

First Hill / Capitol Hill

Engagement Summary

10/2/2024

RET Outcomes + Methodology

Environment

First Hill/Capitol Hill balances sustainable growth with a healthy environment.

Housing

Stable, low to moderate income housing is preserved and created to welcome newcomers and support long-time community members in all patterns of living.

Residents of First Hill/Capitol Hill live healthy, fulfilling lives, with specific support for the most vulnerable community members.

Economy

First Hill /Capitol Hill is a place that is accepting of difference, where community members can see their cultural values reflected.

Small, local retail thrives in First Hill/ Capitol Hill.

Transportation

Jobs, retail, and services can all be accessed without a car.

Transportation options support healthy lifestyles, overcoming historic environmental injustice.

First Hill/Capitol Hill is well-connected to the neighborhoods that surround them.

Engagement Plan

In collaboration with **The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle**

We will be engaging with community members throughout the Summer + Fall



Small Group Discussions

During the summer of 2024, four small group discussions were held to focus on the RET outcomes and relevant area topics in First Hill / Capitol Hill: **environment, housing/economy, culture/health and transportation.**



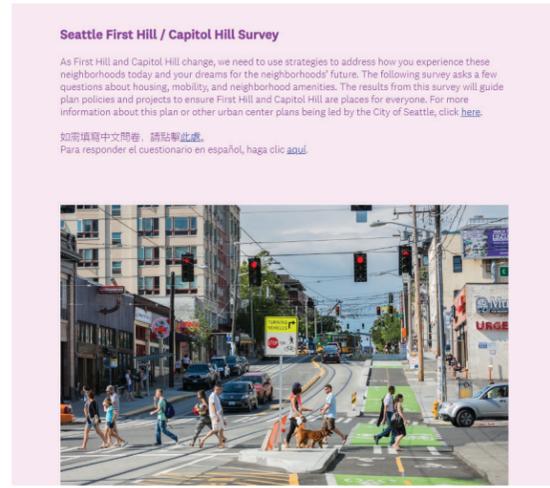
Pop-up Events

Engaging with existing events, such as the Capitol Hill Farmers market and street festivals, will spread awareness of the planning process.



Public Workshop

A public workshop in the fall will allow for more in-depth discussions about ideas with community members and lay the foundation for the technical analysis.



Survey

Online surveys, promoted through pop-up events and print materials will gather a wide range of feedback from community members.



Power Brokers Meeting

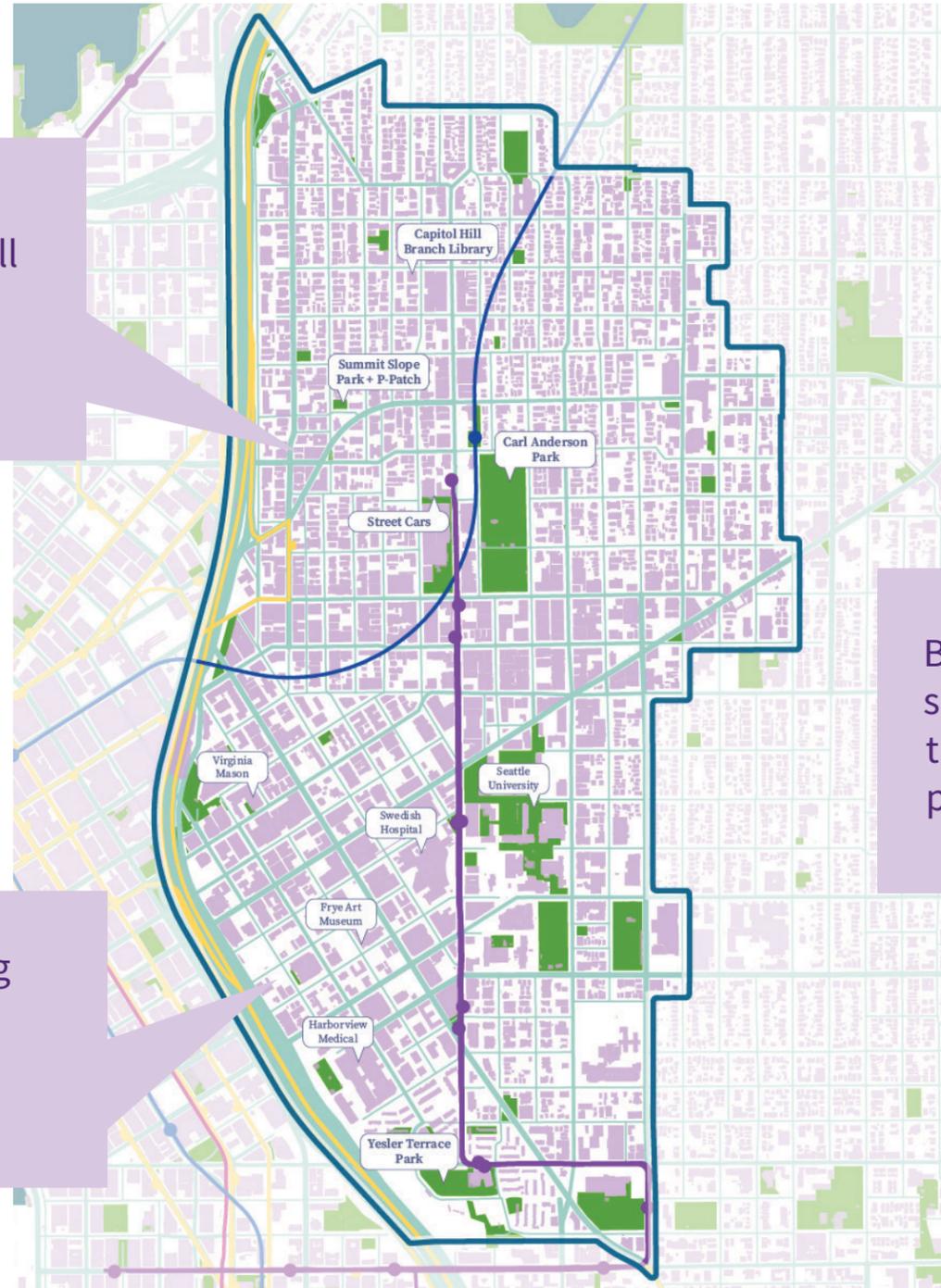
Major institutions and stakeholders within First Hill and Capitol Hill

Small Group Discussions

Across each topic, questions were asked about current experiences, needs, and vision.

Capitol Hill needs to preserve, maintain and support the small business retail and vibrant, welcoming culture that exists today.

First Hill is quickly developing and needs more walkable amenities, expanded tree canopy, and green space.



Both neighborhoods need supportive services for the unhoused and more pedestrian-friendly streets.



What we see now...

Consistent across all topics

- First Hill and Capitol Hill are very different experientially and there is a physical disconnection between these two neighborhoods and Downtown.
- Capitol Hill is a good place for ground floor retail, but spaces are closing. There is a fear that it is losing its eclectic-ness and there is displacement of arts + nonprofits.
- This area is very diverse and LGBTQ+ friendly.
- Mental health and substance abuse in plain sight.
- Need for more green space and tree canopy.
- Lack of public restrooms.

Environment	Culture / Health	Economy/Housing	Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Hill lacks small businesses and cultural “vibe” that Capitol Hill has. • Trees are being removed and not replaced. • First Hill does not have walkable amenities. • There are so many more dogs since the pandemic. They are co-opting spaces for people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Hill is inaccessible, particularly for those that might be impaired or accessing the hospital. • Alleys are a place for drug use in Capitol Hill. A safe space for drug use is needed. • Lambert house is a good safe queer space. • There are no public bathrooms in the area, these are needed in light rail stations. • Public art is working well. The AIDs memorial Plaza looks great. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development housing is small units, however young families need and want space here. • There are vacancies in studio apartments. • It is difficult to create a sense of belonging or community with smaller units. • More natural areas are needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected bike lanes are good, but there is a lack of continuity. Difficult to bike to Health Care. • Outdoor seating is good and there is a lot of pedestrian activity at night. • Boren Ave is impossible to cross at parts. • First hill arterials are used as a pass through. • Central needs connections to ferries and Sounder Transit, this all happens through Captiol Hill.

What do the Hills need...

Consistent across all topics

- Need for more restrooms.
- Need better waste collection and more trash cans.
- There is a north and south disparity. We need more green spaces, and pedestrian safety in the south.
- Artist and workforce housing is needed.
- Compassionate care for those suffering from substance abuse and mental health issues.

Environment	Culture / Health	Economy/Housing	Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase walkability across neighborhoods (more mid-block crossings, tourist friendly) • First Hill is ripe for development. • Need more off-leash areas for dogs. • Use public art to tell the story of neighborhoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need graffiti removal. Fine arts building at Seattle Central is tagged often. • Hours and offerings from businesses could be expanded throughout the neighborhood. • Need for more lower end restaurant / quick meals. • Collaborative space for activism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would love a trail from Freeway Park to Yesler Terrace. Need more wayfinding. • Permitting efficiency for developments with larger unit size and more bedrooms. • We need car-free streets and road diets. • Transit projects could enhance retail, rather than detract. • MHA Pay-in-lieu of is not good. We should put those units in the buildings. • Expanded farmer’s market footprint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More protected bike lanes are needed, especially in First Hill. • Streetcar needs improvements. Either faster or a more complete system. • Convert signals to stop signs to increase safety. • Need raised crosswalks. • More car free zones. • Olive Way, Boren, and 12th all need plans.

The vision for the future...

Consistent across all topics

- Accessible for kids and elderly. More for youth to do (especially for free)
- Safety is a priority.
- Prioritize people.
- Housing affordability.
- Green and walkable.
- Sense of welcoming and belonging and celebration of a multi-cultural identity.
- More connection between First Hill and Capitol Hill.

Environment	Culture / Health	Economy/Housing	Transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an opportunity in the area (parking strips) between the sidewalk and the street for more people-oriented amenities.• Park investments - Freeway Park could have as much investment as Volunteer Park.• Designated dog parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessible economically.• Vibrancy can help create safety.• Maintain vibrancy that exists in Capitol Hill.• Preserve the “character” of smaller, older buildings.• Services for unhoused people.• More spaces for non-profits.• Community consultation on development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empower small local developers.• Better pedestrian experience between nodes.• Socially connected residents.• Lid I-5.• Infill development on surface level parking lots.• Occupied ground floor retail.• 15 minute neighborhood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase bus frequency and routes.• Capitol Hill should be the best place for no-cars on the West Coast.• First Hill should have all the daily necessities.• Better connection to Downtown and CID.• More people who walk and bike everywhere, especially safe for disabled.• Road diets.

Survey + Pop-Ups

Print materials, such as the First Hill + Capitol Scavenger Hunt, will be handed out at pop-up events this summer and direct people to the online Survey.



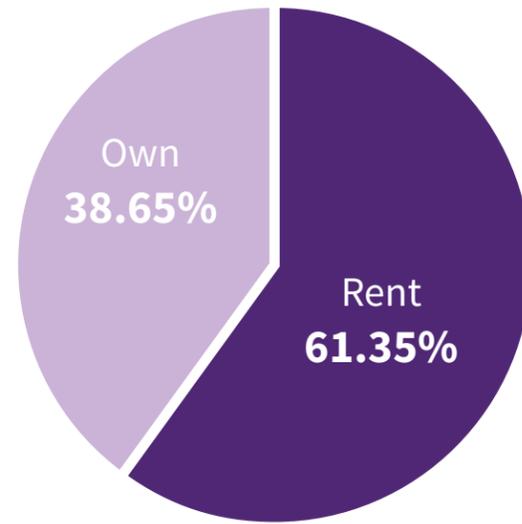
Survey

971 Responses *Opened 8/1/2024*

What is your relationship to First Hill / Capitol Hill?

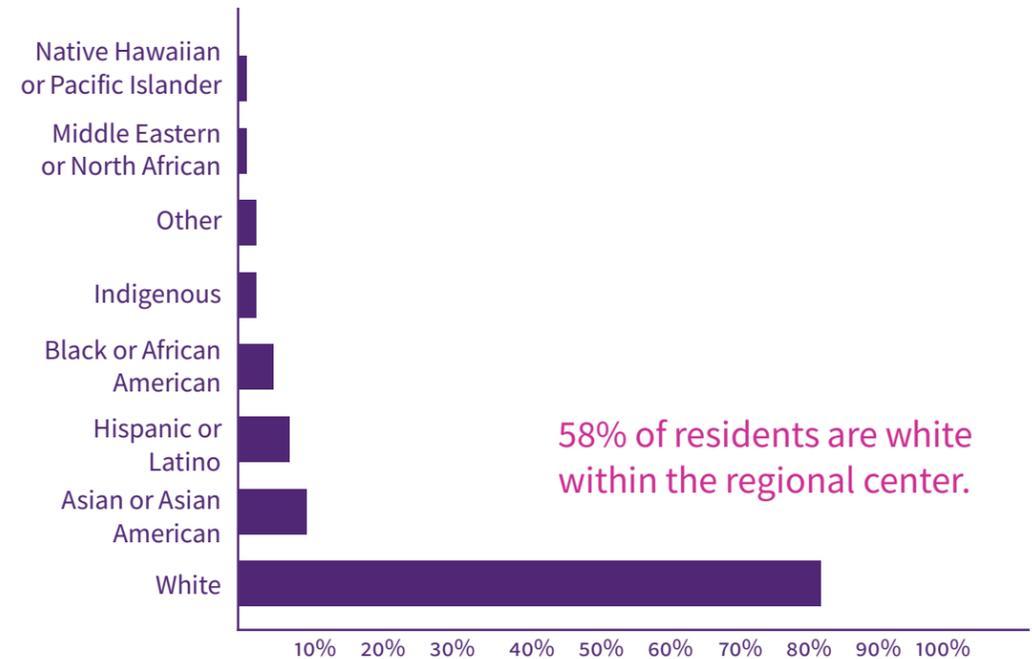
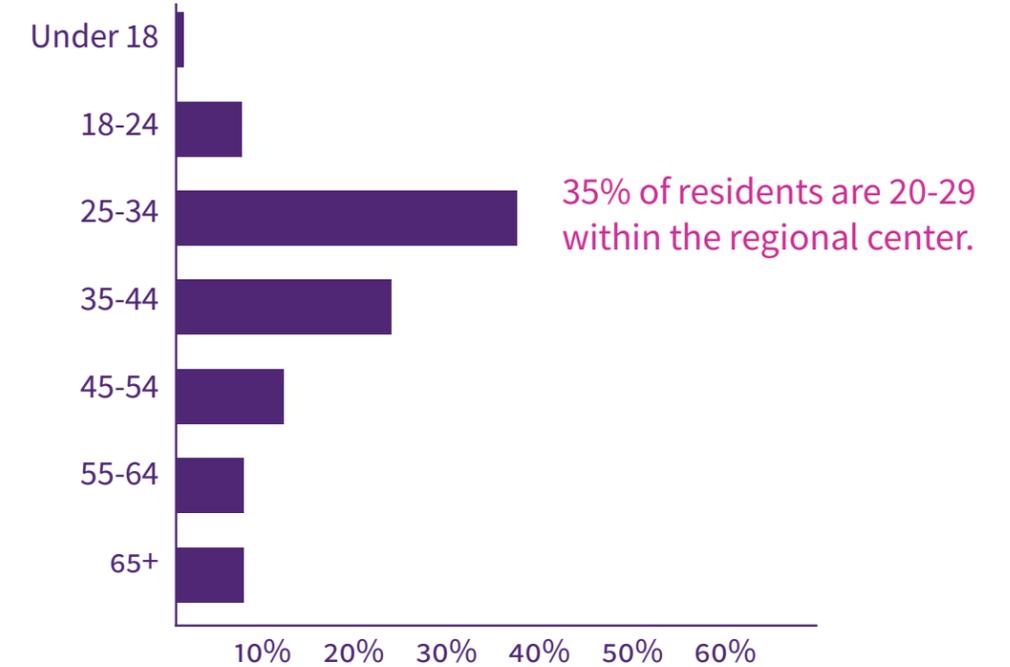


Demographics of Survey Participants



84% of First Hill / Capitol Hill are renters.

Other reasons included visiting friends, partners, family, and going to Queer spaces.



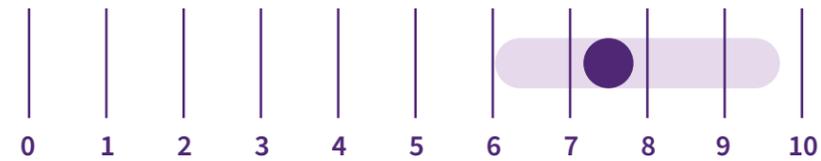
Survey

What do you think First Hill / Capitol Hill needs to be a great place in the future?

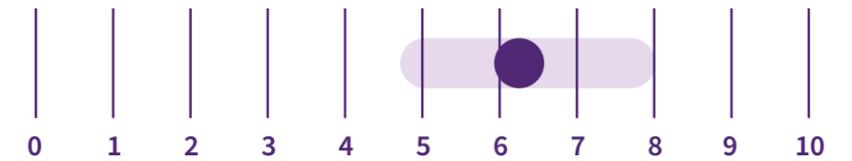
How well are your needs met in First Hill / Capitol Hill?



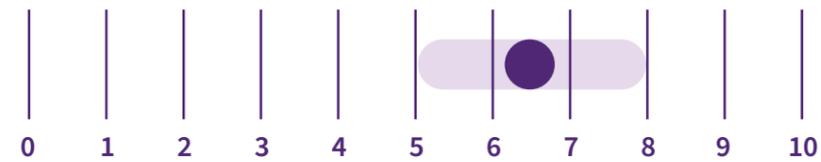
Restaurants and Entertainment



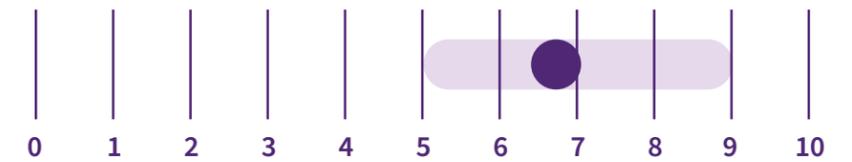
Basic Needs (pharmacies, appointments, etc.)



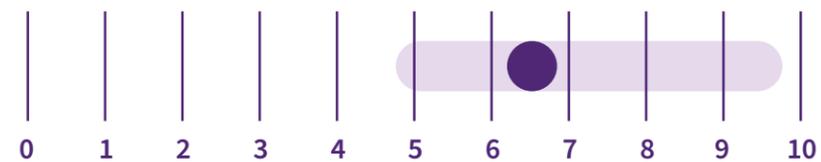
Transportation



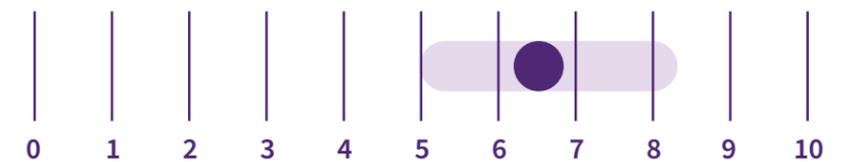
Groceries and Shopping



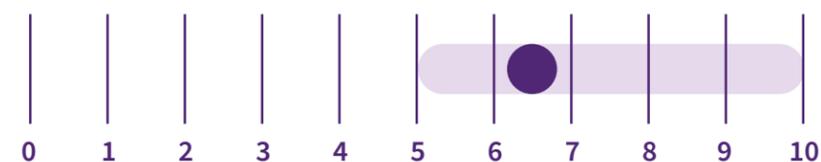
Housing



Parks and Green Space



Work or School

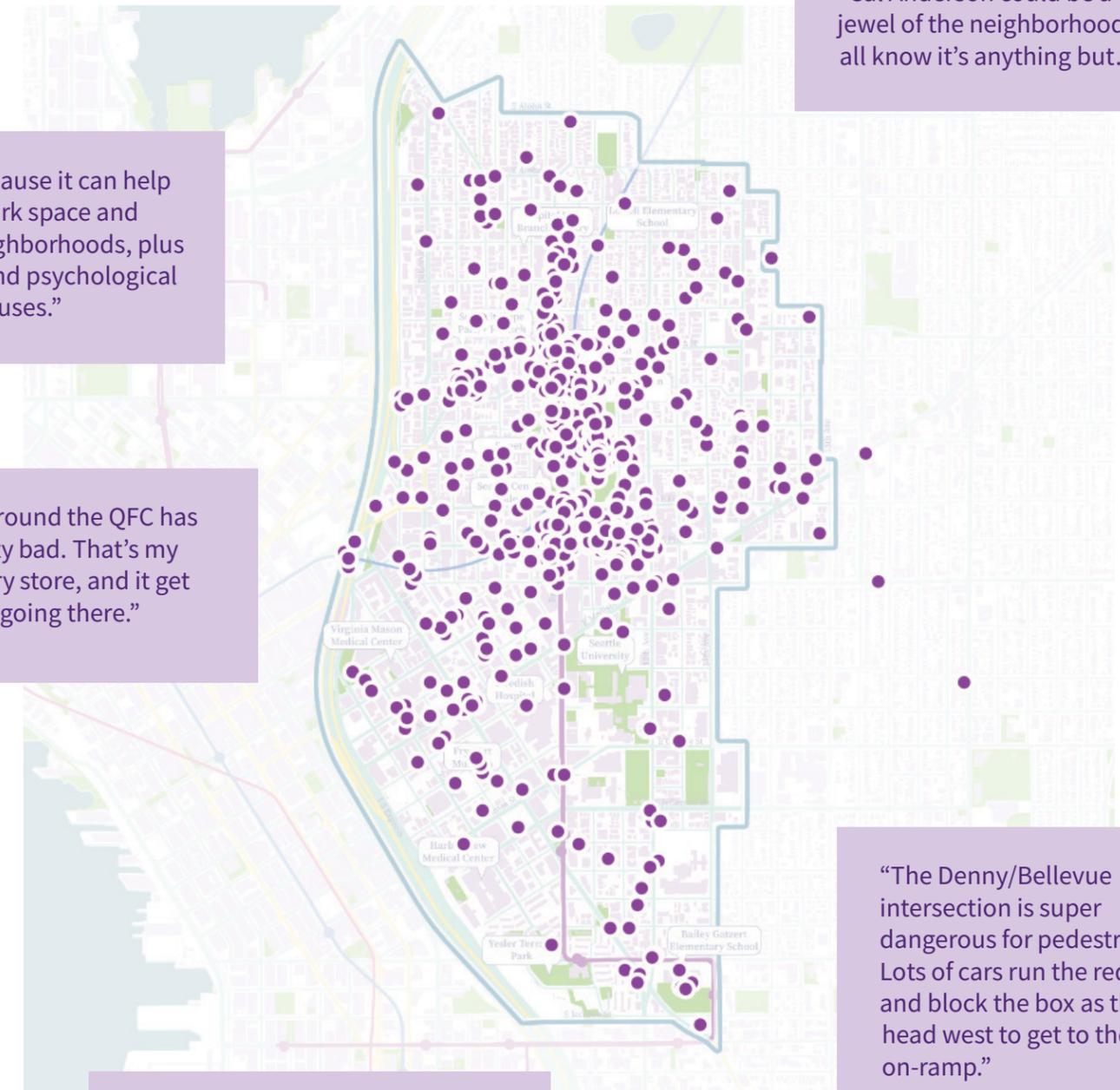


Survey

What Improvements to Streets, sidewalks and Public Spaces would you like to see?



Where would you like to see improvements made?



“Cal Anderson could be a crown jewel of the neighborhood, but we all know it’s anything but...”

“We should lid I-5 because it can help address the lack of park space and greenery in these neighborhoods, plus bridge the physical and psychological divide the freeway causes.”

“The area around the QFC has gotten pretty bad. That’s my main grocery store, and it get unpleasant going there.”

“Close all of pike between Broadway and 12th on pike to cars. Close the street around the park to cars. Make a bike lane that can take you from all over the city to Capitol Hill where no cars are allowed”

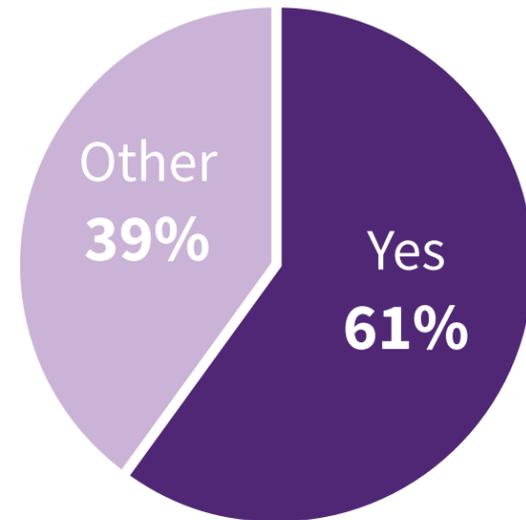
“Development of a Pike/Pine/Broadway Superblock would be an excellent step towards Seattle’s first low-emissions neighborhood.”

“The Denny/Bellevue intersection is super dangerous for pedestrians. Lots of cars run the red light and block the box as they head west to get to the I5 S on-ramp.”

“It feels most unsafe (public safety) along Broadway from Republican to Pike and down Pike/Pine, which is where the business core is, ironically.”

Survey

Do you feel that you have stable housing?



Income brings stability

“Yes, I have a tech job that pays too much.”

“No housing is stable”

“Somewhat. I am not in immediate danger, but I do live paycheck to paycheck, and rent keeps rising..”

Could lose stability to rent increases

“For now, unless rent goes up even more.”

Building repair and maintenance could decrease stability

“While I am financially stable, my building is more than a century old, on the city’s Unreinforced Masonry watch list, and subject to the same economic and demographic pressures as the other rare remaining “naturally occurring affordable housing” unicorns extant.”

“Mostly yes, but I live in a building that has had major structural damage (city forced them to start work) and the process has not been very clear or safe feeling for residents.”

“I did not feel to have a stable housing situation due rent increases that scared me what is going to happen next months rent increase”

“You basically have to move every two years due to rent increases/ property management turnover.”

Property management feels unstable

“I live at The Villa, an apartment bldg. owned by Community Roots Housing, so my rent is subsidized plus I have a Housing Choice Voucher (Sec. 8) - otherwise I could not afford to live here. Most of the time I feel stable, but I worry that Community Roots Housing may at some point sell this property in order to build a larger, newer building.”

“Stable, bought a condo with my partner and don’t see us leaving or losing it unless something major happens..”

Homeownership brings stability

“Yes because I own my condo. However, before owning a condo I used to rent in Capitol Hill and I did not feel like I had stable housing because of the high rent increases that would happen after my lease was done.”

Bought home when market was affordable

“Yes, because I was lucky enough to be employed at a time when I needed to move and was able to afford a house in the neighborhood (1986)”

Community Workshop



Sept 12 - 4-7pm
Seattle Central College Plaza
80 Attendees - 52 Visions - 145 sticky notes

Community Workshop

Share a memory you have about a place in the Hills

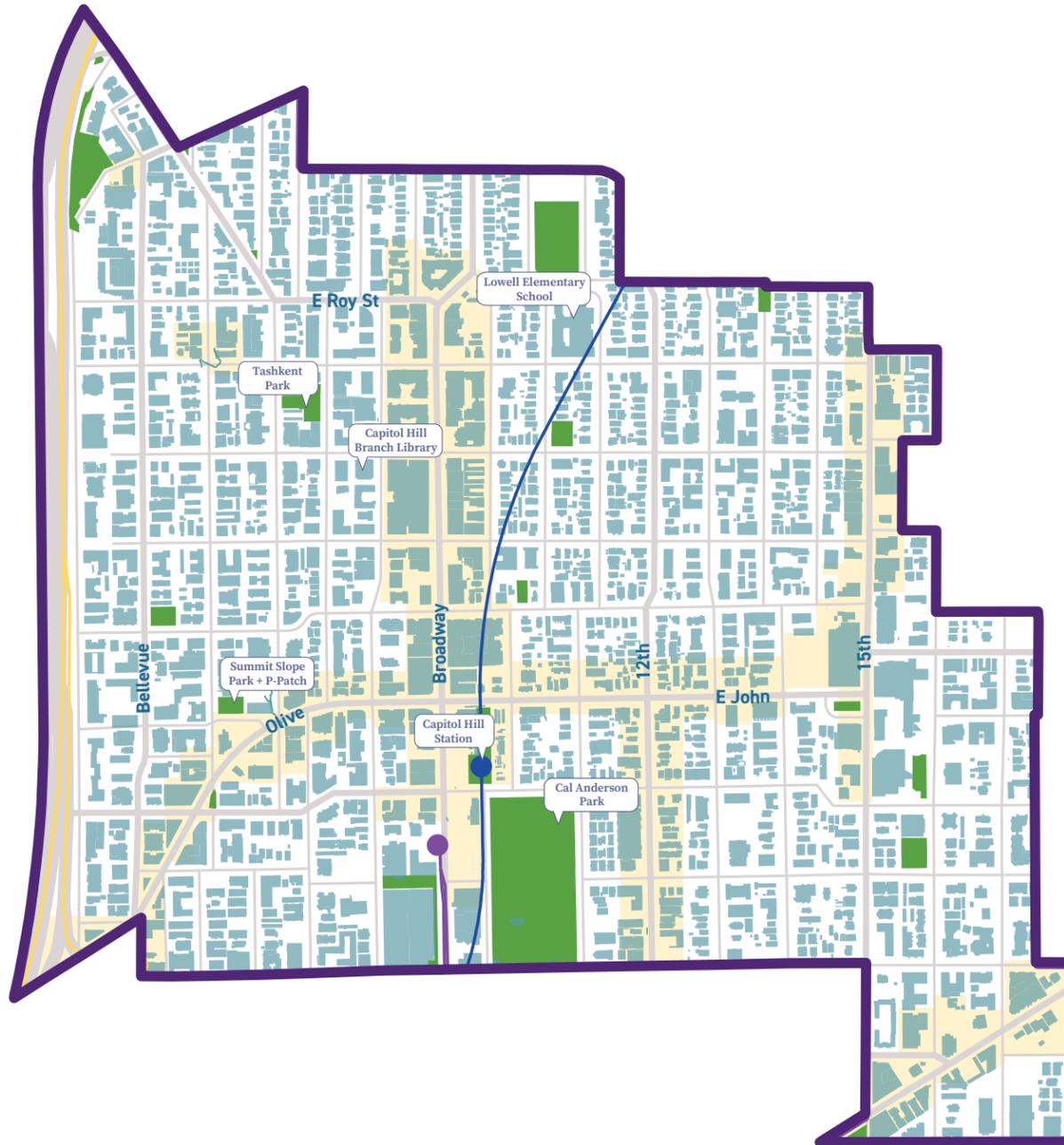
Diverse Cultures	Freedom + Joy	“Falling in love - queer heaven”
		“Feeling like I’d found the place of freedom and acceptance in Seattle. That area where history lived in the bldgs-Queen History”
	Meaningful Public Spaces	“Vibrance of diversity; peoples energy going out at night”
		““All of the different cultures and languages as well as exposing my twin daughters to college experiences and life experiences that we have never done””
“Late night pizza on the Cal Anderson turf before a friend moved away”		
“Farmer’s market is my happy place”		
Beloved Food + Retail	“I do a lot of shopping and drink a lot of boba”	
	“The first time I had fired chicken at Bok-a-Bok. Yum :)”	

Tell us your vision for the future.

Safe	“Cleaner/safer streets. No drug zone, no graffiti, no tents”
	“Clean, safe, walkable, leafy, street throughout, protected bike lanes”
	“Be Vibrant!!!”
Active	“It will be for everyone. The area will be safe to walk and discover something new constantly”
	“Local political engagement being more equitable and inclusive”
Inclusive	“Maintain small business affordable access and provide Resources to community-based groups to manage security, healthcare access, food access, kids care”
	“Preserve historical buildings that have beautiful architecture while also creating new affordable options for housing”
Supportive	“Abundant housing in multifamily, point-access-block buildings!”
More Housing	
Affordable	

Community Workshop

Capitol Hill



Key Takeaways

What would make this a safe place to live?

- More community events and street activity
- Good lighting
- Eliminating open drug usage

Easiest type of transportation in the neighborhood?

- Easy to get to Ballard / Fremont
- Good bus connections
- Wish there was more bike lanes south to east
- Need for more car free spaces

Do amenities meet your needs?

- Need more pharmacies, bodegas, and small grocery stores
- Need more daily amenities (Laundromat, pharmacy)
- Need more public restrooms

What would make this a better place to live?

- More crosswalks on busy streets
- Pedestrian- first street designs
- More plants / trees / greenery
- Cleaner streets and sidewalks

*comments that are cross cutting across multiple neighborhoods are in pink

Pike Pine Corridor



Key Takeaways

What would make this a safe place to live?

- Less graffiti
- Less drug use
- **More people and activation**
- **Better lighting**

Easiest type of transportation in the neighborhood?

- Easy to bike around some areas
- **Need more protection from cars**

Do amenities meet your needs?

- Need more affordable housing
- **Need more pharmacy and bodegas**
- Need medical and vet care
- There are lots of public art and cultural events

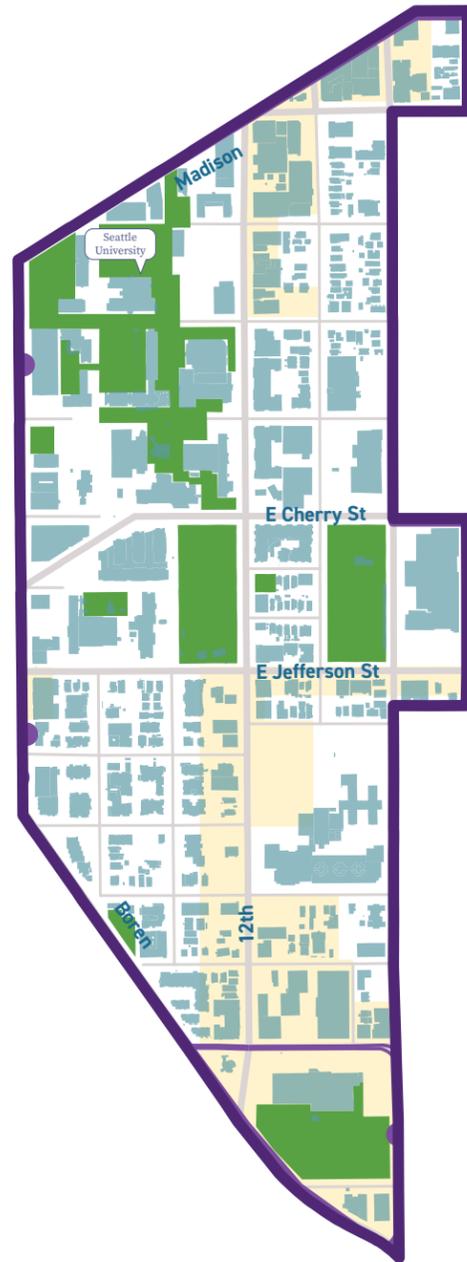
What would make this a better place to live?

- **Less trash, more sidewalk maintenance**
- Less restrictive zoning
- Designated dog park
- **Traffic calming**
- Pedestrian superblock

*comments that are cross cutting across multiple neighborhoods are in pink

Community Workshop

12th Avenue Corridor



Key Takeaways

What would make this a safe place to live?

- More people and activity

Easiest type of transportation in the neighborhood?

- Need for bike lanes with more room (to stop door collision)

Do amenities meet your needs?

- Plenty of medical care
- Need more affordable places to eat
- Need more housing

What would make this a better place to live?

- More green space and greenery
- Being able to live in multi-generational family units
- Playgrounds

*comments that are cross cutting across multiple neighborhoods are in pink

Community Workshop

First Hill



Key Takeaways

What would make this a safe place to live?

- More people and activation
- Better lighting

Easiest type of transportation in the neighborhood?

- Bus

Do amenities meet your needs?

- Need more retail and business diversity
- Need basic needs, such as laundromat

What would make this a better place to live?

- Need wider sidewalks on Madison
- More housing
- More greenery and trees
- More protected bike lanes
- More events and cultural activities

*comments that are cross cutting across multiple neighborhoods are in pink