

Implementing TOD at the Mt. Baker Station 5/20/14

As part of a coordinated work program with the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) 2014 budget includes approximately \$400,000 to plan safety improvements and transportation investments in the Mt. Baker station area that support transit-oriented development and adopted neighborhood plan objectives.

The objectives of this upcoming work are to identify transportation improvements that support:

- Equitable transit-oriented development (TOD) that is consistent with Neighborhood Plans
- Integrated transportation solutions enhancing sustainable travel modes (transit, bicycle and pedestrian) while maintaining freight and vehicular access
- A high level of transit ridership through effective operation of the transit system
- Opportunities for businesses and residents and minimize involuntary displacement of existing residents and businesses
- Community capacity to participate in planning efforts and the ability and opportunities to support equitable TOD
- New housing, employment, and business development near light rail stations
- A mix of uses within close proximity to light rail stations
- Mixed-income housing for a range of household sizes and affordability levels

SDOT is currently drafting a Request for Qualification to hire a transportation consulting firm to begin conceptual design work this summer. The focus of the work is two-fold. The first emphasis is to recommend safety improvements in the areas that can be implemented relatively quickly and inexpensively. The second emphasis is to refine an overall multimodal plan for the area that responds to the long-term vision of the neighborhood plan and town center concepts. This includes further analysis of the Martin Luther King Way/Rainier Avenue intersection, developing options to improve the rail to bus connections, and ensuring multimodal access to the station as development and redevelopment occur in the station area.

The scope of this work will include an early listening session that affords the community to the opportunity to provide insight to SDOT and the consultant team, as well as an opportunity to review and comment on proposed safety improvements and a refined multimodal operational plan for the station area later during the study process. SDOT understands that there is community concern about alternatives that reroute traffic onto one-way streets and desires to carefully assess and consider the benefits and impacts of these concepts.

This work effort is being conducted by SDOT in collaboration with, DPD, the Department of Economic Development, the Office of Housing, the Department of Neighborhoods, and the greater Mt. Baker community.