

# Historic South Downtown Special Meeting

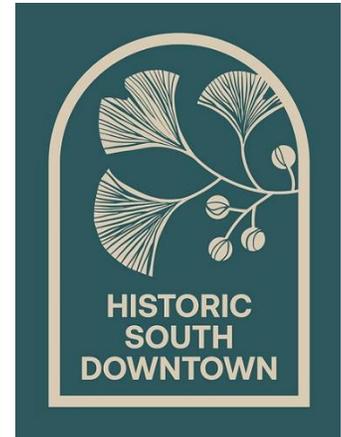
Thursday, April 14, 2022

Present: Diane Le, Aleksa Manila, Quynh Pham, Dana Phelan,  
Stephanie Pure, Jessica Rubenacker, Tuyen Than, Jessa Timmer,

Staff: Kathleen Johnson, James King, MaryKate Ryan

Public:

Brien Chow (public comment),  
Jordan Goldwarg (One World Now – public comment),  
Ron King (public comment);  
Beth Ku, (public comment);  
Betty Lau, Transit Equity for All [transitequityforall.org](http://transitequityforall.org) (public comment);  
Mahlon Meyer, Northwest Asian Weekly (public comment  
Doreen (Cantonese interpreter)  
Sarah (Cantonese interpreter)



## CALL TO ORDER (Action)

Kathleen Johnson/Dana Phelan called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

## Public comment

Brien Chow (public comment),  
Thanked HSD staff for making information available and clear. Asked HSD to vote to name a preferred alternative. Asking board to vote in keeping with current efforts to help the community. Adding, there was an announcement that there is going to be ventilation tunnel that's going to be built on 6<sup>th</sup> and Weller which is just south of Uwajimaya store. Under construction for 10 years, after all is finished, that vent is going to be there for 100 years. It's going to spill bad air into the community. The purpose of the vent is to bring in good air and take out bad. So besides being a huge of piece of visual impact (building); bad air is going to be spread out into our neighborhood that new news, it's something he would like the board to consider. The danger for 100 years there's going to be dangerous air coming out of the tunnel into the community.

Jordan Goldwarg, OneWorld Now (public comment)

Thanked MaryKate and staff and board for helping digest complex project. Expressed personal support for 4<sup>th</sup> Ave options and would like HSD to support that option. It's clear after a lot of discussion, it is the best option. Concerned about closures and construction, 4th Ave will make it easier for students to get to OneWorld Now.

Ron King (public comment)

Long time transit rider. In visualizing what and possible with transit downtown, what's the best route for a transit rider and his belief is that the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave is the best alternative, shallow option – it's the best situation for a rider and urged the board to carefully consider that.

Betty Lau, Transit Equity for All (public comment);

Thanked HSD for engaging consultants for pulling info from DEIS, making that info understandable. Extremely helpful in understanding what's going on. For today, she urged the board to express preferred alternative and

name not preferred alternatives based on consultant findings and analysis. Logical extensions in HSD's care of looking out for best interests of PS/CID.

Beth Ku (public comment)

Represented limited English-speaking residents in CID. She supports the new ST transit project on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave as the best option. Discrimination of Chinese and the Chinese expulsion happened in 1886 and since then, the Chinese community has been pushed it around. She says we lost 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave due to Metro; 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue project the community will lose its home. She encourages board to support 4<sup>th</sup> Ave alternative and not 5<sup>th</sup>.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTIONS REGARDING WSBL PROJECT (Information)

Presenters: Kathleen Johnson

*Shall HSD endorse a preferred alternative or design option?*

*Shall HSD recommend that Sound Transit discontinue consideration of any preferred alternatives or design options?*

Five options:

(2) on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, shallow and deep

(3) on 5<sup>th</sup>, shallow and deep on 5<sup>th</sup> and a diagonal option (from 5<sup>th</sup> to Tea House)

Overview:

Q12019: scoping period

April 2019: Consultants assisted in building capacity for the WSBL work

Q3 2019: published community priority matrix (16.00)

Q12020 to Q1 2022: Continue work on building capacity, providing, education and coordinating

For Tonight:

Asking board to review themes and strategies, plus answer the questions

Avoid wordsmithing or proofreading (will welcome that help later)

After tonight, subcommittee of HSD exec committee and staff will finalize letter

Final draft will be available sometime between 4/22 and 4/25

HSD Board will have an opportunity of final review at board meeting on 4/26

Kathleen shared draft letter with clarification on the board's options:

- *Option A - do more study.*
- *Option B - do more study on shallow options for fourth and fifth and build on 4<sup>th</sup>*
- *Option C -do more study and on shallow options on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and build on either 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.*

Board leans toward HSD suggesting board take the opportunity to not study the deep options (either 4<sup>th</sup> Ave or 5<sup>th</sup> Ave) any longer.

Board Feedback and Questions:

Jessa: Pioneer Square is concerned, also going to be recommending taking two deep options off the table.

Doesn't really serve anyone or any interests. It's good that ST studied them but at this point can conclude they are not benefiting anyone.

No one spoke in defense of deep options.

***Shall HSD recommend that Sound Transit discontinue consideration of any preferred alternatives or design options?***

Motion by Jessa for the HSD board to recommend eliminating the Deep Tunnel stations on 4th and 5th from further study in DEIS comment letter. Second by Quyen. Stephanie and Aleksa abstain. All remaining board members approve. Motion passes.

***Shall HSD endorse a preferred alternative or design option? (40:30)***

Questions and discussion from board:

- Can we minimize transit impact on 4<sup>th</sup> option?
- Can we start talking about how rerouting buses would work on 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>? 1600 come up second and 900 go down Jackson
- Need to support planning for bus rerouting?

Stephanie: This area has a tremendous amount of transit riders and transit. There are buses, light rail, heavy rail, cars, streetcar, ferry connections, freight (truck and rail), we all know one of the features of the neighborhood is that it is very transit-friendly. An important part of the neighborhood.

Dena: What are the benefits at this point of taking a stronger position toward building on 4<sup>th</sup>? Where would that put HSD in terms of a position, compared to study both more?

Jessa: This would be most public point to comment on that. If we're going to be having conversations about ST well into future about our preferences, this would be our moment to rally.

MaryKate: That's accurate but there will be other points too in the process to make public comment, this won't be the only point. Most important for commenting to this point in the federal process.

Stephanie: Mentioned that different organizations can go about things in different ways. Some might say we don't want to put our line in the sand at this time because if indeed the decision making goes in a direction we as a board are not comfortable with, then we have we taken ourselves out of the conversation because we have drawn a line in the sand as to where we stand. That could be a risk, that we didn't endorse this option – we're not going to talk to them any longer. Ultimately it's a choice to make.

Kathleen: what she's heard from other partners, including city and government, is that they wouldn't be surprised if we came out strongly in favor of 4<sup>th</sup> and why we don't believe 5<sup>th</sup> is a good idea. She does think that we would want to make sure we make sure the very real needs to do more study on 4<sup>th</sup>. More than half of ST board is from outside city lines and are worried about delivering this to ST board constituents. They can't ignore financial realities. It would be hard to talk about mitigation but if they choose 5<sup>th</sup> we have to talk about mitigation. How do we help the community if ST chooses 5<sup>th</sup>?

Aleksa: Mentioned that we're pretty much all on the same page. The concern is we might be preaching to the choir. We need to strategize on how we communicate with people who do not share the same sentiment to create a majority voice from all stakeholders. The other piece: stakeholders, developers. Interested identifying the interests of individuals/groups/systems in place that hold the money that hold the decision, e.g. future developments and how they will impact the final decision. How is that going to influence the final say on where the structure will land? We don't want to miss an opportunity where people who have the money manipulate the conversation.

MaryKate; two sketches to show where the vent would be.

Tuyen: Mentioned there is a lot of information, content, stories, people, we've been talking about this for a long time. From ST, they had a presentation early on, and at the end during the Q&A, someone asked what they will do with all of this collected public comment/feedback will it actually change anything/make an impact? Paraphrasing but remembers the person saying, they could look at the options and still go with their preferred option. There is a clear benefit of having a clear option based off our pros and cons list. The cons list is so long, for 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and not 5<sup>th</sup>. It's important to do more study that needs to be done for this project and any future projects. Also to state our recommendation, preferred and unpreferred option.

Jessa: Pioneer Square as a cohesive neighborhood is not included in a lot of their discussion; Union Station is technically within their preservation district. Since HSD represents both, that needs to be included in future study and discussion.

Diane: Would be in favor of taking a clear stance.

Dena: Recommended that the letter take a strong position advocating for 4<sup>th</sup> Ave alignment.

Jessica: Wanted to chime in that she wouldn't feel comfortable if 5<sup>th</sup> Ave S was mentioned in any capacity as a viable option in the letter.

## BOARD IS ASKED TO VOTE ON THE TWO QUESTIONS ABOVE

*Shall HSD recommend that Sound Transit discontinue consideration of any preferred alternatives or design options?*

(From above) Motion by Jessa for the HSD board to recommend eliminating the deep tunnel stations on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave from further study in DEIS comment letter. Second by Quyen. Stephanie and Aleksa abstain. All remaining board members approve. Motion passes.

*Shall HSD endorse a preferred alternative or design option?*

Motion by Aleksa that HSD move forward with a comment letter that takes a position advocating for the shallow 4th Avenue tunnel alignment with further study. Tuyen seconds. Stephanie abstains. All remaining board members approve. Motion passes.

## ADJOURN (Action)

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

## ZOOM COMMENTS

17:03:13 From Jordan Goldwarg (he/him) to Everyone:

Thank you to HSD for providing interpretation!

17:05:22 From James King Jr (he/him) to Everyone:

brb

17:05:56 From MaryKate to Everyone:

Everyone, please choose your language at the bottom of the screen (globe icon). English and Cantonese are options.

17:06:09 From @ALEKSAMANILA (She/They/Siya), Pride ASIA to Everyone:

Thanks Kate

17:06:15 From @ALEKSAMANILA (She/They/Siya), Pride ASIA to Everyone:

MaryKate\*

17:06:16 From James King Jr (he/him) to Everyone:  
back

17:08:06 From Mahlon Meyer to Everyone:  
Reporter Northwest Asian Weekly — Mahlon Meyer

17:34:56 From Jessa Timmer to Everyone:  
thank you!

17:37:14 From MaryKate to Everyone:  
Board members: Within SharePoint, this is the file path for the comment letter to the most current draft:  
Historic South Downtown\Historic South Downtown Team Site - Documents\Government Partners\Sound  
Transit\DEIS Comment Letter Drafts

17:37:28 From Brien Chow to Everyone:  
The need to consider the impact to people's lives equal to cost savings is totally being overlooked by Sound  
Transit.

A comprehensive cost-benefit analysis outlining a triple bottom line of economic, environmental and societal  
costs needs to be required from Sound Transit prior to any decision.

Move Forward on 4th!

17:40:10 From @ALEKSAMANILA (She/They/Siya), Pride ASIA to Everyone:  
Not sure - where this might fall under during this discussion, but can we clarify & confirm the reference to the  
Corner of 6th & Weller as a VENTILATION site?

17:41:33 From MaryKate to Everyone:  
I can pull up a photo from our consultant for discussion.

17:42:05 From Betty Lau to Everyone:  
The entire old Waji property is slated for ventilations shafts in a building that ST has yet to disclose the  
dimensions of or other details.

17:43:36 From Kathleen Johnson (she/her) to Everyone:  
Shall HSD board recommend eliminating the Deep Tunnel stations on 4th and 5th from further study?

17:43:37 From @ALEKSAMANILA (She/They/Siya), Pride ASIA to Everyone:  
Thanks Betty

17:44:53 From Betty Lau to Everyone:  
[transitequityforall.org](http://transitequityforall.org)

17:48:34 From Tuyen Than (she/her) CID Resident to Everyone:  
Is this correct?

Option A: Do more research on 5th Ave S. No Preferred.

Option B: Do more research on 4th Ave S. No Preferred.

Option C: We pick 4th Ave S, Shallow. CID 1-A

17:50:16 From Kathleen Johnson (she/her) to Everyone:  
Option A - do more study.

Option B - do more study and build on 4th

Option C -do more study and chose either 5th and 4th.

17:51:57 From Betty Lau to Everyone:

Beth and Betty vote for B on 4th, NOT 5th

17:57:23 From MaryKate to Everyone:  
Streetcar, ferry connections, freight (truck and rail)

17:58:26 From Stephanie Pure to Everyone:  
True!

17:59:36 From Brien Chow to Everyone:  
Peoples lives!

18:03:06 From Brien Chow to Everyone:

4th Ave tunnel station avoids 5th Ave impacts!

18:06:58 From Brien Chow to Everyone:

My bad. But please remember the need to consider the impact to people's lives equal to cost savings is totally being overlooked by Sound Transit.

18:10:33 From Kathleen Johnson (she/her) to Everyone:

I want to be clear that if the Board picks A B or C, you shouldn't think you are endorsing the specific language that exists in the draft now. We can back of some points, change the emphasis on others, etc. This is the 3,000 foot level.

18:11:03 From Betty Lau to Everyone:

Beth: 5th AVE take the space from Chinatown ID is disturbing people is a failed and lost project

18:16:20 From Betty Lau to Everyone:

Beth: please study more on the 4th Ave as per request by many senior folks as they saw the community getting smaller which make us upset

18:18:26 From binko to Everyone:

Have you already discussed equity issues, in particular the impact all of these options have on the CID. This is a neighborhood that has long been impacted by redlining, stigma from racism and neighborhood encroachment. We need options that is community centered in partnership with those in the community. These options that were developed by Sound Transit were not developed in partnership with those who are directly impacted by this project. I am a business owner and community member in the CID and very concerned about this project.

18:19:14 From Mahlon Meyer to Everyone:

When the vote is over, please let me know to whom I can direct a couple questions? Mahlon Meyer Northwest Asian Weekly

18:20:08 From Mahlon Meyer to Everyone:

Then I'll ask my questions now and leave them for whomever would like to answer:

18:20:35 From Mahlon Meyer to Everyone:

1.) Why are you having a debate about this when your own consultants clearly showed the devastating impacts of 5th Ave?

18:20:43 From Mahlon Meyer to Everyone:

Why are there so many white members on your board?

18:21:47 From Kathleen Johnson (she/her) to Everyone:

Binko, we did raise this within the review of our letter. This discussion will go into the comment letter. I'd be interested in connecting with you after this meeting to talk more about your concerns.

18:24:12 From Kathleen Johnson (she/her) to Everyone:

For those members of the public wanting further connection, you can reach me at Kathleen@historicsouthdowntown.org or 206-351-4813.

18:35:10 From Tuyen Than (she/her) CID Resident to Everyone:

Thanks for all your work!!

18:35:16 From Stephanie Pure to Everyone:

Thank you!

18:35:20 From @ALEKSAMANILA (She/They/Siya), Pride ASIA to Everyone:

SALAMAT PO

18:35:20 From Jessa Timmer to Everyone:

Thank you, all!

18:35:31 From Jessica Rubenacker (she/her), WLM to Everyone:

Thank you!!

18:35:34 From Kathleen Johnson (she/her) to Everyone:

Thank you!

18:35:40 From James King Jr (he/him) to Everyone:

Thanks Everyone

18:35:50 From Shea to Everyone:  
Thank you