

Friends of the Delridge Bus Triangle
Meeting Raw Notes
1/28/17

Community Background-Stewardship History

Community members active with the South Delridge Community Group conduct monthly clean ups (with supplies provided by SPU) in and around the space – next one is Feb 10th

Community members active with the South Delridge Community Group make regular calls to Metro to pick up larger illegal dumps, deal with bio hazards

Community members active with the South Delridge Community Group have hosted open space BBQs and small block parties.

Past neighborhood groups have abandoned hard fought stewardship/community building projects in the space due to retaliation and physical threats from criminals and drug users of the space.

- A man that lives across the street put up the community information kiosk in the space and already tried to repurpose the area – he is moving now
- Neighbors tried to start a Block Watch in the area, did not last

In 2015, Metro conducted a brush removal and bio-hazard clean up of the space, after advocacy by members of the South Delridge Community Group with support and assistance from the West Seattle District Coordinator.

In late 2015, early 2016 the abandoned/ vandalized community kiosk was removed, after much red tape.

Member advocates within the South Delridge Community Group, in partnership with Member advocates of HPAC and WWRHAH, are ready and willing to work on the redevelopment of the Delridge Bus Triangle public space, with the support of SDOT, SPD, SPU and the other city and county departments, in order to create a stewardship program with both capacity and tools to activate and build community.

SDOT made the curbed area across the street which could be a good wideness for the rest of the sidewalk.

Challenges/Issues

- Space is dark- lighting is poor
- No crosswalks- dangerous and impossible for many pedestrians to access Urban Village east/west direction
- People can hide down in the dug-out, right of way behind the bus stop.
- Open drug activity- needles, etc.
- Alcohol use / open drinking
- Open/witnessed prostitution
- Harassment of the public passing by
- Aggression towards the public passing by/using the bus stop
 - Even while driving (at night)
- People are living in the space surrounding the area in RVs
- Medium to large scale Illegal dumping activities such as furniture and tires. Chronic litter and garbage such as alcohol containers, abandoned clothing,etc
- Activities and people connected to abandoned properties
- Illegal Camping and RVs on the 18th Street SW side
- Lack of regular maintenance
- Lack of accessibility for the public to use this space/significant grade and ground over 75-80% of the public space.
- No identity / no obvious use
- Bus route for that stop is no desirable (end of long local 60 route)
- Scene of crimes: stabbings and shootings (most recent was 2-3 years ago)
- Gathering space for all the illegal behavior/foot traffic stop between 7-11 and abandoned buildings.
- Community instability/Failed Block Watch Programs: high turnover from residents adjacent. They've tried block watches but due to harassment have abandoned.
- Unattractive/abandoned businesses buildings adjacent to the space on north and west sides (broken windows theory)
- Buildings create a visual wall on the north (business) and east on 18th (old, windowless apartment)
- Windowless walls reduce sightlines in the area
- Veterans memorial is vandalized.
- No connectivity from east to west of Delridge – need an open space on the east side
- Retaining wall in the dug-out right of way is vandalized/being pulled apart to hide drugs and needles.

Community Generated Development Ideas and “Low Hanging Fruit” solutions

- Create a true gathering space for the community to take ownership/stewardship of
- Create events: Block parties, music, outdoor movies, food trucks
- Concert on the columns
- Create a mural on the north wall – North Coast Marble Company – potentially get students involved
- Trim tree limbs way back and remove more ground vegetation
- Remove the grade on 80% of the space to allow community use
- Consider tree removal and adaptive use of felled trees
- Reconsider the bus shelter in context of Delridge Corridor/Rapid Ride Development Project
- Adopt a Stop cancelled by Metro – Metro used to supply materials to clean up a Metro bus stop (similar to Adopt-a-Street by SPU) but cancelled it due to budget cuts <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/prog/aas/adopt.html>
- Rapid Ride should consider relocation of the stop and shelter in a way that does not interfere with trees and is more aligned with walkways and desire lines.
- Installation of permeable paving to mitigate existing water run off issues.
- Consider this to the flagship project for redevelopment of all pavement triangles in the Westwood –Highland Park Urban Village.
- Honor the Veterans memorial in future design
- Establish a sense of community identity. Consider this project to be the community heart/ identity of the Westwood –Highland Park Urban Village
- Clarify asset ownership
- Examine GSI (stormwater run off) opportunities – SDOT and SPU Partnerships
- Looking at how the community would most like to use the space
- Create Festival Street: multipurpose
- Create high security, family-oriented bike infrastructure: in context with greenways, bike paths and mass transit development.
- South Delridge/White Center active transportation – Active transportation is walking and biking—so this may have been in reference to creating more opportunities for those kinds of transportation with the help of this space (i.e. Bike racks, open space, etc.)
- Consider full closure or part closure of 18th Ave SW side of the Triangle.
- Consider kids play equipment (swings, court, etc.), multipurpose play space opportunities, play street
- Consider event space for reserved use
- Examine the cut-through traffic, and safety needs between Barton St SW, Delridge and 17th Ave SW
- Community Crosswalks – marking the crosswalk
- Intersection painting

- General beautification of the Delridge corridor
- Examine possible curb bulbs at Barton
- Define the pedestrian network/ped traffic needs – envision where a safe and desirable crossing would be
- Delineate the public space
- Consider new speed limit signage
- Marked crosswalk across Delridge
- Check PMP PIN Network
- Establish relationship/partnership with Metro, Metro Transit Police
- Create a homeless/hungry outreach program for those entering the space during community events.
- Get Burger Boss involved
- Improve lighting

Immediate Needs/Actions

- Graffiti removal from headstones (SPU)
- Lighting: LED conversion in space (SCL) – check street lighting (SDOT)
- Report suspicious activity (SPD) – advocate for bike squad patrol
- Increase 911 calls for data point collection and SPD call outs
- Continue and document resources for monthly community cleanups
- Establish protocol for more frequent Urban Forestry Dept maintenance
- Install Code of Conduct signage
 - Public space rules
 - Numbers to call
- Contact SDCl re concerns/history around abandoned buildings
- Name the space!
- Document the history of the space
- Possible mural – at intersection, crosswalk or wall
- Look into removing, cleaning/reinforcing the dug-out retention wall- it is a biohazard for hiding drugs.
- More eyes in the area
- Forming a “Friends of” group

Misc.

SPD emphasized needing to know who will own the area so they will know what rules to enforce in the space

When will the resigning for the reduced speed limits be finished?