

Summer 2018 Visual Design Outreach – Executive Summary

Overview

Sound Transit is building a new garage and improving bicycle and pedestrian access at Puyallup Station so that more people can conveniently access the Sounder train. In July and September 2018, Sound Transit conducted outreach to gather feedback on the design elements and provide a status update of project progress. The project includes construction of a garage adding approximately 500 new parking spaces, a pedestrian bridge over 5th St NW, new surface parking with approximately 165 spaces, traffic improvements, and sidewalk and bicycle enhancements.

Sound Transit hosted two events in Puyallup: a stakeholder workshop held on July 16 with residents, transit riders, Puyallup’s Design Review and Historic Preservation Board (DRHPB) members and city staff; and a public open house on September 11. This outreach served as an opportunity to capture the Puyallup community’s vision for the new garage and connecting pedestrian bridge, show general project information, and demonstrate collaboration projects with jurisdictional partners. Overall, more than 170 people participated in-person or through an online survey, resulting in over 330 written comments.



September 11, 2018: Open house participants talk to Sound Transit staff at the Puyallup Activity Center.

Outreach by the numbers



330+ written comments gathered from in-person and online survey responses



More than 2,500 postcards mailed to homes and businesses within a half mile of the station



Over 200 postcards distributed to station users at Puyallup Station



Two project email updates sent to over 2,000 recipients



More than 35 people attended the Sept. 11 open house at Puyallup Activity Center



2 print and online display advertisements placed in the Puyallup Herald



Nearly 400 users clicked on the survey from Aug. 31 – Sept. 21



One Facebook post that reached over 9,000 people

Puyallup Station Parking and Access Improvements

Summary of comments received

The following vision statement for the garage and pedestrian bridge was crafted based on input received at the workshop and drop-in session. A total of 172 surveys were completed online and at the in-person open house.

Vision Statement

The new Puyallup Station parking garage is envisioned to reflect a design that is both sustainable and timeless by incorporating materials and design features that are complementary to the existing context of nearby downtown Puyallup. In general, the community expressed interest in a structure that shows a relationship to landmark buildings in the area, such as City Hall, the Puyallup Public Library, the Powerhouse Pub and Restaurant and the Pioneer Park Pavilion. These buildings represent the local historic architectural expression, and as the city evolves, a growing movement towards northwest contemporary architecture that embraces a blend of natural and industrial materials. The online survey and feedback from open houses indicate the community's preferences for using a natural color palette with earth tones, and the importance of certain materials, such as, brick and masonry. The garage should strive to incorporate masonry at the pedestrian areas and mask the view of vehicles with screening that incorporates architectural trims and details that are consistent with pedestrian quality of buildings that grace the downtown area.

Surveys and in-person public feedback indicate that safety and security are a concern, and this garage should be well-lit with regular monitoring, adhere to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines, and provide good visibility into stairwells and elevators. The pedestrian experience should be enhanced with canopies along walkways, streetscape plants and greenery, and architectural lighting to create a welcoming environment for transit users and local pedestrians. Clear wayfinding and accessibility are also important features, as well as safe ways to cross heavily trafficked areas adjacent to the site. In effort to make a soft transition to the adjacent residential neighborhood, warm, subtle nighttime lighting is preferred to bold, dramatic or colored lighting.

The pedestrian bridge over 5th St NW is an opportunity to have a distinguishing feature in the guardrail screening or glazing that will be enjoyed by transit users crossing the bridge. Architecturally, it should be consistent with the features of the garage and may contain a visually striking element or lighting feature at the elevator tower east of 5th St NW that is noticeable in the direction of the platform, acting as a beacon or wayfinding feature for pedestrians.

Possible Design Elements: Parking Garage

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of various design elements on a scale of 1-5 (5 being "most important" and 1 being "not important"). The most important elements identified by the community were:

- Canopies and other forms of shelter for station users (4.2 average rating)
- Streetscape plants and greenery (4.2 average rating)
- A cost-effective design that blends in with landmark buildings in downtown Puyallup (4.1 average rating)
- Using brick/masonry materials (3.8 average)
- Warm, subtle nighttime lighting (3.6 average)



September 11, 2018: Open house participants view an aerial map of the future improvements to Puyallup Station.

Puyallup Station Parking and Access Improvements

Possible Design Elements: Pedestrian Bridge

Respondents were also asked to rank the proposed designs of the pedestrian bridge rooftop on a scale of 1-5 (5 being "most important" and 1 being "not important").

- The clean, contemporary look for the pedestrian bridge was received slightly better than the traditional expression (average score of 3.7 out of five vs 3.4 out of five, respectively).
- There is also a desire to build a bridge over the train tracks to connect the platforms. However, that is out of the scope of this project.

Overall themes

- There is a need for additional parking at Puyallup Station now, and more spaces than the planned 500, as parking is full early in the morning.
 - *"There should be more than 500 parking spaces in the garage. That will be maxed out by the first day."*
- The site of the new parking garage is currently industrial and rundown with people (often transient community) navigating through the area.
 - *"Although the current surroundings feel separate and industrial, the further development of this area will lead to an expanded downtown core. This structure can be thought of as one of the leaders in helping extend this core boundary through its design and architecture."*
- Many have concerns about traffic and congestion as more vehicles will exit/enter the area; consider impact of increased traffic especially around the nearby high school and residential area.
 - *"Flow of cars in and out will be challenging and probably directed towards residential neighborhoods and Puyallup HS."*
- The new parking garage and pedestrian bridge should be cost-effective.
 - *"Cost effective to build and maintain should be number 1 priority."*
- Safety is a major concern for the existing station and the site of the new parking garage. Include ample lighting for station users.
 - *"Plenty of lighting and visibility and obvious security features like security cameras and emergency phones."*
- Several commented about the need for a pedestrian bridge that crosses the train tracks (which is beyond the scope of this project).
 - *"A pedestrian bridge going over the tracks should be of high priority with this upgrade. There are many track changes and it's not an easy feat for everyone to walk down to the next street and cross the tracks."*

Outcomes and next steps

All comments received during this public involvement period are being reviewed by the project design team. Sound Transit will use feedback from this outreach period to inform the design of the new Puyallup Station parking garage and connecting pedestrian bridge. 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 anticipated to begin in 2020.

There are multiple ways for the public to stay informed about the project:

- Contact Melanie Mayock, Community Outreach Specialist: melanie.mayock@soundtransit.org or [206-689-4877](tel:206-689-4877)
- Visit the project website: soundtransit.org/puyallup-access-improvements
- Sign-up for project updates by email: soundtransit.org/subscribe