended on March 31, 2016. These Commissioners have been reappointed by the City Council on February 8, 2016, but have not been sworn in will be sworn in on April 7, 2016. Some of those newly re-appointed Commissioners are here but only as concerned citizens and not as Commissioners.

Staff stated that the purpose of the meeting was to update the Planning Commission on multi-modal improvements to the I-5/145th interchange. The full Planning Commission was briefed on the Corridor Study at the March 3, 2016 Regular Meeting and City Council were briefed at the March 21, 2016 Regular Meeting.

¹ These commissioners were appointed by the City Council but have not been sworn in and, therefore, attended this special meeting only in their capacity as citizens of Shoreline.

Staff stated that they wanted to make sure the Planning Commission has all of the information needed to make an informed decision on the preferred zoning alternative at Thursday night's Public Hearing. Staff explained that the 145th Street Light Rail Station Subarea plan was put on hold in order for the 145th Street Corridor Study to be completed. Now that the Corridor Study is nearing completion, staff can inform the Commission of the outcome of the study and verify that the corridor can accommodate the growth projected in the subarea and the growth expected in the region.

Staff Presentation

Mr. Seemann reviewed that the 145th Street Corridor stretches about 3.2 miles from 3rd Avenue NW to the intersection of Highway 522. It is a busy street with a lot of challenges and problems, and is the dividing line between Shoreline on the north and Seattle on the south. It is a major east/west connection that serves both Shoreline and Seattle neighborhoods. In his meetings with neighborhood groups along the corridor, Mr. Seemann has consistently heard that, although 145th Street may be a corridor across town, it is also their neighborhood street. Citizens are very concerned about impacts to their homes and their ability to use the street for access.

Mr. Seemann reminded the Commission that the focus of the Corridor Study is to improve the corridor for all modes of transportation. While the City recognizes the need to improve single-occupancy vehicle safety and ease of moving down the corridor, it is also important to consider safety issues for other modes of transportation (pedestrian, bicycles, transit) using a "complete streets" approach. The work must also be done in a way that supports the economy, is respectful of the environment, and contributes to a successful and vibrant community.

Mr. Seemann explained that, currently, the 145th Street corridor has 60 feet of right-of-way (ROW), with approximately 42-44 feet of drive lanes and 5.5-foot sidewalks on each side. He summarized that the focus of the corridor study has looked at improving the corridor by adding a turn lane for safety at key intersections, bus lanes for better transit, bike lanes, better areas for bus stops, and a 5-foot planter strip adjacent to the roadway to provide a pedestrian buffer. However, it is important to keep in mind that many or all of these improvements will require more ROW, which will impact adjacent properties and result in additional costs.

Mr. Seemann explained that Shoreline City Council is generally supportive of the preferred design concept but had questions/concerns/suggestions on how to make the interchange section of the corridor better.

Mr. Seemann then went into great detail explaining the latest design for the interchange section of the Corridor. Staff presented a drawing of the latest proposed interchange design. This drawing was available for the public to see on the overhead projector. Staff also referred back to the City Council PowerPoint presentation for design concepts of the interchange.

Planning Commission Questions

The Planning Commission had an opportunity to ask staff questions regarding the latest design concept for the interchange. Questions referred to:

- Safe pedestrian crossings over Interstate 5 on the north and south sides of the street
- Is the detached pedestrian bridge in the proper location, is the bridge higher or lower than 145th Street, is the bridge wide enough to accommodate two-way pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Is the pedestrian crossing at the southbound off-ramp better at grade or elevated?
- What is the safest way for pedestrians to cross at the 145th and 5th Avenue intersection?
- Is it better for busses to drop off passengers at the station or on 145th Street?
- The 147th pedestrian bridge – should there be a second bridge that acts as a backdoor to the station? Can the second bridge be a replacement for the proposed pedestrian bridge adjacent to 145th Street?
- Bicycle access – The Commission had concerns that the proposed off-network bicycle plan is not acceptable and does not meet the goal of getting bicycles to and from the station in a safe and effective manner.
- Pedestrian access – Some Commissioners believe that placing pedestrians adjacent to the roadway of 145th Street is unpleasant and may not be safe. Would pedestrian and bicycle access at the north end of the station remove congestion from people entering from the south end of the station?

Public Comment

The Commission opened up the meeting to questions from the public. The public had a number of concerns that mirrored the Commission’s concerns and questions. Additional comments are welcomed and will be entered into the record at the upcoming public hearing on Thursday, April 7.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Donna Moss-Thomas
Planning Commission