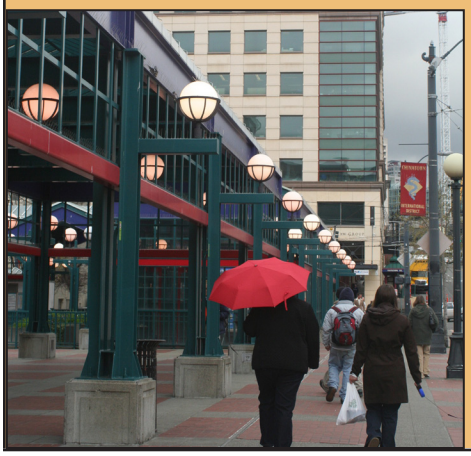
Scoping the Major Review of the Comprehensive Plan: A Report on Public Engagement



City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development

March 2012

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Executive Summary

The City of Seattle is conducting a major review of its Comprehensive Plan. A key early step in that review was to engage the public in helping identify topics the review should cover.

Beginning in the summer of 2011, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) provided opportunities for the public to comment on preliminary ideas about the Comp Plan.

This is the first large planning project on which DPD relied primarily on the internet and social media for public engagement, and the results indicate that approach was very effective in expanding participation.

- Over 4,000 people visited the Comprehensive Plan web page in just the three months from October to December 2011 – roughly the equivalent of 40 typical public meetings.
- 1,400 people responded to our online questionnaire.
- DPD, along with other City departments, sponsored a multilingual workshop that attracted over 150 people representing eight language groups.
- DPD staff made in-person presentations to several community organizations.
- DPD staff collaborated with AIA Seattle in a series of workshops to identify urban design issues that the Comp Plan could address.

Most of the respondents to the online questionnaire were between the ages of 25 and 45 and two-thirds of them have lived in the city for 10 years or more.

The issue that respondents most frequently cited was transportation, and within that topic, improving transit service was the most common concern.

DPD will continue to provide opportunities for the public to participate in the review of the Comp Plan, and judging by the success of the electronic outreach so far, we will continue to use the internet and social media as the principal methods of contacting and hearing from the public. Staff will also be available to attend meetings of groups interested in the review process.

Introduction

The City of Seattle is conducting a major review of its Comprehensive Plan, as required by state law. Even if it were not a requirement, the City would want to undertake this review because it has been eight years since the Plan was last updated.

Since that last update, there have been changes in how the City experiences growth. For one thing, despite the long nationwide recession, Seattle has continued to grow, adding 27,000 housing units since 2004. In the same time, Sound Transit opened light rail service to eleven stations in Seattle, and the City adopted aggressive goals toward reducing greenhouse gas.

Over the next 20 years more people will come to live, work or attend school in Seattle. This growth presents both opportunities and challenges. The City's Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for where and how the city can grow and change to be even more livable, prosperous and sustainable.
This report describes the methods DPD employed to inform residents about the major review of the Comprehensive Plan and to solicit their comments about it. Outreach to the public for this project departs from past practice, which relied heavily on face-to-face to meetings – some sponsored by the City, and some involving staff presentations at regular meetings of organizations, such as community councils. However, with the kickoff of the Major Update in 2011, DPD's outreach focused more on internet tools (project website, listserve, YouTube) and social media (Facebook and Twitter), supplementing those methods with some face-to-face meetings.

This report also provides a summary of some of the comments residents provided through both the traditional and innovative outreach methods.

The City's major review of the Comprehensive Plan will occur between now and the end of 2014, when DPD will make its final recommendations to the City Council. As part of the review, DPD will recommend changes to individual portions of the Plan each year to take advantage of other work that the City is conducting. At key milestones in the process DPD will engage the public about possible amendments being considered and will continue to ask for comments about the direction for those amendments.

Major Themes

In order to provide context for public engagement about the Comp Plan, DPD and the Planning Commission developed a series of themes representing either directions already in the Comprehensive Plan or possible new directions for the Plan. Those key themes were:

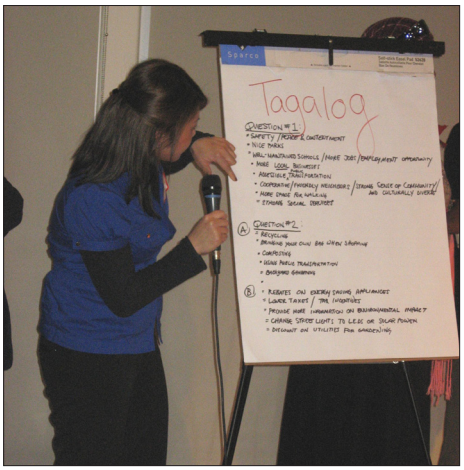
- Become a climate-friendly city
- Invest in growing neighborhoods
- Build on transit
- Build healthy, complete communities
- Create more housing choices
- Prioritize great design and encourage innovation

The themes helped structure information DPD made available and the questions we asked through the outreach process. From the comments we received, it was obvious that some of the themes resonated more than others and that for some people other issues were more important than the themes we started with.

Community Outreach

As part of this major review, the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) began a community outreach program in 2011. More than in previous years, DPD relied on the use of electronic media to distribute information about the Comprehensive Plan and to take comments from the public about it.

DPD met with several community groups who requested briefings about the Plan and co-sponsored an event with other City departments to engage residents from eight communities where English is not the primary language, described below as the Transform Seattle Event.



DPD prepared outreach material, with advice and assistance from the Office of Sustainability and Environment, the Seattle Department of Transportation and the Planning Commission. The Transform Seattle meeting described below could not have occurred without the significant effort by staff from the Department of Neighborhoods.

Electronic Media

Public outreach for review of the Comprehensive Plan in 2011 was the first major DPD project to rely on electronic media as the principal method of interacting with the public. Previous projects have used the websites and listserves, to publicize and distribute material, and email to accept comments. But with outreach for the Major Update of the Comp Plan, DPD decided to make more extensive use of the department's web site and social media and as an alternative to public meetings. Because people are more likely to go online than attend a meeting to share their thoughts, electronic media tends to draw more responses and represent a greater range of opinions.

DPD expanded and animated the content of its website's (www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/compplan/) coverage related to the Comprehensive Plan in order to provide more information about the major review. The new material included a video introduction to the Comprehensive Plan and a narrated slide show that gives the basics of the Comprehensive Plan and the state law that requires the City to adopt the Plan. Information about upcoming events, links to the Comp Plan documents, and links to other relevant web sites provided viewers options for learning about the project. Between October and December 2011, this site attracted over 4,000 visitors, the equivalent of roughly 30 to 40 large public meetings.

DPD made extensive use of Facebook and Twitter, which allowed us to engage with the public in a new way. Using these tools to post information several times every week allowed us to build an ongoing relationship with people interested in the Plan. The postings included updates on events and scheduling, as well as links to related stories and articles from Seattle and beyond – about job growth, walkable communities, climate change, parking, transit and more. DPD also used lists of email addresses for people who had previously expressed an interest in the Comprehensive Plan and other DPD related projects, and provided periodic updates to this group of clients.

Questionnaire

DPD created an online questionnaire to test the key themes the City had previously identified as important considerations for the Major Review. The questionnaire was the main tool for soliciting feedback from the public. The project web site, social media and distribution of postcards by DPD and other partners helped to drive people to the questionnaire. 1,400 people completed the questionnaire, providing useful thoughts about topics the City should include in the Plan and directions the City should be heading. The questionnaire included both multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions. Attachment A summarizes the responses to the questionnaire.

Standing Meetings

Even though this outreach process put less emphasis on face-to-face meetings than most previous major planning processes in Seattle, DPD staff made several presentations to organizations who requested more information about the review of the Plan. Organizations included committees of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, City Neighborhood Council and AIA Seattle, as well as the North District Council, Northwest District Council and the Portage Bay and Roanoke Park Community Councils.

Transform Seattle Event

The online questionnaire attracted an unusually high level of public participation, but DPD recognized that significant portions of the community were not engaged through the online resources. To encourage more participation particularly from ethnic minorities, DPD co-sponsored the Transform Seattle meeting to inform, and gather opinions from, primarily non-English speaking residents. Joining DPD in this meeting were the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and the Seattle Department of Transportation. Having all three departments involved helped broaden the scope of the discussion to include the Climate Action Plan and the Transit Master Plan, both of which are closely linked to the Comp Plan. Staff from the Department of Neighborhoods were the primary organizers and logistical managers for this meeting.

The December 2011 meeting at New Holly Gathering Hall was well-attended, drawing over 150 people. To assist with the multiple languages and to identify likely participants from the varied communities, the City used the Planning Outreach Liaison (POL) model. The basic principle of that model is to take the message to underrepresented communities through qualified bilingual and/or bicultural liaisons, who are trusted members of their communities.

DON staff recruited several POLs to identify and invite members of their communities. City staff provided POLs with basic information about the three plans, along with materials for them to translate and take to their communities. The POLs recruited attendees and provided native language interpretation for their communities at the public meeting. There were eight languages represented at the meeting – Oromo, Tigrinya, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Khmer, Chinese and Amharic – in addition to a group of English language speakers taking part in the meeting.

City Councilmembers Sally Clark and Mike O'Brien facilitated the portion of the meeting during which participants responded to series of multiple choice questions. The POLs provided interpretation to help their community members understand these questions and the possible responses. They also assisted them with the electronic response system that immediately reported responses to the questions.

Following the multiple-choice questions, the meeting included a series of discussion questions that each POLs used as the basis for conversations with their respective groups. Generally, we found the feedback from this audience to be similar to responses from the online questionnaire, although crime and safety concerns were more prominent with the Transform Seattle audience. Results of the multiple choice questions and discussions at the Transform Seattle event are in Attachment B.

Schedule

The state law that governs comprehensive plans requires that the City review and update its plan on a regular schedule. Due to budget constraints that have affected state and local governments over the past few years, the state twice postponed the deadline for the update from the original date of 2011 to the current deadline of June 2015.

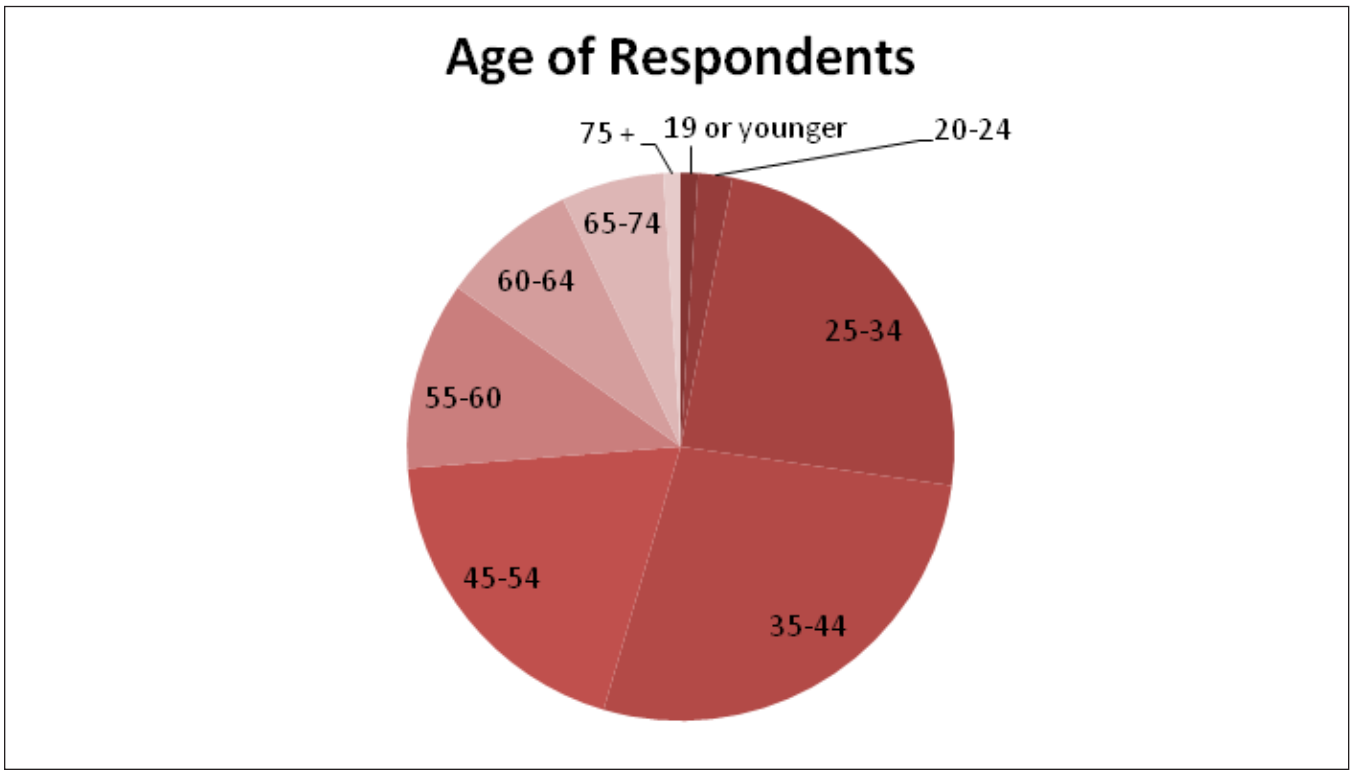
In 2011, the City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) re-started a public engagement process to gather comments about what issues DPD should include in a major review of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

DPD proposes to use the annual Comp Plan amendment process for the next couple years to make changes to the Plan that result from the ongoing Major Review. That would mean that City Council will vote on some amendments related to the Major Review in March of 2013 and 2014, and then by June of 2015, Council will vote on the final amendments associated with the Major Review.

Throughout the annual amendments, DPD will continue to provide information to the public and ask for their comments about potential changes to the Plan.

Questionnaire Results

DPD prepared an online questionnaire to get general reactions to the themes that the City had identified as potential guidance for reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. Some of the themes represent new approaches to policy direction the Comp Plan already contains, while others could lead to new emphasis for future actions regarding growth. Using the DPD website and social media that was specifically geared toward the Comp Plan, DPD encouraged people to respond to the questionnaire. About 1,400 people did. What follows is a description of who those people are and what they had to say.



- 86% of the respondents identified themselves as white, with 5% Asian, 5% "other," 2% black and 2% Native American.
- 67% said they have lived in Seattle for more than 10 years.
- 60% have worked in Seattle for more than 10 years.

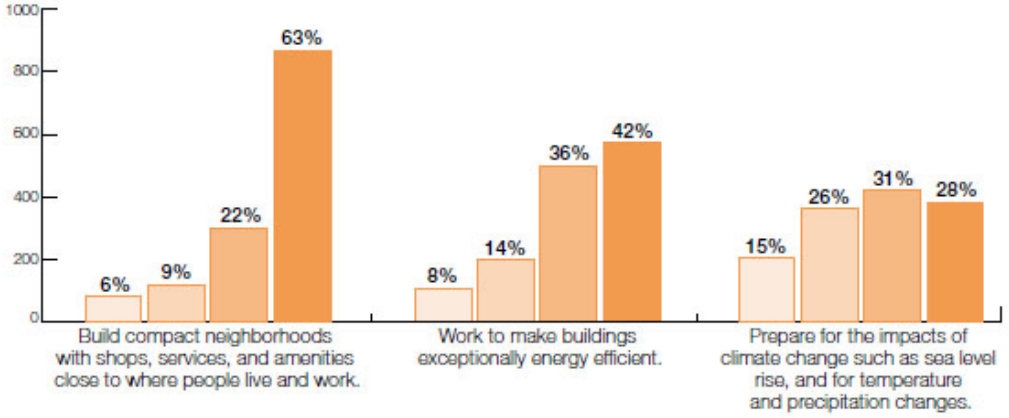
What They Said – Responding to Multiple Choice Questions

The questionnaire included one multiple-choice question for each of the six themes City staff had identified as important for the major review of the Comp Plan. One additional multiple-choice question asked people to assign priorities among those six themes.

Become a Climate-Friendly City

How do we create a community that responds to climate change?

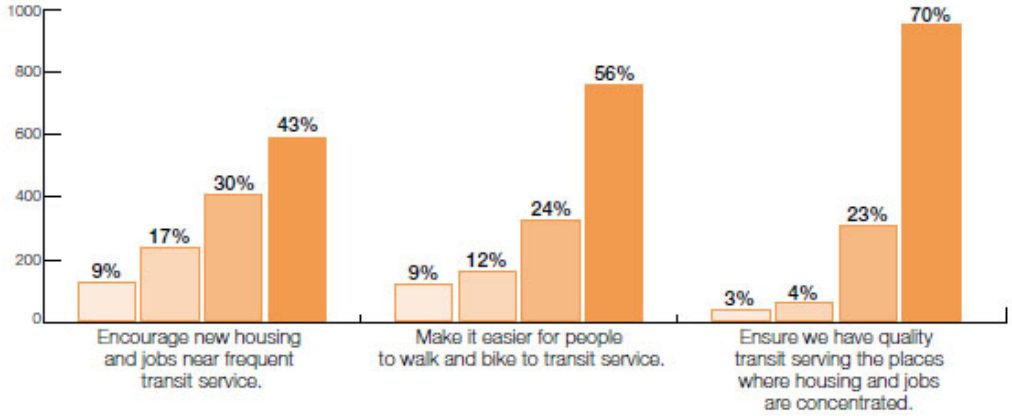
1372 respondents

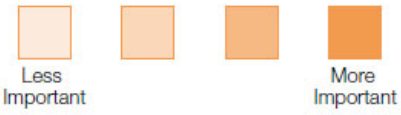


Build on Transit

How do we center neighborhoods around existing and planned transit service?

1363 respondents

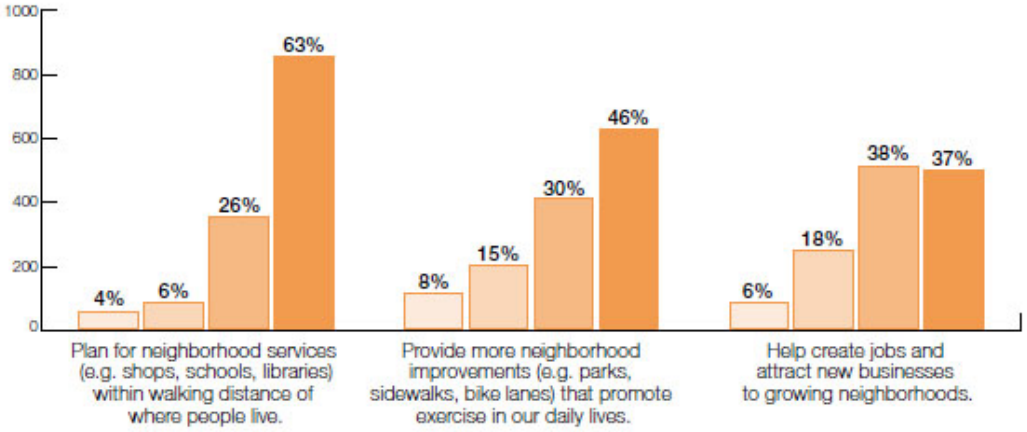




Foster Healthy, Complete Communities

How do we locate shops, services, and institutions close to where people live and work?

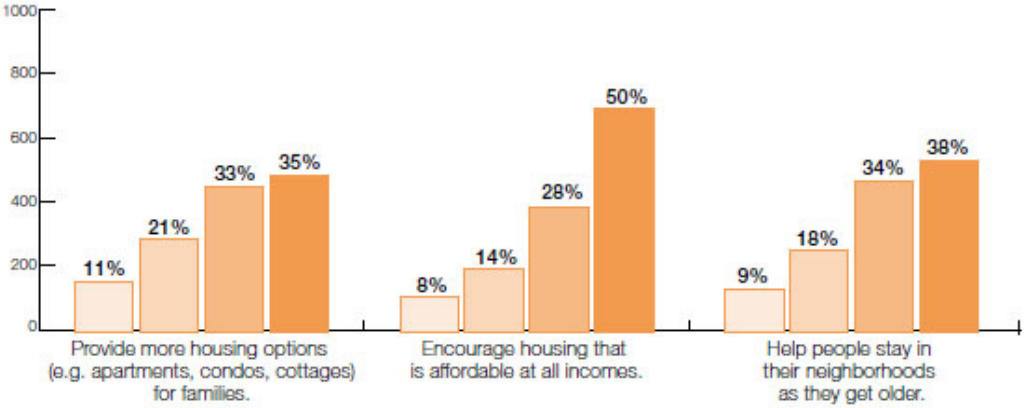
1374 respondents

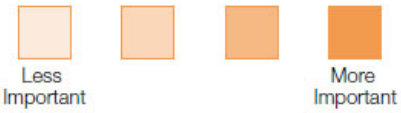


Create More Housing Choices

How can we provide diverse, affordable housing options for everyone?

1372 respondents

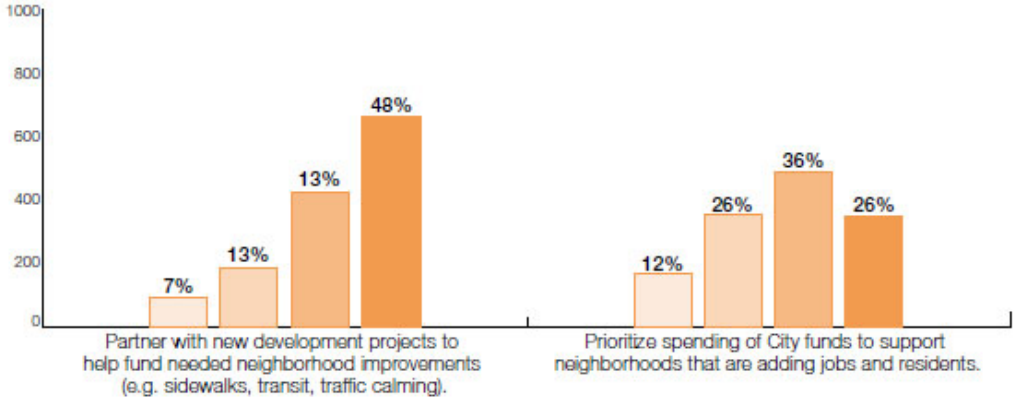




Invest in Growing Neighborhoods

How can we focus improvements and investments in neighborhoods that are adding jobs and people?

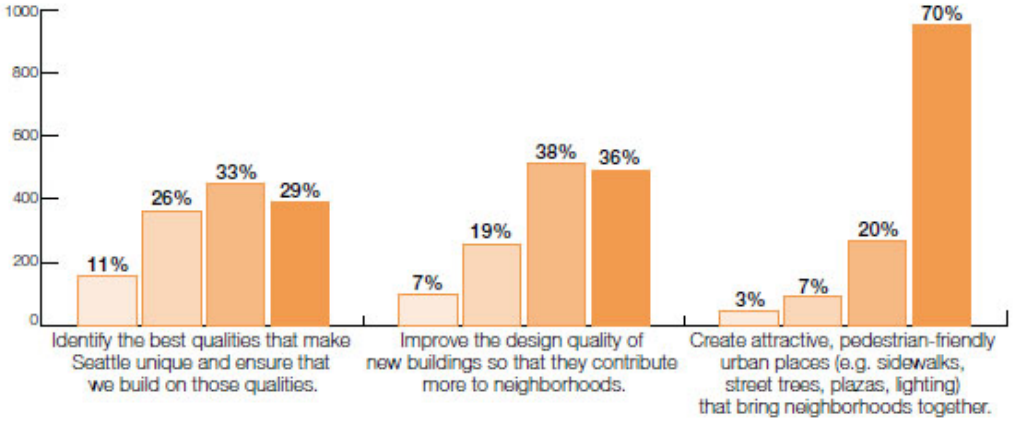
1368 respondents



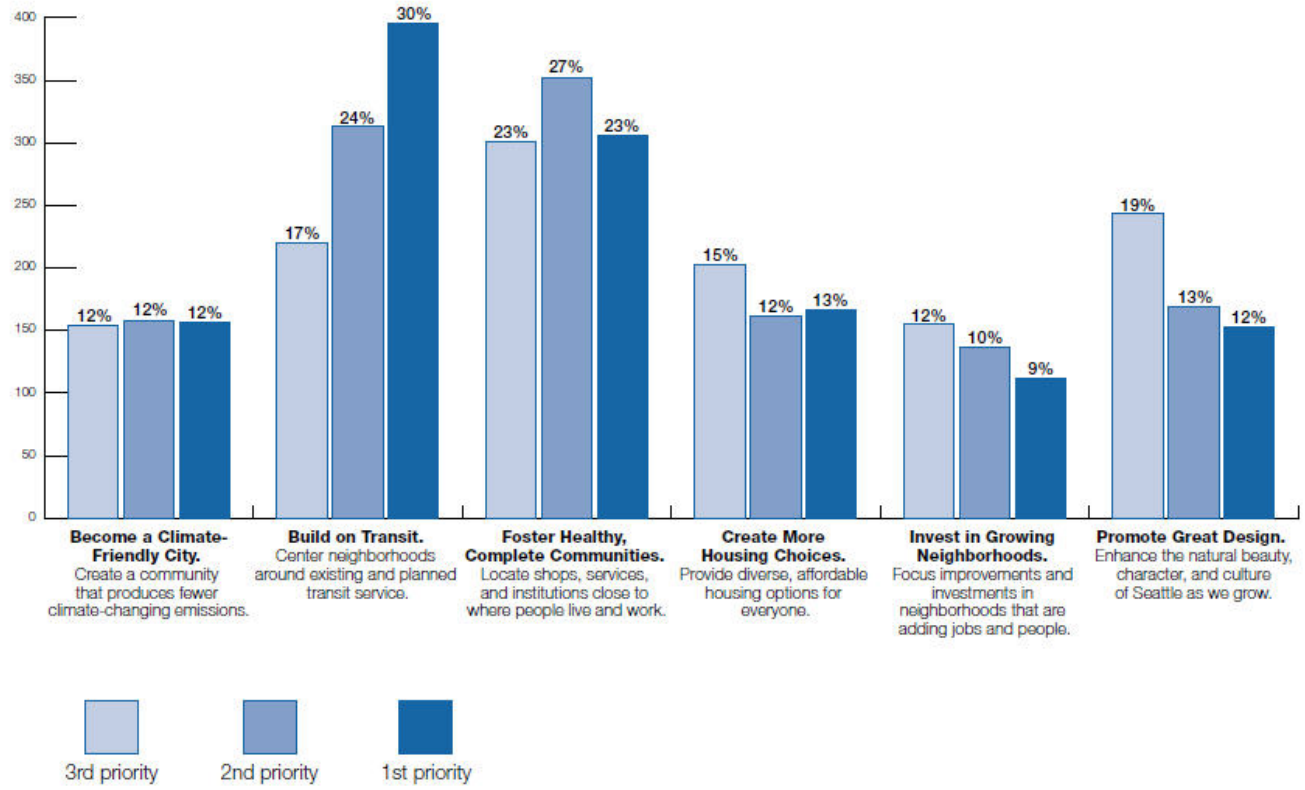
Promote Great Design

How can we enhance the natural beauty, character, and culture of Seattle as we grow?

1371 respondents



What are your top three priorities?



What They Said – Responding to Open-ended Questions

The questionnaire provided two opportunities for respondents to provide their own answers, without picking from a multiple-choice list. One asked respondents to identify topics they thought were missing from the questionnaire. In the second, the questionnaire asked people to complete the sentence "My dream for Seattle is . . . "

The responses to the two questions touched on many of the same subjects and included a wide variety of ideas covering many aspects of Seattle and how City government could make living here better. All the responses are available online at www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/compplan/ (click on the Major Review tab).

While it's not possible to capture all the divergent suggestions in this summary, there are a number of common themes worth noting. By far, the most comments were about transportation and transit. Other frequently raised themes include livability, the City's growth strategy, economic development and infrastructure.

Almost all of the comments about transit suggested a need to expand – and improve access to – bus and light rail service. Some said that the priority for transit service should go to neighborhoods that already have enough people and jobs to support expanded service and to use transit to connect those already-developed areas. One comment summed up the overall theme of the responses: "Making transit more affordable, reliable and convenient so that citizens will be more likely to use it."

On other transportation topics, there is less agreement among the comments about a preferred direction, or even about the nature of the problem. Comments showed strong opinions for both expanding and reducing bicycle facilities. Some showed concern about the need for increased road maintenance. Others say the ideal should be to have such good transit, bike and pedestrian facilities that more people are able to get around without a car. The large number of comments about transit and transportation is a direct indication of people's concern about mobility.

A number of comments addressed growth in the city. Some think that the City should stop or slow growth, while others are more welcoming toward a higher population here in the future. There was a lot of support for concentrating growth in designated locations and making those walkable, pedestrian-friendly places, while maintaining the character of the city's single-family neighborhoods. These comments seem to validate the City's urban village strategy that is the heart of the Comprehensive Plan.

While there is support for providing City services to areas taking growth, some expressed concern about the potential effects of not investing in low-income neighborhoods or other neighborhoods that are not growing. There were comments both supporting and opposing higher densities of residential development, especially near single-family neighborhoods.

There were a number of suggestions for specific improvements that would make the city or particular neighborhoods more livable. For instance, several comments say the City should do more to provide facilities for families with children. Other suggestions were that the City should encourage more night life, promote more shopping opportunities near where people live, and make sure the City maintains the existing character of neighborhoods.

Comments about economic development were mostly focused on promoting more jobs in the city, including through reducing taxes and regulatory barriers to business development and expansion. Several comments called for preserving industrial areas, high-wage jobs and freight corridors.

Among the additional topics people want the Comp Plan to address are racial and social justice, increased diversity, public safety, affordable housing and arts. City support for urban farming and making fresh food more available to residents in the city are emerging themes that produced more comments than in previous work on the Comprehensive Plan.

The complete set of comments can be found on the Major Review section of the Comp Plan website, www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/compplan/.

"Missed" Topics

Here are a few selections from the hundreds of responses to the request for suggestions about items not covered in the questionnaire, sorted by topic:

Affordable Housing Choices

Keep communities together and make communities affordable for everyone.

Promote apartments that are big enough for families....three bedrooms

The severity of our affordable housing crisis is not widely understood or taken seriously.

It should not be the City's business to provide affordable housing.

Economic Development

Promote local business

Less giveaways and encouragement of large corporations.

How to reduce over taxation and regulation of business to allow entrepreneurship.

Livable wages for all.

Growth Strategy

How to slow and eventually reverse growth in the area. Why encourage growth in coastal areas that will be under water in the future.

Investing in neighborhoods that are already adding jobs and people is unnecessary, the City should be focusing on the neighborhoods that are failing.

Heathly Food/Urban Agriculture

The Comp Plan has implications for urban green spaces and agricultural landscapes. These topics were not very present in the survey.

It wasn't specifically listed anywhere, but I think that it is important to consider and promote the creation of a sustainable community food system, and as such that it should be a core factor in planning for the future.

Infrastructure

Maintaining public libraries, parks, facilities, equipment and roadways (ie. keeping what we already have working for us from falling apart) should be a priority.

Technological improvements, such as the availability of internet service for everyone.

Uniformity- bringing all Seattle neighborhoods up to some basic minimum level of service (i.e. SIDEWALKS!)

Livability

Create attractive, pedestrian-friendly urban places (e.g. sidewalks, street trees, plazas, lighting) that bring neighborhoods together.

One of the many characteristics of Seattle that make it so desirable is the maintenance and encouragement of unique neighborhood "personalities"--Ballard, Fremont, Capitol Hill, International District, etc.

A more vibrant and sustainable night life scene.

You didn't list preserving Seattle's single family neighborhoods. This is what makes Seattle unique and desirable.

Parks/Open Space

Protect and save existing natural areas.

Seattle Center should be family-oriented. With loss of Fun Forest, the Center is becoming more adult oriented and less for children and young people.

Fostering healthy, complete communities should include green spaces as well as shops, services and institutions.

Good work on urban nature treasures like Carkeek Park.

Provide more open space where the most people live.

Public Safety

Safe streets no matter which mode citizens choose.

Work to eliminate crime, vandalism, homeless camps, litter and trash, overgrown lots, etc.

Ensuring public safety and eradicating illegal behavior in the downtown core as well as certain neighborhoods.

Race/Social Justice

Insure that ALL citizens of Seattle are considered equally important.

Support native communities and communities of color. Increased diversity

Create educational equality to foster leadership in all communities.

Resilience/Sustainability

Make compliance with realistic sustainability policy & ordinances a key requirement of licensing for the right to do business in Seattle.

We need to do our part in changing our use on fossil fuels - one way is to tell Metro that only electric buses can be used in the City - this will help reduce our footprint on climate changing emissions.

Emergency preparedness, especially regarding earthquake scenarios

Transit

Give us who live within the city of Seattle, the same GOOD transit service that the outlying areas have.

Encourage use of transit systems by making parking available at transit stations for those of us who live too far away to walk and are too old to ride bikes to the stations.

Rather than focus neighborhoods on transit - focus transit service, especially high-quality service, on neighborhoods that are already built to transit-supportive densities.

Provide park and rides near light rail stations.

Transit headways short enough to not need a schedule

Transportation

Create bicycle arterials separate from vehicle arterials. Even if nobody drove to work, trucks, van etc still need to get around.

Road repair and improvement

Bike only streets and trails for better safety.

Protected bike lanes that go all over the City please!

Build more roads. Fix existing roads. Increase free parking all over the city.

Parking. raise parking prices, stop forcing developers to include parking (let the market decide), discourage parking lot deserts.

Update Process/Survey

Educating the members of the community so they become partners in the process - not just consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The plan is well thought out and appreciated.

This survey was CLEARLY designed to get a certain result. It's insulting to be presented with such a biased survey. If you ACTUALLY want ideas, design your survey to gather real data.

Everything on this list implies more governmental intrusion into the lives of its citizens.

Urban Design

First of all "great design" should go well beyond, "beauty, character and culture" and include sustainability, resiliency to climate change and habitat for a diversity of species.

Stop making our neighborhoods generic with monolithic design guidelines and zoning.

Dreams for Seattle

Here are a few of the responses to the prompt "My dream for Seattle is . . .:"

- Be a mega city like New York, Los Angeles or Mexico City
- To be a number of unique, thriving--and walkable--urban villages which are destinations unto themselves and are accessible by bicycle and streetcar and/or bus. "Community gardens and pea patches in every neighborhood. "
- That it will look at the needs of all citizens, as they age, making it easier to "age in place".
- Make the clouds go away.
- Parents with kids stay in the city rather than moving out to the suburbs for schools and bigger homes.
- To rival the best cities in the world for quality of life - not as measured by per capita income, but by a happiness quotient, and by the health of our citizens, waterways, and non-human residents.
- That, in growing, it doesn't lose its personality. That the things that make us unique are revered and protected--water, water everywhere (play, explore, protect & nurture, live (floating homes & boats), funky, artsy niches, attractions like the Public Market (beloved by the locals as much as the tourists), fantastic performing arts and on and on.
- A city that draws people out of their homes and cars to interact with each other and their environment as they go to work, participate in culture and enjoy the natural beauty of the city.
- A city where developers are enlightened and understand that they are not building 'projects' but creating homes and neighborhoods where people live, work and recreate.
- Great housing options, both in design and affordability
- A thriving economy that will then support with tax dollars the many amenities that we enjoy in this beautiful city.
- A city of vibrant neighborhoods well-connected by efficient rail transit and with an amazing waterfront.

- That it can be a City my children can afford and desire to live in when they grow up.
- Being a city that celebrates its place in this stunning setting, encouraging creative living and business in an easily navigated series of vibrant neighborhoods.
- A city where all citizens are equally respected whether they are rich or poor.
- To grow gracefully.
- To become the hub for high-tech and bio-tech on the west coast.

Reading between the lines we heard that many people truly care about Seattle, and they have provided thoughtful and constructive suggestions about maintaining or improving particular aspects of the city. These comments and continuing engagement with the public will help inform DPD's review of the Plan and with the development of new and revised policies for guiding the City's future growth.

What other topics should be included in our review?

What is your big idea?

Transform Seattle Event

Transform Seattle was a public meeting the City conducted at the New Holly Gathering Hall on December 6, 2011 to engage communities where English is not the primary language. DPD, SDOT, OSE and DON co-sponsored this meeting as a way to get comments on three separate and related City efforts – the major review of the Comprehensive Plan, the Climate Action Plan and the Transit Master Plan. To facilitate participation by non-English speakers, the City asked eight individuals who are leaders among people from their native country to help recruit attendees for the meeting and to provide interpretation during the meeting. The eight languages were Oromo, Tigrinya, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Khmer, Chinese and Amharic.

During the meeting, Councilmembers Sally Clark and Mike O'Brien led the group through a series of multiple-choice questions, with the leaders interpreting for their groups, and the audience using an automated response system to provide their answers. This system allowed everyone to see the collective responses after each question. Those responses are below.

1. What destination is most important to have within walking distance to your home?
   A. School 35.5%
   B. Library 0.0%
   C. Community Center 22.6%
   D. Parks 6.5%
   E. Neighborhood Shops 0.0%
   F. Your Job/Employment 19.4%

2. What should be the top priority in improving your neighborhood?
   A. Improving Sidewalks 6.5%
   B. Making it easier to use the bus 32.3%
   C. Making it easier to drive 9.7%
   D. Improving parks 9.7%
   E. Improving schools 35.5%
   F. Strengthening/Supporting Local Businesses 0.0%

3. As you and your children get older over the next 20 years, what type of homes will you need more of in your neighborhood?
   A. Backyard Cottages 3.2%
   B. Townhouses 3.2%
   C. Row Houses 0.0%
   D. Apartment Buildings 3.2%
   E. Single Family Homes 74.2%

4. What matters most to you in the design of your neighborhood?
   A. Public plazas 6.5%
   B. Lighting for sidewalks 9.7%
   C. Awnings on stores and bus shelters for weather protection 19.4%
   D. Well maintained sidewalks 19.4%
   E. Clean transit stops 16.1%
   F. Street trees 16.1%

5. Would you support making it more expensive for people to drive their cars (by making parking more expensive, and charging tolls/fees to use certain roads) if the money was used to make walking, biking and taking the bus easier?
   A. Yes 12.9%
   B. No 77.4%

6. If your neighborhood had more places you needed to visit (shops, parks, libraries, etc) closer to your home, would you be more willing to walk, bike, or take the bus or train to these places?
   A. Yes 54.8%
   B. No 6.5%
   C. I already walk, bike or take the bus or train for my errands 25.8%

7. What would most motivate you to make an energy upgrade to your home?
   A. Make my home more comfortable to live in 19.4%
   B. Save money 16.1%
   C. Do something good for the environment 54.8%

8. How do you think the City of Seattle should help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes?
   A. Offer rebates on equipment 19.4%
   B. Offer low-interest loans for energy upgrades 6.5%
   C. Provide information on how to improve the energy efficiency of your home 16.1%
   D. Offer home energy assessments 41.9%

9. I ride the bus or light rail train...
   A. Frequently 51.6%
   B. Once in a while 29.0%
   C. Almost never 16.1%

10. The main reason I ride the bus or light rail train is because...
   A. It is convenient 19.4%
   B. It saves me money 35.5%
   C. It is good for the environment 3.2%
   D. I do not have a choice 25.8%

11. The main reason I don't ride the bus or light rail train is because...
   A. It does not come often enough 9.7%
   B. It does not go where I want to go 29.0%
   C. I do not feel safe 9.7%
   D. The stop is too far from my home 41.9%

12. If riding transit could do one thing better for me it would be...
   A. Arrive more often (frequently) 16.1%
   B. Go more places I want to go to 38.7%
   C. Have better bus stops or stations 6.5%
   D. Not get stuck in traffic so often 29.0%

13. Here are four possible goals that transit could focus on. What do you think is the most important of these goals. (Please choose one)
    A. Get more people to take the bus or ride the train 25.8%
    B. Help reduce air pollution from car exhaust 16.1%
    C. Create construction jobs by building rail lines 29.0%
    D. Make sure every stop and station is a safe and comfortable place to wait 22.6%

Discussion Questions

Each language group also discussed the following three questions to explore more aspects of the same topics.

Question #1:
It is 2030 and Seattle has 120,000 more people and 125,000 more jobs than it did in 2011. Imagine your daughter/son has just moved into a home in different neighborhood than where you live now. What is the best thing about their new neighborhood?

Question # 2:
In what ways do you think the choices you make impact the environment?
How can the City of Seattle help you make better choices for the environment?

Question # 3:
To help make buses go faster and to avoid getting stuck in traffic, it may be necessary to give buses their own lane (no cars can drive in these lanes) and to remove parking in some places.
Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?

Below is a summary of those discussions for each group.

Filipino (Tagalog) Group

Question # 1 Responses:

- We want safety/ peace and contentment in the neighborhood
- Have nice and safe parks
- Well maintained schools/ more jobs and employment opportunities
- Have more local businesses
- Accessible public transportation
- Cooperative/ friendly neighborhoods/strong sense of community and culturally diverse
- More space for walking
- Strong social services

Question # 2 Responses:

- Using public transportation could save more money
- Recycling and composting will help the environment better
- People will be more engaged in walking ,bicycling in wider space

- Provide rebates on energy saving appliances
- Provide more information on environmental impact
- Lower taxes and more tax incentives
- Change street lights to LED or Solar power
- Discount on utilities for gardening

Question # 3 Response:

- Agree. It is an incentive to use the bus and traffic will move faster

Amharic Group

Question # 1 Responses:

- It would be a neighborhood where there are safe and competent schools
- Library where children and elders will spend their time;
- Neighborhood where there are Recreational Parks, close by groceries,
- Closer, clean and more secured sidewalks and bus stops;
- Where there is more job opportunities and most importantly safe neighborhood

Question #2 Responses:
Day-to-day choices simple to major choices will impact our environment both positively and negatively for example

- Not turning off our lights when we get out of our offices or homes
- Not choosing to recycle and throwing garbage/trashes everywhere
- Efficient use of water both hot and cold
- Unplugging our electronic devices after use
- The City of Seattle can help us make better choices
- By creating awareness on how to use our resources more efficiently
- Guiding and instructing how to use home appliances
- By providing more energy efficient appliances or with reduced cost
- Doing home to home inspection and creating competition between neighborhoods
- By providing incentives in different forms for households that are more energy efficient

Question # 3 Response:

- Agree. There will be no traffic jam and i can reach to the places where i want to go very quickly saves me time, money and energy. I will be able to ride the bus and reduce emission on environment caused by driving vehicles.

Chinese Group

Question # 1 Responses:

- Increase services to elderly and people with disability;
- Formalize group bargain deal with telecommunication companies for high-speed internet users at elderly apartments;
- Extend the ride-free zones;
- Make more energy-efficient senior housing with solar-powered;
- Safety,
- Comfortable, nice environment,
- Good for environment,
- Multi-purpose facility,
- More tourist attraction,
- No air pollution,
- More work opportunity,
- Cheaper transportation fee for elderly people

Question # 2 Responses:

- Reduce area for animal use,
- Increase area for human activities,
- Reduce smoking areas, penalty for people discard cigarette-butts,
- Increase green area at front and back of the house,
- Design an isolated and covered smoking areas,
- More plants in parks, more no-smoking areas,
- More people to use public transportation system,
- More natural energy use like sunlight

Question # 3 Response:

- Most people disagree with reduce car parking area since it will transfer the cost to other areas such as bus fares, some agree since Seattle population is more centralized.

Khmer Group

The Cambodian Community would like to thank the Mayor, Councils, Staff, and everyone very much for giving us an opportunity to express our concern and listen to us.

Question # 1 Responses:

- There are more jobs where there are close to community
- There are school, health center, hospital near the community
- There are grocery stores, business, and mall around the neighborhood

- There are buses, light rail, trains, parks, and library where people can walk to
- There are family center and community base organizations in the neighborhood
- Banks, Work Office
- We wanted our neighborhood become to a place where can visit and clean.
- We would like to have safe neighborhood, more police available
- We would like to have friendly, healthy, and wealthy community
- We wanted all ethnicity groups love and care each other
- We want to have place in public area where people can do exercise
- We would like to have Cambodian School in Seattle that is funded by City of Seattle

Question #2 Responses:

- We want Seattle to become a place where is very clean—no garbage—a lot parks—a lot of flower.
- We want Seattle to be a friendly, healthy, and wealthy place.
- We would like City of Seattle creates more job, provide some fund to develop the community. We want to make sure our neighborhood is a place where we can live for the rest of our lives.

Question #3 Responses:
We disagree with the statement because:

- We don't' want to have narrow road
- We don't want to divide road to make more traffics
- It will cause more collisions if we divide road
- We don't want to have traffic discrimination

Latino Group

Question # 1 Responses:

- We have many new multicultural small businesses to spice up life.
- Everyone has a job!
- We have the best, safest and most diverse public schools within walking distance from our homes.
- The schools are reflective of the multicultural children and youth that they serve.
- Our neighborhoods are environmentally green with parks for our children to play at.
- We have frequent and reliable bus and fast rail transportation servicing our neighborhoods.
- The political leadership of Seattle reflects the diverse cultures.

Question # 2 Responses:

- Educate and inform our neighborhoods on what we can do to improve the environment.
- Promote environmental marketing to make it economically feasible.
- Discover and utilize more efficient and affordable heating and cooling methods & equipment.

- Learn to make better use of plastic and paper products for social or housing purposes (Guatemala example).
- Add sister city from Guatemala to exchange environmental successes and failures.

Question # 3 Responses:

- Our neighborhoods need better bus and rail connections from North to South and from East to West similar to that used by Portland, Oregon.
- Basic ridership and stops information should be in English and Spanish language.
- Agree with special bus only lanes
- Improved bus and rail service is desperately needed by South Park neighborhood because of "bridge closure".

Oromo Group

Question # 1 Response:
A dream neighborhood where one can easily finds services and amenities required to:

- Develop and maintain healthy families, communities, and businesses such as good schools, jobs, health centers, variety stores, libraries, community centers,
- Well-connected/served/ safe/ clean/efficient transit system,
- Decent & affordable houses,
- Wide streets & good sidewalks,
- Safe place to live and work,
- Diverse cultures & unpolluted environment.

Question # 2 Response:

- It improves and maintains a healthy environment as we will have well informed, engaged & responsive families, communities, & business that care for and foster a healthy life and environment.

Question # 3 Responses:
Yes, we support it as this will:

- Make the service faster, safe, efficient, cost effective, reliable, convenient, attractive, and
- Reduces other vehicles' traffic congestion, and thereby pollution.

Somali Group

Question # 1 Responses:

- Safe neighborhood
- Close to our children school.
- Library
- Park
- Community centers
- Gathering places
- Cultural awareness center

Question # 2 Responses:

- The choices we made can help city make right decisions to support what is important for our health.

How can the City of Seattle help you make better choices for the environment?

- To inform the city resident
- Increase the outreach
- Our children need activities center close to our community.
- Educate our community.
- Increase public outreach liaisons and please make them strong so they can support us.

Question # 3 Responses:

- Yes, we agree public transit to have their own lanes. .
- Make buses their on roads and create safe wait/bus stops.

Tigrinya Group

Question # 1 Responses

- Diverse Culture
- Know your neighbor
- Youth opportunity
- Job connection
- Social activity
- Safety
- Social connectivity between neighbors
- Social support

Question # 2 Responses:

- More transportation
- More Safety
- Effective communication
- Getting rebate or refund
- Information in all languages

Question # 3 Response:
Agree

- Faster services
- Reduce accidents
- Reduce pollution
- Minimize confusions for ESL people to find the right place