

Ravenna-Bryant Community Association
6535 Ravenna Avenue N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115

October 1, 2013

Dave LaClerque
Senior Planner
Seattle Department of Planning and Development
700 - 5th Ave. # 1900
Seattle, WA 98124

RE: Scoping for Environmental Impact
Statement on the University District
Urban Design Framework

Dear Mr. LaClerque:

The City of Seattle published a document on transit communities, which contained this instructive paragraph under the sub-head "Creating a Citywide Transit Community Strategy:"

"To best leverage transit investments in Seattle, we also need to be sure neighborhoods have all the necessary and essential components for livability ["ECL"]. Features such as open space, pedestrian enhancements and other investments should no longer be viewed as amenities and instead should be considered essential components of livability. The ECL's are what transform a transit connection into a transit community."

The Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") should make the proposed U District Square/plaza an essential element of its preferred alternative.

The U District Square/plaza would develop a public park on the surface of the Sound Transit U District ~~Sound~~ Station located north of N.E. 43rd St. and east of Brooklyn Ave. N.E. It is described on pages 22 and 24 of the Framework proposal. If a community plaza is not established there, the EIS should identify other locations that are available for publicly accessible space such as a park, plaza, or community "focal point" and describe how the alternative site may be acquired and any displacement required.

Some Sound Transit staff have said that the proposed park at the Bryant Marina site on the Lake Washington Ship Canal would serve. This park is replacement for land and shoreline of Foster Island, East Montlake Park, and the Arboretum property taken from the waterfront trail for the new SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project and it should serve a comparable passive recreational purpose in a natural setting. Would it accommodate the farmers' market, exhibitions, community rallies, demonstrations, special events, and other gatherings that draw large number of people? Would it be practical for those purposes so far from the center of the commercial district and of public transit?.

The EIS should explore ways of bringing the community square/plaza into being.

Yours truly

Tony Provine
President

Cc University District Community Council