300 & 333 8th Ave N Public Private Partnership

Seattle City Council Transportation Committee February 10, 2015



Seattle Department of Transportation

SDOT's mission & vision

Mission: delivering a first-rate transportation system for Seattle.



Vision: a vibrant Seattle with connected people, places, and products.

SDOT's core principles



Presentation overview

Objective: To provide a briefing on a strategic approach to deliver a South Lake Union street concept plan vision

- Background
- South Lake Union Street Concept Plans Overview
- Street Concept for 8th Ave
- Legislative Need to Authorize MOA
- Potential for Future Code Amendment Changes

Background

- 2004- South Lake Union Designated as one of City's six Urban Centers
- 2007- Neighborhood Plan Updated
- 2010- Urban Design Framework Completed
- 2013-Incentive Zoning Ordinance Adopted by Council
- 2013- LCLIP Adopted
- 2013- Street Concept Plans Adopted via Director's Rule



Project area- South Lake Union Street Concept Plans



South Lake Union Street Concept Plans



" The block of 8th Avenue between Thomas Street and Harrison Street is a memorable segment of full street tree canopy" South Lake Union Street Concept Plans

Shared Street Concept

- A multi modal street that accommodates people, bikes, cars at a slower speed, as well as emergency access
- A sidewalk zone that accommodates a variety of activities including walking, sitting, playing, or connecting with neighbors; with lush planting and tree canopy





300 & 333 8th Ave Block Concept

"The cradling gesture blurs the edge of the mid block room while still accomplishing the intention of neighborhood open space and integrated street design." Design Review Board package, May 2014

- Curb ramp at block entries to transition to curb less street
- Heavy emphasis on preserving and enriching the 'Sweet Gum' tree canopy
- Wood decking with moveable tables/ chairs
- Parking/loading in interspersed pockets
- Custom concrete seating 'plinths'



Development Proposal

- Two 6-story structures (office with ground floor retail)
- Below grade parking
- Primary building entrances off 8th Ave N
- Auto access and loading off adjacent alleys



Thomas St

300 & 333 8th Ave –Visual Rendering



Memorandum of Agreement

- Street Concept Plans are voluntary
- Full or even partial reconstruction of street is not required by code
- Pursuant to the SMC, SDOT has the legislative ability to not assess street use fees through authorization of a Council approved Memorandum of Agreement
- Enabling this partnership will deliver a full block reconstruction for a quarter of the cost to the City

Development Activity – 8th Ave N



Approved MOA :

- Curb-less design with specialty scoring pattern on roadway surface
- Bio-retention with extensive planting and retention of mature trees
- Wider sidewalks and variations in sidewalk width
- Street undulation will create non traditional street spaces called street rooms, which will serve an open space function
- Improved drainage infrastructure through full street reconstruction
- Will offer encouragement for other developers to use this tool to deliver street concept plan visions

Without MOA:

- Standard roadway section
- Retention of trees but with less landscaped area
- Standard linear delineation of street without undulation
- Street rooms not realized as street concept plan envisioned
- Will not serve a public open space function
- Would likely discourage other developers from using this tool to deliver street concept plans

Questions?

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