

NEDC
4534 University Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105

Sept. 6, 2012

Jeanett Henderson
Univ. of WA Director of Real Estate
Box 359446
Sea., WA 98195-9446

RE: Plaza Plan for the surface of
the Sound Transit Station
in the University District

Dear Ms. Henderson:

Since the Sound Transit Board of Directors has conveyed the above ground rights to the U. District Sound Transit Station to the University of Washington it is our hope that you work with community groups to bring a Public Park to this site as part of the Transit Overlay Development which should be part of the density increases slated for the University District.

The Northeast District Council supports the concept proposed by Emeritus Professor of Architecture from the University of Washington Phil Thiel for the above ground (surface) use of the U. District Sound Transit station. Professor Thiel showed our July meeting a three dimensional model and explained its features. A graphic representation is enclosed.

The surface of the easterly half of the block lying between the alley and Brooklyn Avenue N.E. and between N.E. 45th St. and N.E. 43rd St. lying south of the Neptune Theater would become a public plaza in a space about 187 feet by 460 feet for civic activities. The alley and Brooklyn Avenue N.E. would have a surface of ornamental brickwork to give an appearance of the openness like Pine Street through Westlake Park. Station portals would open into the plaza. Trees, a fountain, a stage or bandstand, and street furniture, a bike rack, a small children's play area like those in shopping malls, and/or an artwork are added attractions. The south wall of Neptune Theater could host a large screen as a backdrop for a digital reader board and a 100-foot mural (for annual artist's competition.) An arcade can link the plaza with University Way N.E. The alley and Brooklyn Ave N.E. would be open to traffic, except during crowd events, much as Pine Street is.

City planning envisions much greater density for the University District in the coming generations. This presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to prepare a public "focal point" in the heart of the University District that would host a wide variety of public activities (such as the weekly farmers' market, band concerts during the summertime,

Seafair and holiday activities, weekend outdoor movies, gatherings for visiting dignitaries and politicians, art fairs, classic car shows), and as the heart, make it a vibrant place to come and to live. It would be right across from the University of Washington Tower with its adjacent Tsutakawa fountain and Sperry ceramic “stele” and open space of artistic brickwork.

The Northeast District Council is an association of almost a score of neighborhood community councils in the area of Seattle lying north of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, east of Interstate 5, west of Lake Washington, and south of Lake City/Meadowbrook. Representatives of member community associations meet monthly (except in August) to consider municipal affairs and matters of common concern. On major items, the Council receives information at one meeting, representatives take the subject back to their officers and boards of directors, and vote at the next meeting. The Council followed that process and voted by an overwhelming majority to support this project and to urge government officials to work toward its accomplishment.

Yours truly,

Co-Chair

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Seattle, WA 98105

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Hon. Pat McCarthy
Sound traisit Board of Directors
401 So. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

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in the University District

Honorable Members: of the Board of Directors

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