

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Strategic Points for Town Center Projects
DEPARTMENT: Planning and Development Services
PRESENTED BY: Joe Tovar, Director

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The City Council will be making design decisions in the next several months regarding two major capital projects in the center of town, specifically, the Civic Center/City Hall and the Aurora Project as it traverses Central Shoreline. As the Interurban Trail nears completion through this area, the City has also begun to think about the possibility of a "Heritage Park" between Aurora and Midvale, generally bisected by the new trail segment. By considering and adopting the recommended strategic points, the Council can achieve better coordination between these projects and a more visually coherent and functional Town Center.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Adoption of the recommended Strategic Points for Town Center Projects will have no direct financial impact. At the time that the City Council considers decisions relative to any of the Town Center Projects, a detailed evaluation will be done of the financial impacts of those projects.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommended "Strategic Points for Town Center Projects" as set forth in Attachment A.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney

INTRODUCTION

The City of Shoreline's "2010 Planning Work Program" includes the preparation of "Strategic Points" for the four Town Center Projects (the Civic Center/City Hall, the Interurban Trail, the Aurora Project as it passes through Central Shoreline, and the potential for a future "Heritage Park"). The purpose of these strategic points is to enable the City to better coordinate design and decision-making for these four projects that all are located in the Central part of Shoreline.

The Strategic Points are not regulations or plan policies and as such do not dictate a specific outcome or Council decision. Rather, they are a contextual framework of principles and strategies that are to be kept in mind as the City Council makes specific decisions about these four capital projects.

BACKGROUND

Council reviewed this topic at its Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission on April 2, which discussion included an overview of what were then ten draft Strategic Points. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Council asked that the Planning Commission conduct a public workshop and prepare a final set of recommended Strategic Points for Council's consideration.

An article was printed in Currents alerting the public to a public workshop on May 10 hosted by the Planning Commission. In addition, a notice of the workshop was sent to the City's extensive email list and posted on the City's website, as were the draft Strategic Points. Approximately two dozen citizens attended the May 10 workshop and, in combination with the Planning Commissioners and several Council members present, broke into three discussion groups to discuss and brainstorm revised or additional strategic points.

At its May 17 regular meeting the Planning Commission reviewed the public input from the May 10 workshop, and refined the proposed points. Their unanimous recommendation is that the City Council adopt the thirteen strategic points set forth in Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council adopt a motion to adopt the Planning Commission's recommended "Strategic Points for Town Center Projects" as set forth in Attachment A.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Planning Commission's Final Recommendation for Strategic Points for the Town Center Projects

5/17/07 Planning Commission Recommendation

Strategic Points for Town Center Projects

1. In the design and furnishing of the four Town Center Projects, seek ways to create a place with civic identity and provide community gathering spaces for weekend and evening activities.
2. Identify and incorporate low impact development and the highest feasible Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles and features.
3. Identify and incorporate appropriate historic features and interpretation opportunities.
4. Identify and incorporate architectural patterns and materials that create human scale and visual interest, while also reflecting the City's residential character and heritage.
5. Do not open Stone Ave. N. through to N. 175th St. for vehicle access.
6. Provide visual and functional linkage between bus rapid transit stops on Aurora and other Town Center Projects.
7. Work with Seattle City Light to develop a "heritage park" concept that balances City and community goals with SCL needs.
8. Consider design treatments to tie together, visually and functionally, the public spaces of the City Hall with Heritage Park, Shoreline Museum, Shorewood High School, and east-west connections into the surrounding community.
9. Create a walkable Central Shoreline area, with an emphasis on safety, convenience, and connectivity within and to the surrounding community.
10. Incorporate a parking management plan.
11. Consider providing meeting space for community/non-profit organizations in the Civic Center.
12. Minimize construction impacts on the adjacent neighborhoods and businesses.
13. Develop a strategic design for Midvale from 175th to 185th including:
 - pedestrian access to the Civic Center without crossing driveway or parking lots,
 - pedestrian linkages between the Civic Center and the Interurban Trail, and
 - pedestrian facilities with landscaping and other amenities.

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