

12th Avenue Stewardship Committee Meeting
February 25, 2010 – 7:00pm
Seattle University Alumni and Admissions Building

Update on the First Hill/Capitol Hill Streetcar

- Ethan Melone from the Seattle Department of Transportation gave an update on the streetcar.
- This streetcar line will be a city serving/circulator route and less focused on local/city shaping. The streetcar will serve specific nodes of activity with fewer stops in between.
- In rating the different alignments, the 12th Avenue couplet option ranked high in ridership, budget, travel time and had few impacts to traffic/utilities/parking. Drawbacks include the unproven nature of the couplet alignment and the impacts to the existing bicycle lane on 12th Avenue, which is a major north-south bike route.
- The impacts to the bicycle route could be mitigated but significant re-design of the street would be required which would eliminate much of the on-street parking. This re-design was not studied by SDOT.
- SDOT views the couplet alignment as risky. No other cities use a couplet that is separated by more than one block and SDOT is unsure if this will decrease ridership.
- SDOT studied the commercial capacity of the routes based on current zoning, except for Yesler Terrace where they assumed a rezone would happen. Attendees disputed the SDOT conclusions regarding the development capacity of 12th Avenue, and urged a more detailed analysis which would consider the likelihood that the King County Youth Detention Center site would be rezoned and would take into account the degree of likelihood that development on 12th would or would not be catalyzed by a streetcar route. Ethan Melone said they "could take another look."
- The City Council will choose an alignment in April.

Streetcar and the Complete Street

- Alex Broner from the Capitol Hill Community Council presented their views on the northern section of the First Hill Capitol Hill Streetcar alignment. Their key recommendations include
 1. Extending the streetcar to Aloha Street (this portion of the project is unfund at this point)
 2. Keeping the streetcar on Broadway north of Union Street to focus energy on the retail corridor
 3. Reclaiming the street and turning Broadway into a more pedestrian-oriented space by removing the center turn lane and creating dedicated bike lanes
- Attendees asked if the re-design of Broadway that would accommodate bikes, streetcars and vehicles would impact left turns from Broadway. Melone from SDOT confirmed that left turns would likely be prohibited for much of Broadway.

12th Avenue and surrounding residential streets would also likely see an increase in traffic.

- The Capitol Hill Community Council's full memo can be found attached to this post or here:
<http://instivate.s3.amazonaws.com//c3s2VjhL9yvSq5R8LzBrA6VNg/media/news/2010/1/22/CapHillStreetcarMemov1.pdf>

12th Avenue Parks

- Applications are due on April 2nd for the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund. The 12th Avenue Stewardship Committee is applying for funds to develop the woonerf near James Court Park.