TACOMA MALL SUBAREA

SUBAREA PLAN SCOPING MEETING

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Asia Pacific Cultural Center
4815 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, Washington

September 17, 2015
5:30 p.m.

GINA M. CLARKE, CCR
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PROCEEDINGS

MS. HARRIS:  We are going to get started.

Hi.  I'm Molly Harris.  This is Elliott Barnett.  
He is going to do a presentation.  And Julia Walton, who is 
wavering with the red shirt on, red jacket, she's our main 
consultant.  So Elliott is going to go over a bunch of 
project information, and then if you have questions after 
the formal part of this, or even during, if you need to step 
outside, then I will be available.

Thanks, everyone, for coming.

MR. BARNETT:  Hi.  I'm Elliott Barnett, and I'm 
going to start talking while the drums are in between. 
Sorry we didn't realize that there would be that beautiful 
music in the background, and we hope it will not be 
distracting to you, as we're here actually to listen to you. 
That's the primary purpose of this meeting.

I am going to provide just a brief overview of this 
planning effort, what we're doing, what the process is going 
to look like.  Really, though, the purpose of tonight is to 
ask people to provide your comments of what we need to know, 
what do we need to think about.  We have a City team and a 
great design team led by Julia Walton, our lead consultant, 
and we're all here as resources to the stakeholders in the 
neighborhood.
So we're developing a plan for the Tacoma Mall neighborhood. That's a 485-acre area. We're also looking at potentially expanding some of that area through this process. It's a very important area in terms of jobs and housing today. It's an area that's planned to grow a lot over the next 20 years. In fact, it's planned to have double the number of jobs that it does today and triple the number of residents, so that's a lot of growth.

In a nutshell, what we are trying to do is collaborate with all of you who live here and work here, own property here, and figure out how to make that growth work for everybody so that at the end of 20 years, we'll have seen that growth and it will have produced a neighborhood that everybody loves and that has all the benefits that people want and need from it.

We're early in the process right now. We've had a community meeting back in August and will be having additional meetings -- in fact, next week. Be sure to take the handouts with information about the design workshops next week. Those are going to be very interesting and very collaborative. We will have our design team in this room here and they will actually be listening and integrating the input that they receive from you into pictures, maps, sketches they'll have, and it will be a very exciting process to be involved in. That's next week.
So why are we doing the plan? Well, it's so that we can get the growth right and we can figure out what this neighborhood wants to become and how to get there. As part of that process, under the State's Environmental Policy Act, cities are required to figure out if there's going to be impacts to growth and change in a neighborhood, and so that's the Environmental Impact Statement part of what we are doing and tonight is the formal step in that Environmental Impact Statement analysis.

This is the official Scoping Meeting where we come and formally ask all of you to let us know what are the issues associated with that kind of growth and change in your neighborhood, what are they and what do we need to be thinking about, what do we need to be analyzing, as your planning and design team here. We're in the middle of a scoping process under that EIS, Environmental Impact Statement, review. That process is going to go all the way through October 23rd, so you have still plenty of time to think about this, take the written comments form there back with you, bring it to your neighbors or friends. You can also go onto our Web page and provide us comments by e-mail. We just want to hear from you, and this is just one of those opportunities for you to come and do that. Some people like to speak, some people like to write, and we want to hear from you either way.
So one thing I want to bring to your attention, we are using a special tool under the statement's environmental rules: It's an up-front environmental review. Usually when a big building is getting built or a big public project is happening, the city conducts an environmental review at that time of that specific project. The limitation is you don't get to see the big picture if you do it that way; you don't get to think about anything sort of beyond that particular spot. So we're taking this opportunity to develop a great plan for the neighborhood and to figure out what are those concerns, what are those potential impacts, figure out how to handle them in a more coordinated way up front, and there's a lot of benefits in doing that. We'll be able to basically try to be smarter about it and really figure out how to be coordinated.

We know that there are going to be concerns and issues any time a neighborhood is going to change and grow: transportation, storm water, utilities, parks and open space, schools, land use. All those things are on our radar and we're certainly going to be talking about and tackling those issues. Are there other things or are there more detailed aspects of those things that you think we need to be working on? Again, that's what we're asking to hear from you.

Why is it important to participate in this plan?
Well, first of all, thank you for being here, because I think that shows that you probably recognize why it's important to participate. This is your neighborhood, and we need to hear from you; you need to help us get it right. But also, through this plan, we're going to be putting together, really, a tool kit for getting things done in the neighborhood. You may have things that have bothered you about the neighborhood over the years. We've certainly heard about things like potholes and lack of sidewalks and things like that. Let us know. If we can make the case for why are those important to having the neighborhood grow in a good way, we can help to attract resources.

We've done the same approach in our downtown area and it's already helped us to bring resources in, to get some of those public projects more underway, so this is -- I think it's in everybody's interest to get a good plan together: How are we going to do positive change in the community?

We also hope that through this process, we can get some ongoing community conversations, ongoing community momentum in the neighborhood. There already is some great community activism that I'm -- as I'm starting to get to know some of you, I recognize that's a great start, but hopefully we can give you some more tools; and certainly, the City and our partners are here to listen and not just
tonight but throughout this whole process. I think that's the main message that I want to convey to you. So, really, this -- you know, this is about, what is our vision? What do we want for the neighborhood? What do you want for the neighborhood and how do we get that done?

I think that's my quick overview. In a minute here I'm going to ask Charla, who is one of our staff members, to let me know who is the first person who has checked the box that you want to provide some comments.

I encourage everybody to consider providing some comments. You don't have to have anything preplanned out. It's about just what do you think we need to be thinking about, what do we need to know about the neighborhood. And once -- so we'll get that started. We'll ask everybody to please say your name and maybe spell it as well, so that Gina, our court reporter, can write it down and make sure that we take good notes of it.

And then even if you didn't check that box, don't let that stop you. You know, we'll go through the list of folks who have said they want to speak and then we're certainly going to provide everybody the chance to talk.

Once you get rolling, if you're like me, you might start talking and keep going and going. We certainly probably will have some time tonight -- it's not too big of a group -- but, you know, if you're going more than three or
four minutes, consider maybe taking a seat and then letting
somebody else go and come back again. We'll stay here as
long as you have comments that you want to share with us, so
there's no rush to it.

One thing that I wanted to mention, coming back to
that idea of that environmental review, I do just want
everybody to know that part of this up-front review, it does
mean that at the end of this process after we've talked and
done this planning, figured out the environmental impacts,
later there will be less of that opportunity at each and
every project to do an environmental appeal under those
rules, so that's one of the reasons why it's important to
participate now. Help us to make sure that we're not
missing something that's important.

That's all that I'll say about the project, except
that if folks will just raise your hand from the project
team: Julia Walton is our lead consultant; Molly Harris is
my co-project lead; Amy Pow from the Health Department over
there; Dana Brown from our traffic division; and Dave from
TV Tacoma; and Gina, our valiant court reporter.

Next week there's going to be some design
workshops. Make sure that you get those on your calendars.
Those are really going to be exciting, a great opportunity.

So with that, I see Gordon and Mona Maxwell as the
first folks who have asked to speak, so thank you so much
and come on up. Be sure to speak into the mic. I got lucky with the drums, so we'll see how it goes.

Great. Thank you, Gordon.

MR. MAXWELL: Hello. My name is Gordon Maxwell.

That's G-o-r-d-o-n. M-a-x-w-e-l-l.

I was curious on several points. I found out several years ago -- my mother and I own the mineral rights for the All Travelers (phonetic) plat, and several buildings have been put in, but they have never given us a report on the minerals or anything found in the soil dealing with these buildings going up. According to the U.S. Department of Interior, there's supposed to be reports generated to us, which there hasn't been. I'm kind of curious on why that hasn't been happening, as well as we found out there's been oil found on the property itself, but we're waiting to see more evidence of source. So in the future there might be drilling in that area for oil, depending how much they find or what depth it is, so you might want to consider that in your reviews and what impact that will have.

Other than that, the streets, sidewalks: There are several streets that need sidewalks, but at the same time, there's a very rare tree in my yard that's considered to be on the Protective Species List worldwide, and it is -- I can't remember off the top of my head right now.

MRS. MAXWELL: White Cedar of Jordan.
MR. MAXWELL: Yeah, White Cedar of Jordan,
otherwise known as a Cedar of Lebanon.
But other than that, I think that should do it.
Thank you very much.
MRS. MAXWELL: One thing to add, one thing I --
MR. BARNETT: If you want to provide comments,
please come up.
MRS. MAXWELL: Okay.
MR. BARNETT: Thank you.
MRS. MAXWELL: My name is Mona Maxwell. And White
Cedar of Jordan is on, like my son said, the protected list
worldwide. It was considered the tree that God spoke to
Jesus Christ and his other disciples under. We have an
ancient one in the front yard. We've had priests and rabbis
and other people from Tacoma and the state come to look at
it, and we have a young one in the backyard.
Any questions?
No, okay.
MR. BARNETT: Thank you so much.
So Jonathan Lee Jarmon. Thanks, Jonathan.
MR. JARMON: Thank you very much. My name is
Jonathan Lee Jarmon. I can't speak too well because I had a
heart attack last year and it's kind of affected my voice
and speaking abilities.
But anyway, in this area, I noticed that when
they've been putting up these condominiums and townhouses, that people have been using the garages for storage, and I've seen people parking all over the streets and -- I don't think I could show a picture right here. This could be -- this could be an example when the entire part of the street is taken over by cars. And when you have three times the density, guess what? You're going to have cars take over the entire half of the street and so the streets are unfortunately going to become very narrow.

And I didn't intend to do this, but I have a chart showing that -- I could show it, but it's all torn up -- but it shows how the world petroleum reserves are going to run out anywhere between the mid to the end of the 21st Century and there will be no petroleum for any cars or products and we're going to be in a lot of trouble. We're facing what's known as the Sixth Mass Extinction, in which half the species are going to be extinct on the earth by the end of the 21st Century, and we're facing global warming by, you know, mankind's putting an excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and also an excess of pollution. And over half the oxygen on the earth is created from the plankton in the oceans, and once the -- you know, the CO2 levels reach a certain amount, there's certain (inaudible) and there won't be any plankton to produce any oxygen and so...

But anyway, I'm not going for a car. I am going --
I'm actually going with -- this helps me with my heart. I have been environmentally friendly by going with a mini transit Velomobile, which is a solar-powered car and it gives the equivalent of 956 miles per gallon, and I'm trying to be more environmentally friendly towards my neighborhood.

And anyway, I think this area is going to have a lot of problems when you have too many people with too many cars in the neighborhood temporarily and all these people moving up from places that will be uninhabitable in the near future because of global warming, like Mexico City and Los Angeles and other areas that will just be completely uninhabitable. They're going to move up here and they're going to bring their cars up here and we're going to have to do something about controlling having too many cars or else you'll have gridlock and no one will be able to get anywhere, you know, and so we've got to do something really severe about traffic control in this area.

And other than that, I would say that I personally had a lot of crime problems from some residents in the Section 8 housing over on South Lawrence Street between South 43rd and South 45th Street, and I'm having to deal with the Tacoma Police Department and the Tacoma Housing Authority to get rid of some of the gang people out of this area, which we need to take care of that because we don't want an excess of crime. People should not have to live in
danger. Living in their neighborhood, they should not be in fear of walking the streets, fear of cycling or fear of exercise outside or walking in the neighborhood. You know, we've got to have safe streets.

I want to say thank you very much.

MR. BARNETT: Thank you, Jonathan, and you had a photo there. If anybody has a photo or something else that you would like to share with the City, you could do that by e-mail or give us a paper copy. We certainly accept that kind of thing and love to see that as well.

So, Beverly, how brave are you to come up and talk over the drums here?

Thank you all for your patience in bearing with us.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: My name's Beverly Bowen-Bennett and I'm a homeowner at 4329 South Alder Street here in Tacoma, obviously -- and whoops -- can't think without a pen in my hand when I'm speaking.

So I actually have quite a few things that I would like us to consider, and I'll start with the whole question of a watershed that just -- understand how we have funded this project is by money coming from a source that is concerned about the watershed. I didn't know, until I got involved in this, that in fact the watershed underneath us affects both the Foss Waterway and Chambers Creek, so some of my things having to do with that are that I would like to
see us make sure that any new projects that come into the area that have parking lots, that they be made of permeable materials. I understand that that is what Alaska Street is made of now, and so I would like to see that happen, and the parking lots and the roads both, and I know that we're going to have a lot of changes about that.

Now, some of the other things that I want to make sure, that we have, right now, in my opinion, services or facilities that were taken away from us at the same time that our density has highly increased. I'm not sure if we've tripled yet, but the unit next to me went from a one-bedroom on one lot to 12 bedrooms, and that actually would take away more than what we're talking about, about tripling us -- and yet the Boys and Girls Club was moved down to 64th and this building is no longer a community center where I used to come and play pinocle once a week. So we need some sort of a culturally considerate meeting place where we older people who still like to play cards can play pinocle and where kids can practice the drums, if that's what they want to do, whatever, whatever is going on.

And I would hope that there would be a food bank involved in that, because we have a lot of low-income people in the neighborhood and there's no food bank anywhere near. There used to be one down on South Tacoma Way, but that one is gone.
And, Elliott, I'm going to ask a favor of you:
Let me know when you think I should stop and I'll come back
up if there's more time, because I have quite a list, so you
tell me.

Two more minutes? Okay.

So the other thing to affect the whole thing of
having to do with our environmental impact is that I would
like to see solar panels required on properties, that
developers be required to have green roofs so that we're not
draining water into our sewer system or our storm water
system and it's not going out into Chambers Bay and Foss
Waterway.

I would like to see -- if I'm going to stay living
in this area -- because I do live in a single-family
dwelling -- I'm one of the people who has chickens in the
neighborhood and I have a small orchard in my yard and quite
a big garden. The lemon cucumbers have been productive this
year, if anybody's interested. And so for me to stay in
this neighborhood, we're going to have to have some type of
a garden apartment system or condos where I could still be
involved with gardening and that there would be an orchard
involved. It doesn't really take that much property when
you use dwarf or semi-dwarf trees. I had, at one time, 15
fruit trees that were producing, and I'm down now a little
bit because I had a couple of deaths in the family, so I
would like to see a move towards that.

I'm also very concerned about where the kids are going to play, because right now they play in the streets -- they really do -- and it's because, like again, back to the unit that's right next door to me that has 12 bedrooms, the building itself takes up the whole footprint of the -- of the property, so there's no place for the kids to play and they end up playing in the street, and I really have such a fear that some child is going to be killed. So far it hasn't happened, but people also drive very quickly down our roads, which when you're doing the planning on the roads, you definitely need to put in speed bumps. We have speed bumps very few places around in our neighborhood.

And here's something that I just don't understand: We have streets that are one continuous pothole, and then right next to it might be an alley that's fully paved and well taken care of. I don't know why that is or what makes sense about it.

And I also have a problem with the whole code enforcement. It seems like it's not culturally sensitive at all, and it is -- I have a neighbor who is of Mexican descent and he likes to have a lot of cars and he likes to work on them and he likes to have a lot of things and he's getting written up by code enforcement all the time. And then I go around to another alley. There'll be another
alley -- back to the alleys. I'll go around to another alley in a different area of town and I can barely drive through it for all the blackberries, so what do we consider a code violation?

I'll stop, Elliott. If we have more time later, I can talk more.

MR. BARNETT: Thank you, Beverly, and you will -- we'll make time. We'd love to hear the rest of your comments as well, but thank you for letting our next speaker come up.

Tom McCarthy, would you mind.

MR. MCCARTHY: Good evening. So my name is Tom McCarthy, and I have had the opportunity to get to know this neighborhood a little bit because I'm doorbelling and running for Tacoma City Council in this district, Position No. 3.

There's a number of comments that I wanted to make, but I want to start off with I've been somewhat involved with another subarea plan, and as I understand it, the purpose is to try and get the Environmental Impact Statement out of the way so that developers can come in and develop that area. Right? So it's to take an expense away that they would otherwise have to deal with. Does that seem accurate?

MR. BARNETT: That's part of it, certainly.
MR. McCARTHY: So that's part of it, okay.

So one of the things that I've learned from walking in this district quite a bit is the people who are long-term homeowners seem to be quite frustrated with how development has been run. You've got a situation where there's jigsaw parking all over the place. There's been a lot of density packed in in a way that's not very well planned. As Beverly mentioned, you've got a lack of parks for the kids. You're packing a whole bunch people in here, but not in a way that makes for quality urban living.

So in some ways, I think there's a real challenge of undoing a lot of what's been done and turning this into a place that if we're going to have -- I believe that you can have quality urban living. I mean, I've seen it. I have actually -- I'm a military brat. I grew up in Germany, lived there for four years, and they pack a lot of people into a small area, but they do it in such a way that it's really high quality. It's a great place to live.

So I guess my feedback would be, in this particular area, it's not just about creating a plan to help pack more people in. It's, how do we create a plan that's going to have quality urban leaving? How are we going to create a plan that if we're going to have a lot of people here, make sure we have good access to mass transportation?

How do we have -- one of the comments that I've
heard is that sometimes there's a desire to have police
response that comes a little bit quicker than it does.
Well, one of the things -- I've been a block leader for
eight years, so I understand the fact that with the budget
cuts from the recession, that we've lost 70 police officers
and that makes it hard for response time. But, you know, if
we're going to have a lot of folks in a small amount of
area, we need to make sure that they feel like they can get
access to the police when necessary.

So let me just see if there's any other comments
that I want to make.

I think that's it; I think that's it.

There's a lot that's been done in this area that
needs to be undone, or, you know, established in such a way
that people can live in an urban, dense area but also have a
quality form of living.

So those are my comments.

MR. BARNETT: Thank you very much for those
comments.

At this point, we've gone through -- only a few
people stepped up and put the check next to their name that
they wanted to speak, but we'd love to hear from more
people. So are there some folks here who are willing to
come up and share your thoughts about how to do planning in
this neighborhood?
Please, come on up.

Once we get done with this formal part, we can -- we don't have to leave. We can spend lots of time listening to the drum music, which I think they've gotten quieter, and we've got some information back there, lots of staff people here. So once we're done with the comments, we'll continue the conversation, but please do provide us your input.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. My name is Steve Thompson. T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

I didn't plan on speaking tonight, but I have some questions and a couple of facts that I think need to be brought up. At the previous meeting a month ago, we covered a lot of the stuff that's been brought up tonight, and I'm not going to reiterate any of that, I hope. Mine is just three quick items.

Number one, the growth rate numbers here confuse me, because we've been told that they're going to expect, in 20 years, about 8,000-plus people. Now, according to the documents that you've mailed out to us and handed out, as of 2010, the population was about 3,761, okay, with a growth rate change in the previous ten years of an increase of 739. I'm not sure if we're going to get to that 8,000 additional with those numbers. That's number one.

Number two, I read in there that they're planning on ten million square feet of space, of building space.
Now, being an old forester, I know what an acre is and that's 43,560 square feet. So I did a little simple math and if you just shove in ten-story apartments or condos or buildings, that's 23 acres, 23 acres of building that's going to come in. I've driven this area, looking around, and there might be 23 acres somewhere, but it looks to me like there's going to have to be a lot of tear-down to accomplish this, because there's going to be, of course, adjacent parking and the other things that come along with it, not just the building space. Something to think about.

And then the other one, Beverly, I loved your comments, but I didn't understand quite about the solar panels and then you said something about the water quality, and I don't know how solar panels --

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: It's just another environmental concern.

MR. THOMPSON: I understand. I have solar panels on my residence and I think they're great, and I think that has a lot of merit for both development-type buildings as well as residential-type buildings.

The other side of it is the storm water recovery, and once again, you mentioned you'd like to have a garden, an orchard, and a few things like that. I think community gardens and those kind of things are great, and I believe that with a little bit of creative thinking, they can --
"they" meaning, we, our government and us -- can come up with a way to recover that storm water rather than shoving it down through the waste water management plant and out into the bay and water your onions or garden or whatever you got and I think that would be a very good use of that; and once again, like Jon pointed out, a little bit less effect on the environment.

That's what I have. Thank you.

MR. BARNETT: Thank you so much for those great comments.

So rather than -- we're not going to try to sort of engage in a response to anybody. That's not the purpose of this meeting, just so you all understand. We're really here just listening. We appreciate all the issues that you're bringing up.

Are there some other folks here who would be willing to come and share your concerns, your hopes, or things that we need to think about as we're planning the neighborhood?

Come on up, please.

MR. McCARTHY: I'd like to just ask you, actually.

MR. BARNETT: Okay.

MR. McCARTHY: So the comment about the increased density and the planning that's maybe not what it could have been, is there any plan to sort of -- what are the plans to
sort of take the jigsaw out of the puzzle?

MR. BARNETT: Well put. Well, really, the previous
growth and change that's happened in the neighborhood since
it was originally designated as an area for growth, which
was in the '90s, so there has been a lot of growth and
change, as you all know -- not all of it has necessarily
been welcomed. Change is never always universally welcomed.

But even beyond that, there have been some
particular development regulations that perhaps didn't do an
adequate job of protecting the street frontage, and in
certain spots, front-loading garages kind of eliminated
on-street parking. Some of those things are no longer
around and rules have been changed to kind of react to some
of those concerns, but there's still been a longstanding
recognition that we need a community-based and community-
informed plan for this neighborhood to figure out how growth
and change is going to occur.

We know that there are many issues, from
transportation, streets, sidewalks, bicycles, cars. We know
that there's environmental issues and concerns. Those are
actually the drivers that got us the resources to do this
kind of planning, to hire our consultants, and so that's our
starting point. But we do need your help to do it and we
need to hear what you want and what you hope for the
neighborhood.
MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: I'll talk about that.

MR. BARNETT: Great. I have a volunteer to come and talk again. Is there anybody who hasn't spoken who wants to come up?

Great. Would you please come up, sir?

Beverly, you're next.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: Yeah, that's fine.

MR. DAVENPORT: My name is David Davenport, and my real big concern -- I have two concerns. One is with the parks and things for the kids to do. I have eight rental units in this area that have been there for a long time and I've seen the development come up around them, and they're -- the kids have no place to play and I'm not sure what we're going to do, but kids need to be playing so they're not getting into trouble, burn off some of that energy. I know we talked about it before.

The other thing is the parking situation: There's just no parking for all this development. I know there's people that kind of want people to move away from cars, but we have cars here now and they're parking -- they're making the alleys paved and then people are parking, I feel, illegally in there so you can't get through them. And I don't even -- I've tried calling the City and tried calling the police, with no response, of how to get clear alley ways, because people think that they're streets because
there's housing all the way up to the -- the houses face the
alleys and it's a real problem, in my opinion. I'm not sure
what to do about it, but thanks.

MR. BARNETT: Okay, who's next? Anyone who hasn't
spoken yet who would be willing to come up and say some
words?

Beverly, would you mind?

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: Some of the rest of you could
come up, because I know you've got concerns. Maybe you
could slip me a note, because I could talk in front of a
thousand people and it doesn't bother me.

The things that I haven't got to or didn't flush
out enough, speaking of front doors on the alley, I have --
the unit next to me that I've already talked about has two
front doors on the alley, and you know what? I don't think
you get the highest class of tenants when you have your
front door on the alley. I personally, if I was looking for
housing, even if it saved me a hundred dollars a month, I
don't think I'd want my front door on the alley, so I think
that should be against the rules, just automatic.

But we do need affordable housing, so I personally
like the concept of the multi-use -- no, that's not what
they call it. Tell me what is the right --

MR. BARNETT: Mixed use.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: Mixed use -- thank you -- the
mixed-use buildings where there is some sort of stores or facilities on the bottom floor and then another five floors having affordable housing or mixed on that, too, where it would be required to have some of the units be low or moderate income, while the rest of them could be priced at what the market would bear.

I wanted to talk about bicycles. My friend in the back, who is not speaking up, rides her bicycle around all the time.

Why don't you come up, Jaden? Come on up, Jaden. Come see me, yeah.

This is Jaden, everybody. He lives at the end of my street. Does he look like a shy, retiring type?

You want to tell them about you riding the bicycle and how hard it is? Go ahead.

JADEN PASANA: Okay.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: Do you ride your bicycle?

JADEN PASANA: Uh-huh.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: You have to use words, because see that lady over there? She's writing down your words.

So when you ride your bicycle, is it easy to ride your bicycle around the neighborhood?

JADEN PASANA: Yeah, sometimes it's hard.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: And where do you have to play, Jaden?
JADEN PASANA: Usually right by my garage.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: Right by your garage?

JADEN PASANA: Uh-huh.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: And where would you like to play?

JADEN PASANA: Somewhere like by a basketball court, like an open spot.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: An open spot like a basketball court?

JADEN PASANA: Yeah.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: Are you a basketball player?

JADEN PASANA: No. I just like to play on the flat ground.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: Oh, you like the flat ground?

JADEN PASANA: The concrete, yeah.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: So would you like to have a park in our neighborhood?

JADEN PASANA: (Nods head affirmatively.)

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: Got to use words.

JADEN PASANA: Yeah.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: Okay. What grade are you in this year?

JADEN PASANA: Second.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: Second grade. Are you doing well?
JADEN PASANA: Uh-huh.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: Okay, good. Thank you.

So Jaden and his family live at the end of my street and they are wonderful neighbors.

A lot of people think that our neighborhood doesn't have community, and it's very difficult to have community when you have a gated community which is on the other side of the street from Jaden, an apartment complex with a gated area. And I had someone tell me that a public-private partnership could exist where Jaden could play in the very nice play area that they have within that gated community if they only moved the gated part where we couldn't get to their housing and steal all the televisions -- because I've been wanting a new one -- by putting the fence so it would be -- the playfield part would be accessible to kids like Jaden who deserve to have a place to play also. So if the Parks Department could help with the maintenance but the property still belongs to the apartment complex, doesn't that make sense? It makes sense to me.

I want to talk to you about trees, because trees are essential to all things having to do with our environment. They sift the quality of the air, make it cleaner. The roots allow penetration of waters so they don't go into the storm drains.

When I first moved on my street 16 years ago, there
was a woman who had huge oak trees. Those of you who have
lived in the area probably remember her house. She had a
regular-size house, but she had a huge yard and it was
surrounded by oak trees that looked to be about a hundred
years old. They took them -- cut them all down, chipped
them up, and built apartments there and then gated again and
closed off the street. So when I used to be able to drive
all the way out to 47th, now I have to jig around. I think
that's true for most of you.

And I think something else that most of you would
like to have is a grocery store, where we could actually --
a full-service grocery store where we could buy the products
that we need for everyday living and for feeding our
families.

Did I already mention that we need a food bank?

Yeah, I think I did.

Okay, and now the other thing is the trolley. I am
very excited at the prospect of a -- I wrote in a document
that I sent in to Elliott that if the trolley comes in, I
might even stay, even if I have to go live in something
other than a single-family dwelling with chickens and
gardens and stuff -- because I lived in New York City for
five months and my car was parked in New Jersey because I
never needed it: They had good transportation. You'd think
that in New York City, a person like myself would be
uncomfortable, but I was not. Everything was so there. So
I know urban living can be enjoyable.

And I think another thing you might want to add is
a shuttle from our area to 56th Street where there's now a
stop for the train, the Sounder train that goes in to
Seattle. Wouldn't that be a good idea? So then we don't
have to drive from our home over to park our car to be able
to get on the train to go to Seattle.

Oh, crime. Okay, I've been telling everybody
there's no crime in the neighborhood and then I started
doorbelling. Uh-oh. I've been doorbelling in areas that I
hadn't doorbelled before. And my street -- I've lived in my
house for 16 -- no, 14 years and two years across the
street. I bought my house 14 years ago and it's never been
broken into. I sold my house in Seattle and moved out of
there because my house had been broken into four times in
five years; I no longer felt safe there.

I feel totally safe in my neighborhood. I walk
down to Jaden's house at night. No problems. I'm more
afraid of the raccoons than I am of people. But I went just
two blocks over to an apartment building when I was
doorbelling where I was uncomfortable, and I talked to the
woman there and she told me that there had been a shooting
in the apartment above her and over one and that she was
afraid to go out of her house even in the daytime.
So I take it back. There's crime in our area, just not on my street. We feel safe. And I've asked all my neighbors right on my street, and for some reason -- maybe they're afraid of me; I don't know -- but the street is safe. But not very far away, I understand they sell drugs every night. I just found that out, so I need to apologize to the police about that, but we do need better policing.

And I think I've covered -- did I miss anything that you wanted me to say?

Okay, thank you.

MS. HARRIS: Is there anyone else who wants to speak on any environmental impacts that you would like us to consider for this Environmental Impact Statement?

MR. BARNETT: All right. So this isn't your last chance, but this is a great chance. We're all here and this is our whole purpose today, is to listen.

MR. JARMON: Okay, no big deal, but I grow my own food in my backyard too. I've got fruit trees and I even grow some watermelon as well, so I'm trying to do it so I don't have to take a bus and go to the grocery store, so I got rid of my -- oh, another thing too:

I'm an avid cyclist. Ever since I've had my heart attack, I've learned that active transportation is very important to human health. Humans require at least a half hour of aerobic exercise every day. Otherwise, you're
going to face the great possibility of dying from cardiovascular disease, and it's -- what I do is I combine my exercise with getting from Point A to Point B, and anyway, it's a really smart way of not having to use the automobile.

Do you know that over one and a half million people die per year from the emissions of automobiles, as compared to direct accident deaths in which worldwide there's one million people killed every year from motor vehicles?

Anyway, that's all I have.

MS. HARRIS: Sir, would you state your name again for the record?

MR. JARMON: My name is Jonathan Lee Jarmon.

And by the way, if anyone has a chance, you should go on YouTube and look for this guy who has a video called Car Free Cities. He really demonstrates why a lot of motor vehicle use and cars don't make any sense. He says that by using motor vehicles, it pushes destinations farther apart. Over half of the city space is used for motor vehicle infrastructure.

And, oh, by the way, when you talk about urban sprawl, I found that it's not necessarily true that suburban areas are conducive to motor vehicles, because you know what? It took me -- even with a 25 percent heart function, it took me only 22 and a half minutes to ride my bicycle
from my house by the Tacoma Mall -- and I've lived there and
owned that house for 23 years -- all the way deep into
Fircrest, which is a different city, right, and that's four
and a half miles distant: 22 minutes. And it was a lot of
fun, you know, and it's good for your health, and if you
want to live longer, you had better walk or cycle.

Okay, thank you.

It's good for the environment.

MR. BARNETT: Thank you.

Do I see another person who's coming up? Thank

you.

MS. MASON: Hi. I'm Nancy Mason. We're up off of
54th and Tacoma Mall Boulevard.

The traffic: You can't get out. We're a
neighborhood. They're putting in 12 new houses up there.
They're family houses and it's gotten better, because we
were kind of a neighborhood that was forgotten. If it
wasn't for the police, we probably wouldn't be there. But
we do have an issue with Tacoma Mall Boulevard.

And code enforcement is for the roosters in the
neighborhood.

MS. BOWEN-BENNEDT: I call them Sunday dinner.

MR. BARNETT: Great. Who's next? Got some other
things that you want to speak to in kind of this formal
setting? Like I've said several times, this isn't the only
time. You've got plenty of time during this official
scoping process, all the way through October 23rd, so for
those of you who like to speak on the record, there's still
several more weeks to do that. Don't wait, though. Provide
those comments -- and we're going to have another taker, so
that's excellent -- but provide those comments in writing if
you don't get them out tonight, or even if you would just
like to reiterate where you stand or expand on what you have
already said.

Come on up, please.

MS. PASANA: Hello. I am Samantha Pasana. I live
on 45th Street.

And like he said, I'm probably reiterating what
most everybody said, but my concern is traffic. I do know
that -- I've lived here about two years now and just in
those two years, I've noticed a lot more traffic that's been
coming in and 38th Street is so busy.

On top of that, I do -- like Beverly said, I like
to ride my bicycle with my son and I don't feel safe. We
don't really have -- people are speeding up and down.
They're cutting down trees. We have no speed bumps, and so
I just wanted to put on the record that parks are very
important, safety of bicyclists, walking. Need some more
sidewalks, crosswalks, things like that. Maybe a school.
We have no school. I have to drive my son to the North End
to go to school. We do have Jennie Reed, but that's on 36th.

MS. BOWEN-BENNETT: And it's on the other side of the freeway.

MS. PASANA: And it's on the other side of the freeway.

I think that would be pretty much it.

Do you have something to say?

JADEN PASANA: Also, sometimes there's kids with their -- sometimes they will be walking around the street playing football, and usually cars will go up and down really fast on the streets. I just thought it's not that safe.

MS. HARRIS: Could you state your names again?

MS. PASANA: Samantha Pasana and Jaden Pasana.
P-a-s-a-n-a.

MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

MR. BARNETT: Great. Who else would like to -- who would be willing to come up and share your thoughts with the group, particular issues we need to be focusing on with this environmental review, as Molly stated?

Be sure that you take a paper copy of that comment form. It's got our mailing address on it. You can write stuff down there, send it in to us, e-mail us with comments or questions, give us a call.
So going once in terms of this very formal part here. Going twice.

Great. Then we'll close the official scoping meeting hearing process here.

Thank you.

(The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.)