



## QUEEN ANNE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT Workshop #2 Public Process Overview

### History of the Project

- Genesis of the project:
  - The Queen Anne Neighborhood Plan contained several recommendations for improving Queen Anne Boulevard, the “Crown of Queen Anne.”
  - In 2000, Seattle voters approved a \$198.2 million levy lid lift for Parks and Recreation, including \$500,000 to improve Queen Anne Boulevard.
  - Project Web Site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/queenAnneBlvd.htm>
  
- Elements open/not open to public comment, and why:
  - Projects are governed by the City’s Land Use Code.
  - Parks has many policies, design standards and technical specifications for construction that are in place to ensure safety and durability.
  
- Public process conducted on the project to date:
  - The Pro Parks Levy contains direction for each project that must be followed.
  - Parks staff met with the Queen Anne Community Council and its Transportation and Parks subcommittees at several points during the past year to solicit comment on the scope and focus of the project.
  - Parks held the first public meeting in September. Staff reviewed existing conditions along the Boulevard and discussed initial staff proposals to focus on providing pedestrian walkways where they are currently. Public comment was sought on all potential improvements. Notes from that meeting are posted on the project web and were sent to meeting attendees.
  
- Who Parks notified about the meeting and the sources of the list
  - Parks sent meeting notification to carrier routes within to the north and eastern half of upper Queen Anne.
  - Parks notified the Queen Anne Community Council of this upcoming meeting.
  - Park posted notices along the Boulevard and at the Community Center.
  - Parks sent notices to people who signed up at the first public meeting.
  - Parks sent a press release to Seattle Time and Post Intelligencer, Queen Anne News, Daily Journal of Commerce and other city newspapers.
  - Meetings are posted on the Project Web site.
  
- Milestone and decisions made to date, if any:
  - In 1996, Parks developed and City Council endorsed the Non-Park Uses of Park Lands – Policy and Procedures (Council Resolution #29475, 10/96). These policies guide parks actions.
  - In the late 1990s Parks worked with Bigelow Ave residents on one of the first projects to implement the policies.

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**Explanation of how decisions are made.**

- How Parks uses input from the public
  - Parks review bodies will consider public input in defining improvements.
- How “majority” opinions will figure in decisions.
  - Parks does not generally seek votes at public meetings. Comments made via email and telephone are given equal weight to those made at public meetings.
  - If a majority of meeting attendees indicates a preference, this may be used to define or confirm the design direction, subject to the following reviews.
  - In all cases, opinions are advisory to the Parks decision making process that includes internal technical review (ProView and ProView Tech) where Park policies, procedures and standards are considered.
  - In instances where there are conflicting opinions or conflicts with Park policies, the conflict will be considered by Parks internal review committees that may include ProView, ProView Tech or Project Steering.
  - The Seattle Design Commission may review this project and provide direction.
  - The Board of Park Commissioners will hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to the Parks Superintendent.
  - The Parks Superintendent has the final decision on this project.

**Factors that may have an impact on the outcome, including:**

- The Boulevard is a Designated City Landmark. A Certificate of Approval is needed for improvements.
- Safety Issues – Safety issues are considered by the consultant, project manager and Parks technical review committees during design.
- Mayoral priorities – None know
- City Council Actions – No Council action is known at this time.
- Voter approval – Voters approved the project description in the 200 Pro Parks Levy.
- An existing adopted plan – There is a plan for tree planting developed by Parks and the Community. This plan will be used when replacing planting new trees.
- The process that led to the adoption of that plan – Not Applicable
- Budget limitations – All costs for design, construction and project management must be paid from \$500,000 project funds.
- Regional need – Not Applicable

**Budget source, and amount, impact on project scope**

- In 2000, Seattle voters approved a \$198.2 million levy lid lift for Parks and Recreation, including \$500,000 to improve Queen Anne Boulevard.

**Timelines: upcoming steps in the process, points at which Parks will invite comment**

- The Board of Park Commissioners may hold a public hearing to take public testimony on the design.

- There will be a third and final public meeting to review final design.

**After the public involvement process is over, Parks will make a decision and proceed to implement it.**