3.0 Public Workshop #1

3.1 Public Workshop #1 Summary

9 March 2004

Visions and Values:

The intent of the meeting was to solicit public comment about the character and opportunities for Lakeshore Plaza. At the meeting attendees were:

- Invited to review materials on the historic context, review and comment on the draft Guiding Principles provided by the LPWG, suggest comparable places to Lakeshore Plaza, and share their thoughts with members of the LPWG
- Asked to listen to a presentation about the project and the process
- Divided into small discussion groups to respond to a series of questions intended to help the LPWG understand opinions and visions of the character, use and future of the space
- Asked to report to the larger group the results of small-group discussions

GGLO presented their understanding of the work and process:

- Emphasizing that the project is for and about Kirkland and that a fundamental part of developing a concept plan are the voices of the community
- Presenting significant site features to be retained and integrated – the boat launch, public dock, pump station, and the wall and beach at Marina Park
- Outlining impressions of the site and opportunities for the design

Overall, attendees were very enthusiastic about the project. Their vision for the waterfront in *fifteen years* was a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented destination that embraces its waterfront setting. They felt that it was most *important to preserve* the sense of openness and views to the water, as well as areas for large and small large community events. Regarding *new activities*, attendees agreed that the space should be active year-round, with activity generated from community events, cafes, and waterfront activities. Participants felt that the *look and feel* for the area should represent Kirkland's pedestrian character, with graceful transitions from the downtown to the water and no intrusions by cars. The primary concerns included the potential cost of the project and the impacts to existing businesses. Kirkland is a waterfront town with a history and a strong sense of community. Downtown Kirkland and the waterfront is where the community comes together to celebrate and recreate as a community. Consistent comments indicated direction towards:

- Creating a vibrant pedestrian oriented destination that embraces the waterfront and downtown
- Preserving the sense of openness and views
- Preserving use for community events and entertainment
- Creating a safe year-round destination for all
- Creating a place that reflects the small-town character of Kirkland and its commitment to the arts
- Creating a mix of human scale retail and public spaces
- Utilizing natural northwest landscape and materials
- Ensuring quality and integrity of both the uses and architecture

Detailed meeting results and public comment are included in Appendix 8.1.

Lakeshore Plaza @ Marina Park

Lakeshore Plaza
@ Marina Park
Public Workshop #1

Welcome!

1. Sign in
2. Review and comment on open house boards 6pm - 7pm
3. Participate in discussion groups 7pm - 9pm
4. Stay involved! Public Meetings 2 and 3 are upcoming!

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"Bring downtown to the lake… bring the lake to downtown."

Guiding Principles

from the Lakeshore Plaza Working Group

Lakeshore Plaza @ Marina Park Public Workshop #1

- Maintain **consistency** with the vision of the Downtown Strategic Plan (DSP)
- Develop a vision and plan around broad **community consensus** and support
- Create a concept that reflects **downtown's unique character**
- Serve to **enhance and enlarge Marina Park**
- Design a place that **comfortably accommodates its users**
- **Create a place** that is **'owned' by the entire community**
- Promote **environmentally sound solutions**
- **Create** a project that is **economically feasible and sustainable**
- Pursue opportunities to **increase the supply of public parking**
- Pursue design solutions that **create connections** rather than barriers
- **Minimize disruption** of existing downtown activities
- **Strengthen and promote retail activity** in the downtown

"Bring downtown to the lake… bring the lake to downtown."

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Civic Centers

Lakeshore Plaza
@ Marina Park
Public Workshop #1

Informal

Formal

Active

Places I like: (Places that have qualities of a completed Lakeshore Plaza)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
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26. _____
27. _____
28. _____

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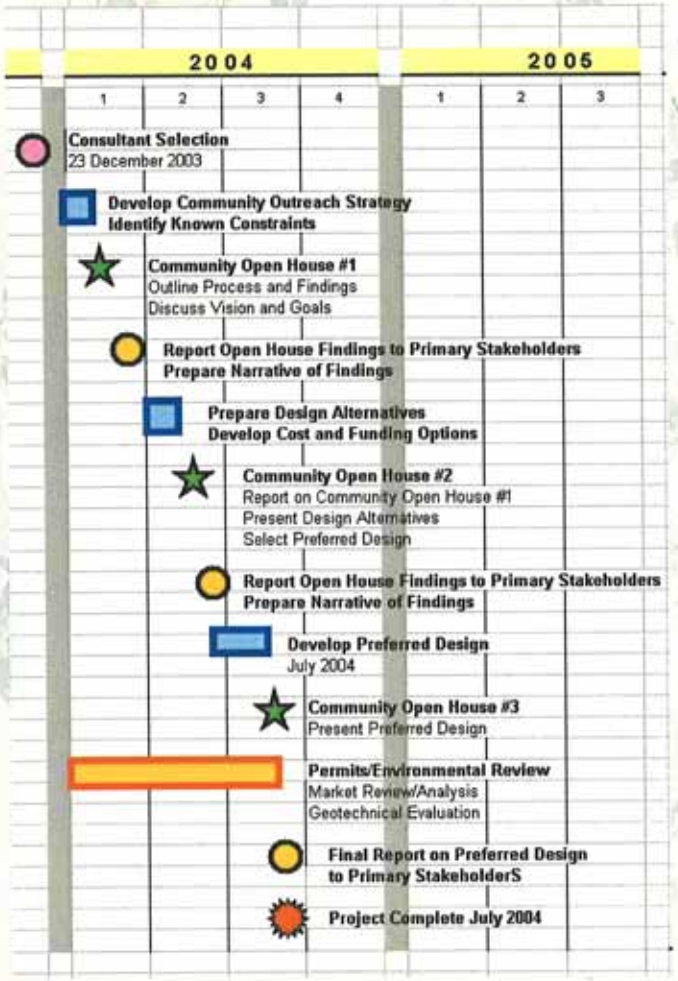
Project Timeline and Milestones



Public Workshop #1: March 2004

- *Outline process and findings*
- *Discuss vision and goals*

Public Workshop #2: May 2004

- *Present and discuss design alternatives*
- *Select preferred design*

Public Workshop #3: June 2004

- *Present and discuss preferred design*

Concept Study Completion: July 2004

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"Bring downtown to the lake… bring the lake to downtown."

Discussion Group Questions

1) **What is most important** to you about this area of Kirkland's waterfront? What **needs to be preserved or enhanced** as the concept design is developed?

2) What **new activities and uses** should be considered at the Plaza. How should they **relate to and enhance** adjacent areas – Lake Street, Central Way, Park Lane, downtown, surrounding parks?

3) How should Lakeshore Plaza **look and feel** once completed?

4) **Imagine that fifteen years** from now some very special people in your life are coming to visit you. They have never been to Kirkland before. How will you **describe the Plaza** to them in one **beautiful** sentence?

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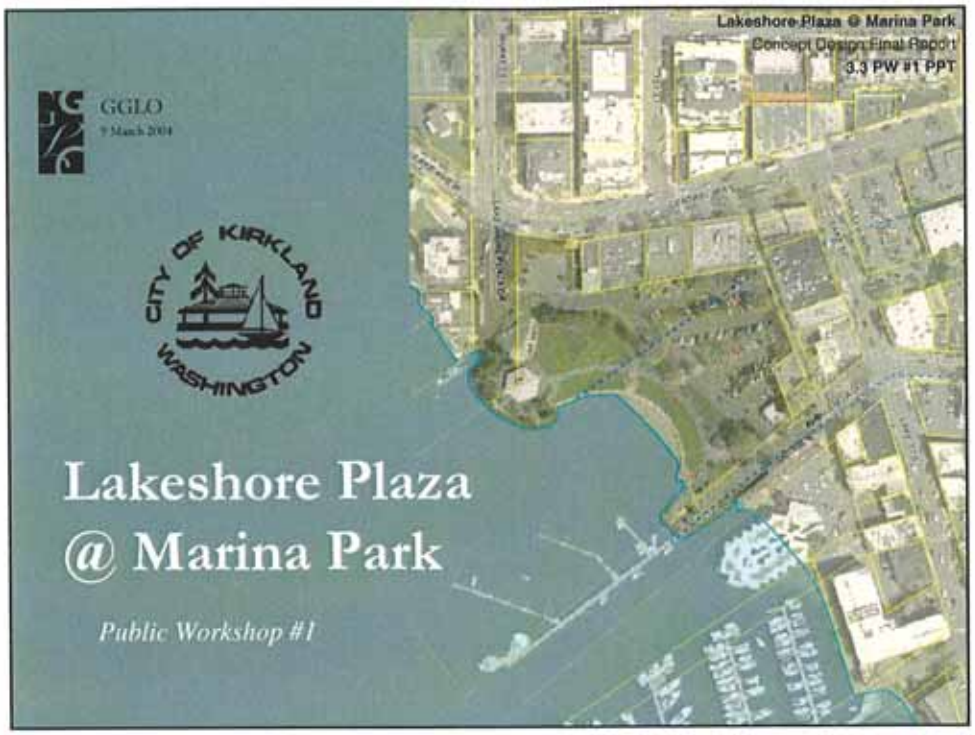
"Bring downtown to the lake… bring the lake to downtown."


Lakeshore Plaza @ Marina Park
Concept Design Final Report
3.3 PW #1 PPT
GGLO
9 March 2004
CITY OF KIRKLAND
WASHINGTON
Lakeshore Plaza
@ Marina Park
Public Workshop #1

Introduction
Lakeshore Plaza
@ Marina Park
"...create the finest community gathering place in the region--a waterfront plaza and park in the heart of our pedestrian-oriented downtown... reorient the downtown to the lake by building a structural lid over the existing Marina Park parking lot with a significant public plaza on top and an expanded parking garage below."

Introduction

"...create the finest community gathering place in the region--a waterfront plaza and park in the heart of our pedestrian-oriented downtown... reorient the downtown to the lake by building a structural lid over the existing Marina Park parking lot with a significant public plaza on top and an expanded parking garage below."

Introduction

Downtown Strategic Plan (DSP)

Agreement by community leaders on a broad vision for downtown Kirkland

Public actions and private opportunities

Downtown Action Team (DAT)

32 community leaders implementing the strategies

Accomplishments

Parking strategy

Transit center siting recommendation

Opportunity sites – incentives for housing & hotels

Introduction

Current Projects

Central Way Corridor Design

Lakeshore Plaza Design Concept

Lakeshore Plaza Working Group (LPWG)

23 members working for past 8 months

Identifying site opportunities and constraints

Talking to property owners

Selecting a design team

Developing a set of guiding principles

Listening to the past, present and future

What's next?

Guiding Principles

(Developed by the Lakeshore Plaza Working Group)

Maintain consistency with the vision of the Downtown Strategic Plan (DSP)

Develop a vision and plan around broad community consensus and support

Create a concept that reflects downtown's unique character

Serve to enhance and enlarge Marina Park

Design a place that comfortably accommodates its users

Create a place that is 'owned' by the entire community

Promote environmentally sound solutions

Create a project that is economically feasible and sustainable

Pursue opportunities to increase the supply of public parking

Pursue design solutions that create connections rather than barriers

Minimize disruption of existing downtown activities

Strengthen and promote retail activity in the downtown

Process/Schedule

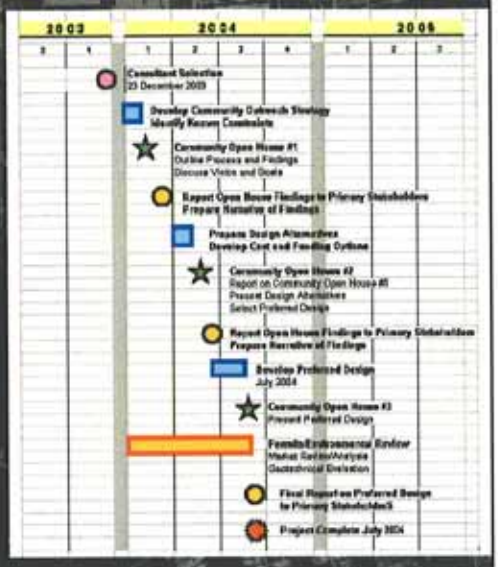
Public Workshop #1: March 2004
- *Outline process and present findings*
- *Discuss vision and goals*

Public Workshop #2: May 2004
- *Present and discuss design alternatives*
- *Select preferred design*

Public Meeting #3: June 2004
- *Present and discuss preferred design*

Project Completion: July 2004

Future Phases
- *Identify public/private partners & finalize detailed design*
- *Project development*



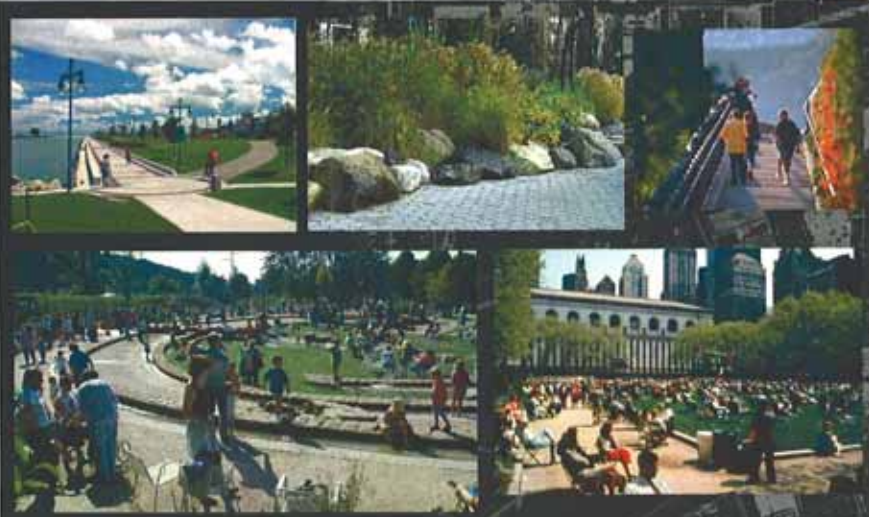
Findings – What we know about the site:

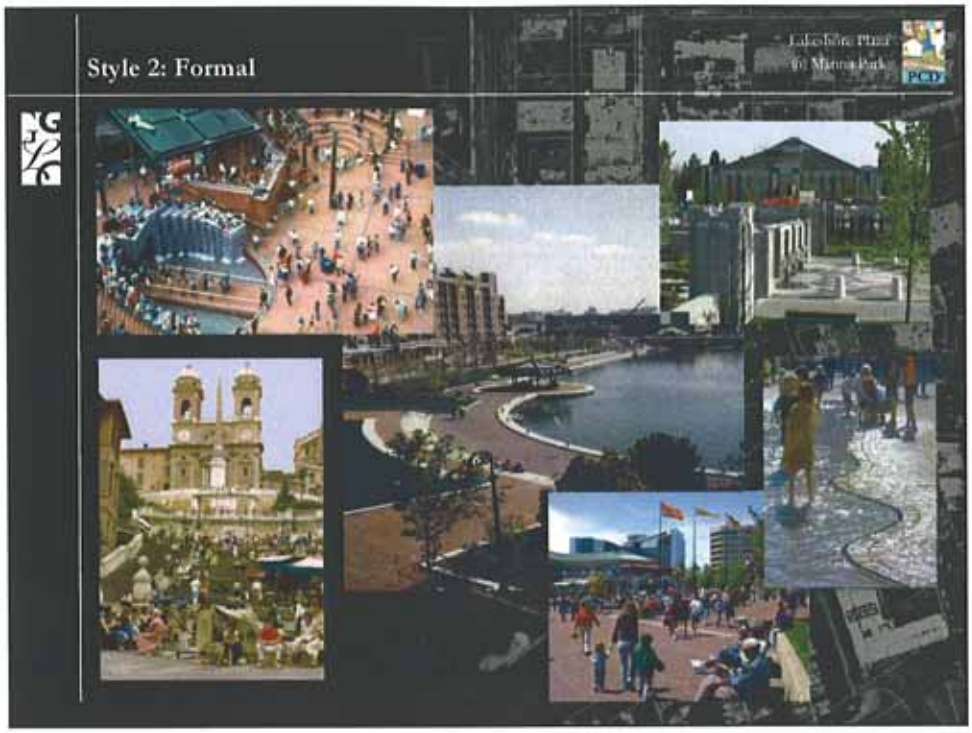
- Marina Park and adjacent parking are important venues for community events and festivals
- The Marina Park amphitheater and beach are well loved and used destinations
- Traffic, parking, and access need to be carefully balanced with the goal of creating a civic space
- Significant uses to be maintained: boat launch, performances, public dock, parking

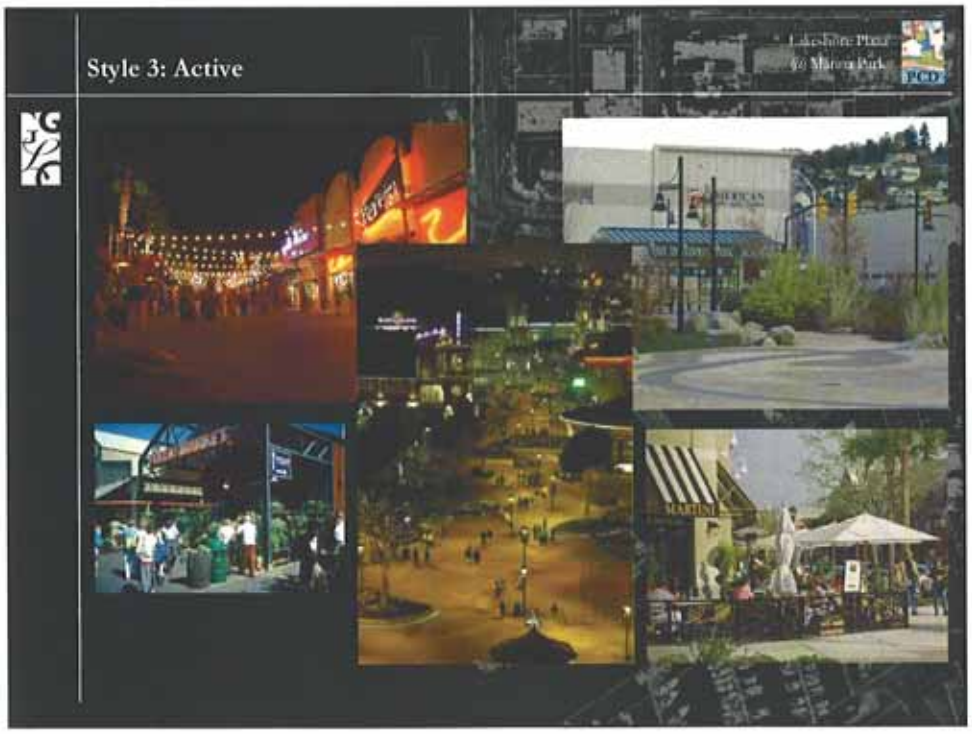
Findings – Preliminary Observations:

- Good fit for the program – civic space, parking, retail, and supporting downtown
- Good physical links between the park and downtown
- The site is a good location for a civic space
- Easy to envision a year-round destination that represents the spirit of the community

Style 1: Informal




Style 2: Formal


Style 3: Active

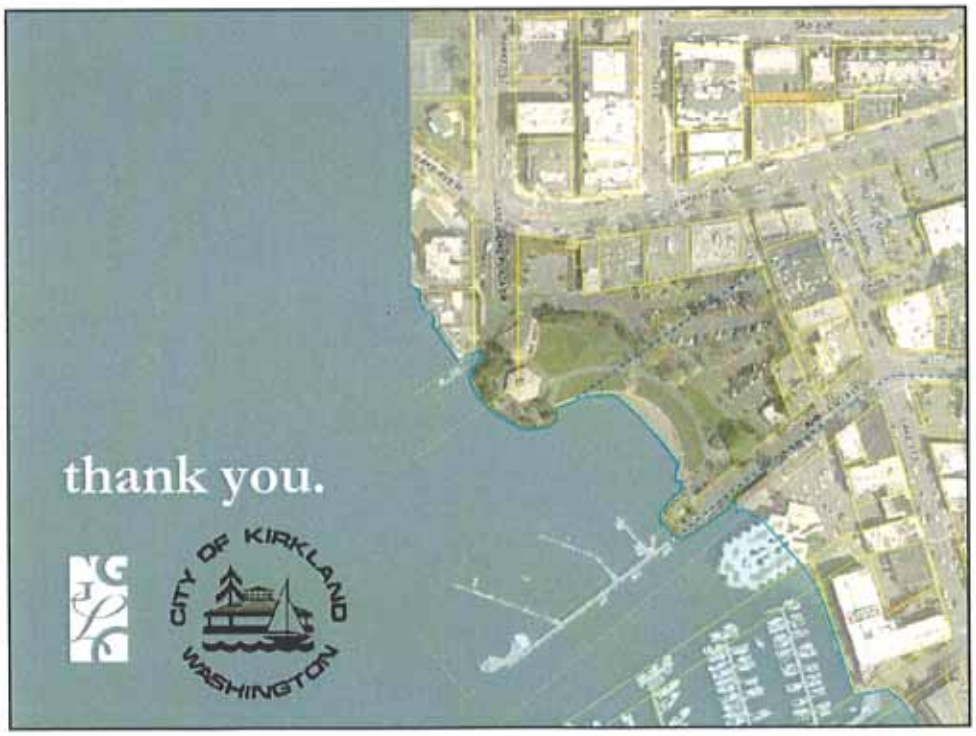
Discussion Group Questions

1) What is **most important** to you about this area of Kirkland's waterfront? What **needs to be preserved or enhanced** as the concept design is developed?

2) What **new activities and uses** should be considered at the Plaza and **how should they relate** to and enhance adjacent areas – Lake Street, Central Way, Park Lane, downtown, surrounding parks?

3) How should Lakeshore Plaza **look and feel** once design and construction have been completed?

4) Imagine that **fifteen years from now** some very special people in your life are coming to visit you. They have never been to Kirkland before. How will you **describe the Plaza** to them in one beautiful sentence?



3.4 Public Workshop #1 Meeting Script

March 9, 2004

- We are very excited to be joining the process to realize a long held vision for downtown Kirkland – Lakeshore Plaza
- Our task is to listen and attend carefully to the voices and work to date and beginning today solicit public comment on the future of this important public asset.
- GGLO is fluent with creating places of drama that engage civic activities in existing urban settings. We are familiar with Kirkland have worked many planning and design projects in our nearly 20 years as a firm.
- GGLO is a multi-disciplinary firm of A/LA/ID/UP. We enrich each discipline and project by our collaborative approach.
- The process - to take this next step for Lakeshore Plaza includes three tasks:
  1. Reviewing work to date, understanding the site, and listening
  2. Developing alternative design options and listening
  3. Developing a preferred design option and listening
- Important milestones:
  1. Three Public Workshops
  2. Meetings with the LPWG and the Downtown Action Team
  3. Presentations of design options and preferred option to City Council
- Study products include:
  1. Materials and documentation for each Public Workshop
  2. Three conceptual design options based upon PW1 and other comment
  3. A preferred concept based upon PW2 and other comment
  4. A summary report with an illustrative plan, sections and narrative
- What do we know about the site? What have we gleamed from our preliminary meetings and site visits?
  1. It is a well loved and well used destination.
  2. Marina Park and downtown strong pulls for the development of Lakeshore Plaza
  3. Traffic, parking, and access need to be carefully balanced with the goal of a civic space.
  4. Significant uses need to be maintained including the boat launch, performances, the public dock, and parking (the pump station too)
  5. The site offers an appropriate location for a civic space and destination.
  6. There are important hurdles to engage, emergency access, sustainability, surrounding uses, etc.
  7. The site needs to be better woven into the activities of the downtown and park supporting and enhancing each
  8. The site offers good possibilities for connection and design options with few physical constraints.
  9. It is easy to image a year round destination that speaks the voice of Kirkland's community.
- As you have seen on one of the boards in the open house and as one of the questions in the discussion we are interested in hearing from you about the style and character of the plaza. We have distilled three qualities that we think are constituents – informal/formal/active. Likely the Plaza will have a combination.
  1. Informal – embracing and expanding Marina Park. More lawn, plantings, perhaps more native plants. Curvilinear/Rough-hewed materials/Some discovery

2. Formal – more traditional civic center, while not Westlake or Pioneer Square/Prtld, a more weather resistant and active use environment
3. Active – this style captures the spirit of the downtown with more lane-like environments (post alley), active engagement with restaurants and retail.

- As you have heard from George, the process is fluid and the product at the end of this study will allow community to assess how best to support the project.
- Thank you. Now Margaret will facilitate the discussion portion of the meeting. I look forward to your thoughts and seeing you all here at the second public meeting.