Seattle's waterfront park comes into focus

The basic outlines of the ambitious park, really four big parks connected by a promenade, are now emerging. There are very sensible design decisions being made, but can the city pull off such a spectacular plan?

By David Brewster

After all the battles over the Viaduct and the deep-bore tunnel, are we going to manage to create a splendid waterfront park for Seattle? The desire is there, and the setting is certainly spectacular. But it won't be easy, particularly given Seattle's way of building and beginning major projects.

It's now possible to get a better idea of what might happen. After the successful vote for the tunnel last month, the guardedness has been relaxed. Additionally, more details are being filled in, so the design is moving from a generic 26-block esplanade into something far more tailored to the conditions of the spaces. What follows are some of the things I learned from tagging along on a tour put together by the Seattle Parks Foundation and guided by the two principal city officials in charge, city planner Marshall Foster and...
COMMUNITY WATERFRONT FOR ALL

CENTRAL WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
45 VOLUNTEERS

FRIENDS OF WATERFRONT SEATTLE
NOT-FOR-PROFIT

CITY OF SEATTLE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Lighthouse for the Blind simulation tour

Senior Lunch at Filipino Community Center

Draft EIS public meeting

Waterfront Seattle photo booth at Dia de Muertos
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Chalkboard ideas at community festivals

Idea generation at public open houses

Collecting early input at City-hosted civic events

Creative engagement at local parks
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

• Public outreach completed for Draft EIS, Supplemental Draft EIS and Final EIS

• Focus on making technical analysis understandable for public review and comment
EXAMPLE OF EIS PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

Draft EIS

- Public comments must be submitted via official channels to be included in the project record

- Multiple ways to submit comments:
  - Comment online at waterfrontseattle.org
  - Email comments to deis@waterfrontseattle.org
  - Mail written comments to City:
    AWPOW – Draft EIS Comments
    Mark Mazzola, Environmental Manager
    Seattle Department of Transportation
    PO Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124-4996

- Comments that were given at the July 22 public meeting
EXAMPLE OF EIS PUBLIC COMMENT OUTREACH

Draft EIS

• Goal: Broad notification of DEIS release to encourage public review and comments

• Notification tools:
  – Legal Notice published in DJC and Seattle Times
  – DEIS available for review at waterfrontseattle.org and at libraries throughout Seattle
  – Additional notifications in print and online media (e.g., La Raza del Noroeste, Seattle Chinese Times)
  – Press release and social media posts
  – Email to project list (7,000+ email addresses)
  – Mail postcard to properties within 200 feet of project area
The Alaskan Way, Promenade, and Overlook Walk Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for public comment

The City of Seattle has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate a series of infrastructure improvements along Seattle’s central waterfront. The Draft EIS is intended to inform the public and assist decision-makers in understanding the environmental effects of the construction and operation of those improvements.

How to submit comments online

Learn more about the Draft EIS by clicking the “Next” button or selecting any tab at the top of the page. You can take notes as you visit different pages using the “take notes as you go” feature at the bottom of the page. Your notes will be automatically transferred to the form on the “Comment” page where you can edit your notes before submitting comments. Please note that if you close the web browser before submitting your comments, any notes you’ve taken may be lost.

Unable to attend our July 22 Draft EIS public meeting?

View the public meeting display boards
EXAMPLE OF EIS PUBLIC COMMENT RESULTS

Draft EIS

• Approximately 45 attendees at public meeting

• Frequent topics of discussion included:
  – Alaskan Way roadway design, including Pine Street extension
  – Parking and access to the waterfront
  – Transit options and routes
  – Pedestrian and bicycle facilities

• “Online open house” for Draft EIS has had more than 1,600 visitors from June 29 – July 22 and will be available through August 12

• Approximately 55 comments received to date, including online, email, mail and public meeting comments
QUESTIONS?

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206.499.8040
waterfrontseattle.org