



## COMMUNITY VISUAL GUIDANCE OUTREACH SUMMARY

### Sumner Station Access Improvements Project

Last updated: 2/23/18

#### Background and Purpose

Sound Transit hosted two events to gather feedback on design elements and look-and-feel options for a new 4 ½ story parking garage at Sumner Station:

- Stakeholder workshop - October 2, 2017: Key stakeholders – residents, transit riders, members of planning and design commissions and elected officials, were consulted to help shape the design elements presented to the Sumner community.
- Community drop-in session - Nov. 29, 2017: Held at the Sumner Café, attendees had the opportunity to view displays, talk with project staff about other access improvements and fill out a survey regarding preferred design elements for the parking garage. This survey was available online from Nov. 15 to Dec. 8, 2017.

The goal of this outreach was to capture the Sumner community's vision for the new garage and provide visual guidance to a future design/build firm. Over 120 people took the survey (in-person or online), with hundreds more made aware of opportunities to engage through a variety of notification methods. Results of the drop-in session and online survey are summarized below.

#### Summary of Feedback

The following vision statement for the garage was crafted based on the input received at the workshop and drop-in session.

##### ***Sumner Station Garage Vision Statement***

The new Sumner Station parking garage is envisioned to match the small-town feel of Sumner and fit in with Sumner's Main Street. As one of the largest new buildings close to downtown, it should not stand out or incorporate bright, bold colors. Rather, brick/masonry materials and a natural color palette are preferred, with covered awnings to encourage a friendly pedestrian experience and mimic the feel of Main Street.

Feedback from the key stakeholders and public indicate the stylistic era that most represents their Main Street is the 1920s Art Deco aesthetic, with layered masonry facades, symmetrical and simplified classical forms, some delicate geometric details or patterns, and neutral tones. The current station area has a Post-Modern aesthetic, marked with symbolic primary shapes, and is punctuated by bold colors. This type of architecture is most representative of the 1980s and 1990s aesthetic, and it was discussed that it is not the 1920s classicism that best represents their town. The new garage should complement, but not copy the past, seeking a harmonious expression that brings the past and the present together, while providing a timeless design for generations to come.

The new parking garage at Sumner Station is sited close to a residential community, so it should be well-lit and safe. It should be functional, with easily accessible entrances and exits, keeping in mind the goal of providing parking at one of the busiest stations on the Sounder line.

##### *Station users*

Out of those who use the Sumner Station, most survey respondents either drive a car alone (42 percent) or walk/use a mobility device (37 percent) to get to the station. They come from a variety of locations, with 32 percent coming from less than a mile away, 32 percent coming from between 1 and 5 miles away, and 24 percent coming from more than 5 miles away. Most use the train for commuting to and from work (66 percent), though many also use it for recreational activities (38 percent).



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#### *Current feel*

When asked to describe the current feel of the area where the parking garage will be built, 63 percent said “small town.” Other popular answers were “safe” (36 percent), “welcoming and friendly” (27 percent) and “open” (26 percent). Some responses described the area as “neutral” or “bland,” and several described the area as “dark,” “deserted” and “security risk.”

#### *Future design*

When asked how the new garage should look and what it should include, most respondents said it should “blend in with Sumner Main Street” to match the current “small town” feel (75 percent). Other popular responses included “awnings sheltering walkways” (45 percent), the use of “brick/masonry materials” (42 percent) and the inclusion of “natural earth-toned colors” (38 percent). Some responses asked for the new parking garage to blend in or be “invisible.” Many also repeated that it should look “classic” and should blend in with downtown Sumner’s Main Street. Some noted that they preferred functionality over aesthetics.

In terms of architectural styles, most respondents preferred “Northwest” (61 percent), “Timeless” (40 percent) and “Sustainable” (33 percent). Functionality was mentioned again in some responses, as was the need for it to blend in with Sumner’s small-town feel.

Respondents were also asked to rank the importance of various design elements against each other, on a scale of 1-5 (5 being “most important” and 1 being “not important”). The most important elements (or those that received the most “5” rankings) were “fits into Sumner’s Main Street” (61 percent), “canopies at walkways” (52 percent) and a “natural color palette” (49 percent). The least important elements (or those that received the most “1” rankings) were “bright/bold color palette” (70 percent), “iconic and stands out” (73 percent) and “dramatic nighttime lighting” (73 percent).

When asked if they had any other thoughts or comments to share regarding the parking garage, the following emerged as key themes:

- Ensure that there are enough parking stalls, and plan for future growth
- Build a safe, well-lit parking garage
- Build the parking garage as soon as possible
- Have multiple entrances and exits, ensure that they are easily accessible
- Consider impacts to the surrounding community (i.e. increased traffic, noise)
- Fit the “small-town feel” of Sumner, have it blend in
- Add vendors/street-level retail and/or retail-esque seating
- Plan for where cars will park during construction of the garage

#### **Next Steps**

Sound Transit will use feedback from this outreach period to inform the design of the new Sumner Station parking garage. This report will be included in a set of project requirements for the chosen design/build firm to reference. Construction of the new garage is scheduled to begin in 2019 and be completed by 2021. All other access improvements are scheduled to be complete by 2023.