

Issues/Options for Neighborhood Planning 2010 Budget

2009 Neighborhood Planning Activities

In September 2008, Council passed Ordinance 122799 providing direction to the Executive to update three neighborhood plans near light rail stations. The City Council appropriated \$1.3 million in 2009 to undertake the following specific neighborhood planning activities authorized in Ordinance 122799:

1. Develop both city-wide and neighborhood specific “status” reports for existing Neighborhood Plans with outreach conducted by the Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee (NPAC) and the Planning Commission.

Current status: Largely on-track to be completed by end of 2009.

2. Update the following three neighborhood plans: a) MLK @Holly Street; b) North Beacon Hill; and c) North Rainier in anticipation of light rail opening.

Current status: Slightly behind schedule. Executive anticipates submitting draft neighborhood plan updates in early 2010. 2010 Budget also includes funding to conduct any necessary technical work associated with land use changes.

2010 Proposed Neighborhood Planning Budget

The Executive’s 2010 Proposed Budget for neighborhood planning includes a similar level of funding provided in 2009 (see below). The Executive is also proposing to use the same interdepartmental approach as it did in 2009, with DPD staff leading the effort and DON responsible for related neighborhood outreach efforts. The Executive is proposing it use 2010 resources for the following activities:

2009 Neighborhood Plan Updates: Continuing Activities: 2.55 FTE/\$291,431

- Finalize 2009 neighborhood plan updates for Council review & incorporation into Comprehensive Plan.
- Implement follow-through activities related to 2009 Neighborhood Plan updates, such as environmental review and development of implementing text amendments and rezones. (Implementing development regulations for North Rainier may not be ready for Council review until the end of the first quarter, 2011.)

2010 Neighborhood Plan Updates: 6.6 FTE/\$730,225

- Initiate three new neighborhood plan updates that include Columbia City, Rainier Beach, and University District’s Brooklyn station area. As was the case in 2009, the Executive is proposing to focus the 2010 neighborhood plan updates on land use and transportation issues within a quarter mile of the station area, believing these areas to pose the most significant changes to the neighborhood. The Executive would also be examining the relationship of the broader neighborhood to the station area, and any related issues associated with ensuring a connection between the neighborhoods and the station area, such as parks, public safety, and housing.

As part of the 2010 Proposed Budget, the Executive is proposing to reduce the City's support to NPAC (\$~71,000 for consultant & \$30,000 for City staff) since NPAC's work on the neighborhood plan status reports will be largely complete by year-end and it anticipates receiving NPAC's feedback on remaining work items by the end of 2009 as well. The following tables compare the allocation of 2009 neighborhood planning resources to 2010's proposed allocation.

2009 Total Adopted Budget			
	Budget-Staff	Consultant	FTE
DPD	538,000	316,500	5.00
DON	185,448		2.00
SDOT	166,260	25,000	1.50
DPR	57,750		0.50
OH	74,000		0.50
Total	\$1,021,458	\$341,500	9.50
Grand Total		\$1,362,958	9.50

2010 Proposed Budget			
	Budget-Staff	Consultant	FTE
DPD	575,404	254,000	5.15
DON	148,242	92,500	1.50
SDOT	166,260	25,000	1.50
DPR	57,750	0	0.50
OH	74,000	0	0.50
Total	\$1,021,655	\$371,500	9.15
Grand Total		\$1,393,155	9.15

Potential Issues

1. Issue

Does Council agree with the Executive's proposed approach for 2010 Plan Updates?

Options

a. Approve Executive's 2010 approach as proposed.

- ✓ Three neighborhood plan updates.
- ✓ Location:
 - Columbia City
 - North Rainier
 - University District
- ✓ Focus primarily on station areas within neighborhood planning areas with emphasis on land use & transportation (similar approach to 2009 updates). Other elements, such as parks and housing, are addressed in terms of identifying connections between the station area and larger neighborhood plan area.

b. Modify Executive's 2010 approach (via proviso or SLI).

- ✓ Select two neighborhood plan updates instead of three, bringing more resources to bear on two areas instead of three. More resources may allow for a more broadly focused neighborhood plan update process extending beyond the station area.
- ✓ Do not require updates to be completed within a one-year time-frame if it appears communities are interested in addressing more issues outside of the station area.

Discussion

In late 2007, when the Mayor and Council first appropriated resources in the 2008 Budget to update neighborhood plans, it was agreed some urgency existed to update neighborhood plans where light rail service would be opening. This urgency was reflected in the ambitious one-year timeline laid out to complete three neighborhood plan updates for MLK at Holly, North Rainier, and North Beacon Hill neighborhood plans.

Not surprisingly, the timeline to complete these three neighborhood plan updates within a one-year timeframe has been challenging. While DON's outreach efforts have been considered largely successful, especially in terms of outreach to traditionally underrepresented communities, there is a sense the process has been rushed (the Executive did not commence neighborhood planning update activities until late 2008, after a Council proviso restricting expenditures was lifted). The timeline has also restricted the focus of the three 2009 neighborhood plan updates to primarily transportation and land use issues within a quarter mile of the station areas. The Executive may have been able to approach the 2009 Neighborhood Plan updates in SE more broadly if more time and resources had been available.

2. Issue

What is the appropriate role and scope of a neighborhood advisory committee moving forward?

Options

1. Approve Executive's 2010 Budget as proposed, which removes consulting and city staff support for NPAC , ~\$100,000.
2. Maintain NPAC's current role and structure (see below) and some level of funding.
3. Reconstitute the neighborhood planning advisory committee as an ad-hoc advisory committee under the City's Planning Commission (would likely need to provide some resources to assist with staffing).
4. Provide facilitation and staffing resources for NPAC for the first six-months of 2010 to allow NPAC to wrap up any remaining work set out in Resolution 31085.
5. Other.

Discussion

NPAC has put in many long hours in 2009 to meet, conduct community outreach for the status reports (along with Planning Commission members), and provide feedback to the City on the neighborhood planning update efforts in SE Seattle. While NPAC has completed many of the tasks assigned to it by Resolution 31085 the resolution clearly contemplates a role for an advisory committee of some sort during the City's on-going neighborhood planning activities. It may not be necessary, or practical, however, to assume that NPAC can provide the same level of effort in 2010, especially given limited resources.

As "stewards" of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the City's Planning Commission has a key role in neighborhood planning and has played an active role in this year's efforts. Given the Planning Commission's on-going role, it may make sense to create an ad-hoc advisory committee supported under the Planning Commission's structure. The ad-hoc

committee could include a strong role for citizens and neighborhood representatives that would provide on-going advice and guidance to the City as it begins to undertake neighborhood plan updates over the next several years.

NPAC's Current Role

In September 2008, Council adopted Resolution 31085, creating an advisory committee on neighborhood planning. NPAC was created at the same time Council passed Ordinance 122799 laying out the process for updating neighborhood plans. NPAC was charged with several responsibilities, some of which were better defined than others. With regards to NPAC's role and responsibilities, Resolution 31085 includes the following:

Membership

- Thirteen District Council representatives (self selected).
- Two members of the Seattle Planning Commission (self-selected).
- Chair of the CNC's Neighborhood Planning subcommittee.
- Eight at-large members (four selected by the Executive and four selected by PLUNC chair).

Responsibilities: Status Reports

- Advise on scope, format, and content of Neighborhood Plan status reports.
- Co-host open houses with Planning Commission on status reports.

Responsibilities: Update Process

- Provide advice on community outreach and the appropriate scope of Neighborhood Plan updates that will be occurring in 2008-2011.
- Advise on getting underrepresented communities and new residents involved.
- Propose ways to improve consistency and usefulness of NP.
- Beyond three updates initiated in 2009, recommend to Mayor & Council whether to allow neighborhoods to use outside city consultants to draft updates in the future.
- Identify options for validating Neighborhood Plan updates.
- Recommend ways in which City can improve implementation of Neighborhood Plans.
- Help identify criteria for prioritizing Neighborhood Plan updates post-2011