



SE 122nd Avenue Pilot Project Community Workshop Summary December 8, 2009

A community workshop for the SE 122nd Avenue Pilot Project was held on December 8, 2009. The workshop followed neighborhood walks held during July and September 2009 to identify issues and opportunities in the SE 122nd study area. The neighborhood walks identified four key issue areas to focus on for the study:

- **Accessibility, Connections, Pedestrian Comfort and Safety:** *Key sidewalks, crossings, connections, transit service and stops*
- **Convenience and Availability of Services:** *Location and variety of retail and services, access to food and schools (20-minute n-hood); jobs and employment opportunities*
- **Infill Development:** *Design of new development: height, bulk, scale, intensity; site design features; location of new development: scale and intensity*
- **Community Amenities and Livability:** *Parks, open areas, trails, trees, gathering places, special features*

The December 2009 workshop focused on gathering additional community feedback and details on the first two items: 1) Accessibility, Connections, Pedestrian Comfort and Safety, and 2) Convenience and Availability of Services. Participants completed a survey and participated in group discussions. The following is a summary of feedback from the workshop.

Survey Summary

At the December 08, 2009 SE 122nd Avenue Community Workshop, 27 participants completed a survey about area concerns. The survey included three questions also being asked at the Portland Plan workshops, nine questions specific to the SE 122nd Avenue study, and eight demographic questions.

Questions 1-4: Please rate the importance of issues facing the SE 122nd Avenue Area:

A large majority of respondents rated each issue very important, with **Accessibility, Connections, and Pedestrian Comfort and Safety** getting the most very important votes.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Not Important
Accessibility, Connections, and Pedestrian Comfort and Safety	25	2	0	0
Convenience and Availability of Services	19	6	2	0
Infill Development	17	8	1	1
Community Amenities and Livability	22	5	0	0

Question 5: Please tell us if there is something important that you feel is not listed here.

- Have a community garden
- Make SE 122nd at Powell and Division a Main Street
- Reduce # of negative businesses (strip clubs, pawn shops, payday loans)
- Support to finance more schools or additions to the current schools
- Population trends - where older people live now and what neighborhoods may see rise in older adults (e.g. baby boomers)
- Johnson Creek watershed protection
- Development is in a strip - not town center
- Air that we breathe
- More access to recycling and trash for the general public
- Community resource centers like a library, community center, or a post office need to be further discussed and planned for.
- Diversity - an international market/internet café/crafts outlet/food court for the large Russian/Vietnamese/Hispanic community(s)
- Community participation, things for school age kids to do, keeping/adding trees to new/current developments. Sidewalks on all streets that school buses travel on.
- Increased traffic because of development. Narrow streets and no sidewalks.
- Jobs are the most important thing
- I am concerned about the target area and outer target area policing in the unincorporated areas as well. Signage/policing/safety of homeowners living on the edges of open spaces, including 122nd corridor connection parking issues concerned with this.
- Need attractive design that is less dense, more commercial zoning and jobs. Be careful of the safety considerations. Zero lot line puts buildings too close to the street and too close to the utilities for work.

Question 6: Which of the above is most important to you?

Respondents selected **Accessibility** the most often, followed by **Infill Development**.

Accessibility, Connections, and Pedestrian Comfort and Safety	16
Convenience and Availability of Services	2
Infill Development	5
Community Amenities and Livability	3
Other	0

Question 7: Which of the above items do you think has the greatest impact on residents' health and well-being?

Accessibility received the most votes, followed by **Community Amenities and Livability**. Responses in the **Other** category included jobs, food access, and "all of these needed, or it won't work."

Accessibility, Connections, and Pedestrian Comfort and Safety	16
Convenience and Availability of Services	3
Infill Development	1
Community Amenities and Livability	5
Other	2

Question 8: Local Governments should consider health impacts equally or greater with economic and environmental impacts.

Most respondents agreed that local governments should consider health impacts equally or greater with economic and environmental impacts.

Strongly Agree	11
Somewhat Agree	9
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	7

Question 9: Which of these health issues do you feel is of concern to area residents? (Mark all that apply)

Personal Safety/Crime was selected most often, and several issues were selected by a majority of respondents.

Opportunities for physical activity	15
Access to healthy food	17
Noise	12
Traffic safety/injury	21
Personal safety/crime	24
Presence of social networks	11
Air quality	10

Question 10: Which ONE of these health issues do you feel is the greatest concern to area residents? (Mark one)

Personal Safety/Crime was the issue of greatest concern for the most respondents.

Opportunities for physical activity	0
Access to healthy food	4
Noise	2
Traffic safety/injury	7
Personal safety/crime	11
Presence of social networks	2
Air quality	0

Question 11: What does your community need to improve access to healthy food? (Mark all that apply)

Farmer's Markets were selected most often. **Community Gardens** were also selected by more than half of respondents. Write-in responses included sharing produce, a bigger farmer's market, gleaning, a variety of grocery stores, and New Seasons or Trader Joe's.

More grocery stores	12
More affordable grocery stores	12
A farmer's market	16
Community gardens	14
Support for home gardening	8

Question 12: For you, what makes maintaining a healthy lifestyle difficult? (Mark all that apply)

The most commonly selection was **Time and Discipline for Exercise**. Write in responses included lack of sidewalks, personal safety at risk, and traffic safety/injuries.

Time and discipline for exercise	18
A place to exercise	11
A full-service grocery store	6
Cooking healthy meals	6
Stress – not enough time to relax	10

Optional Demographic Questions:

Age:

0-18	1
19-34	4
35-49	8
50-64	11
65+	2

Race:

White	23
Black	2
Asian/Islander	0
Native American	0

One respondent wrote in "mixed".

Ethnicity (if appropriate):

Hispanic	2
Russian	0
Slavic	0

One respondent wrote in “mixed Irish/Scottish”.

Do you live in the SE 122nd Neighborhood?

Yes	14
No	13

If yes, how many years?

0-2	2
3-5	4
5-10	1
10-20	2
20+	5

What type of home do you live in?

House	11
Rowhouse	1
Apartment	4
Mobile home	1

Where do you work?

East Portland	8
Downtown	8
Gresham	1
Other	6

Other responses included two unemployed, two retired or semi-retired, Troutdale, and SE 49th Avenue and SE Division St.

How did you hear about this workshop?

Mail	2
Flyer/card	3
Work group	14
Other	6

Small Group Discussion Summary

Participants engaged in facilitated group discussions focusing on two key areas of interest identified in the project objectives and confirmed through neighborhood walks: 1) Convenience and Availability of Services, and 2) Accessibility, Connections, and Pedestrian Comfort and Safety. The following is a summary of the group discussions. The information will be used to help inform the study recommendations.

1) Convenience and Availability of Services

Where do you work, and how do you get there?

Most folks indicated that they drove to work, even for a very short commute in some cases. Some respondents said they take the bus to convenient locations, but others noted that bus service is not frequent or convenient for many trips.

What places – grocery, stores, services, medical, parks, schools, etc. - do you use in and around the study area? How do you get there: walk/bike, car, transit?

Participants frequent the following local places in/around the study area:

Food Stores	Retail	Restaurants	Other
Safeway	Ace Hardware	Golden Horse	Kaiser
Albertsons	Gas Stations	Tina's Corner	DDHS Swim Pool
Fred Meyer (148/Division)		Pizza Baron	EP Community Center
Plaid Pantry		Taco trucks	Springwater Trail
Country Food Mart		China Star	Library (Morrison/122)
Original Steer Market		Baskin Robbins	

While participants used local grocery stores on occasion, some noted that they typically shop for groceries outside the area because they prefer other stores (Winco, Trader Joes, New Seasons, Portland Fruit Company) and prefer the comfort of other retail locations. Few participants said they utilized a significant number of local retailers and service providers on a frequent basis.

Does your household have children or others that walk or bike to local destinations? Which destinations?

Participants indicated that children in their households walk and bike to some local destinations such as the Springwater Corridor, Mill Park/parks, school bus stop, and friends' homes. However, many noted that they did not feel safe allowing their children to walk in the area due to lack of sidewalks and safe crossing on busy streets, or bike in the area along busy streets due to traffic volumes.

How do you think the neighborhood services do or do not meet the needs of the area's diverse residents?

Overall, participants responded that the needs of seniors and children are not being met well. It's hard for seniors to get to grocery stores, particularly from south end of area. The transit service is lacking. The area does not have safe playgrounds, and connections are not safe. Many businesses seem to lack a strong customer base, so it might be difficult for them to remain viable.

What do you currently go out of your neighborhood to get? Where do you go to get goods and services?

Participants travel out of the area for a variety of services and activities:

Food Stores	Retail	Restaurants	Other
Winco	Wal-Mart	Coffee Shops	Library
Grocery (general)	Walgreens		Unitarian Church
Bakery	Book store		
Farmers Market	Mower repair		
New Seasons	Flower shop		
	Craft shop		
	Resale shop		

What kinds of retail, services, etc, would you like to see in the neighborhood? Where should these be located?

- Restaurants: neighborhood brew pub; bakery; coffee shop; restaurants; Thai restaurant; lounge
- Retail: bookstore; flower shop; craft shop; resale shop; theater
- Services: lawnmower repair; gym; library; post office
- Food: farmer's market; produce market; international marketplace
- Transportation: shuttle to MAX
- Other: Unitarian Church; community center; mixed use developments

What kinds of places do you think could create a stronger sense of community in the SE 122nd Avenue area?

- Better connections to Leach Botanical Garden
- More street connections to make it easier to travel in the area
- Library
- Boys and Girls Club
- Skate park
- Community Center
- Workout Gym
- Cherry Park (senior housing?)
- More service/retail on Division and Powell
- Community Garden
- Office Buildings
- Hospital

Do you visit other commercial districts or neighborhoods that you would consider "20-minute" neighborhoods?

- Beaumont Village/Fremont
- Belmont
- Hawthorne
- Hollywood
- Sellwood
- Woodstock
- 122nd/Glisan

What elements from these places could you envision on SE 122nd?

- Pharmacy
- Paint store
- Coffee shop
- Can we get rid of adult entertainment?

2) Accessibility, Connections, and Pedestrian Comfort and Safety

Are there places where more direct paths and streets would be helpful to get around the neighborhood and to local destinations?

- Problem with kids cutting through properties to Springwater Corridor
- Only two connections to I-205 – can that be improved?
- Maps were marked showing where local connections (ped, bike, vehicle) could be improved

Besides major streets, which streets do you think are most important to improve for pedestrians?

- Seniors and others also need sidewalks on residential streets
- Streets with schools and high % of kids walking are especially important
- Streets with parks
- SE 128th needs better signage for bikers and horseback rides to stop at intersections
- Add bike arrows on Holgate

How do you think neighborhood connections might differently affect the area's diverse residents?

- Buses not frequent enough and not easy to get to
- Some residents are confused by circuitous transit routes
- Some seniors don't want sidewalks because they fear increased taxes
- Most seniors drive everywhere and kids don't walk
- Save trees when improving connections

What are the best locations for improving pedestrian crossings of SE 122nd and the areas other major streets?

- Indicated on map: Bush, Boise, Raymond
- Crossings should coordinate with bus stops
- Crossing near Alice Ott
- Ramona, for connection to the park
- Note: walk signals do not stay long enough for people to cross
- Signal requested at every intersection where there is no signal

Besides sidewalks, what types of changes could best improve the experience for pedestrians and transit users along and near SE 122nd?

- Street trees
- Better lighting
- More street crossings and longer signal crossing times

- Priority signal for pedestrians in some places
- Bus shelters; shelters with lights
- Benches
- Trash cans
- Bus stops need to be replaced (?)
- Streetscape with median and trees

Are there areas where you feel more or less safe walking in your neighborhood? If you feel unsafe, is it because of fear of crime, traffic injury, or another reason?

- SE 136th – no sidewalks, lots of kids, fast traffic
- Foster at 122nd – dangerous, especially at night; fast traffic, turning movements conflict with pedestrians
- Holgate at 112th – similar to 122/Foster; west side of intersection lacks crosswalk
- Powell at 122nd – generally bad, lacks curbs and sidewalks, signal too short, car turns conflict with ped crossings, intimidating
- Foster crossing lines need other features to make them stand out (visibility)
- Division is better – more lighting and organization around Albertsons complex
- Cleanliness creates a feeling of safety; lots of yards in southern area strewn with residential trash
- Fear of crime and loose, crazy dogs (in a particular area)
- Make Powell look like it does in Gresham – maybe if it looks nicer, we'll get better businesses to move in

How do you think these issues might differently affect the area's diverse residents?

Ran out of time to complete this question