CITY OF SEATTLE
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
THE SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION AND INSPECTIONS

Project Number: 3036901-LU

Applicant Name: Jacob Young, Citizen Design

Address of Proposal: 5031 11th Ave NE

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL
Land use application to allow a 7-story, 32 unit apartment building. Parking for 13 vehicles proposed. Existing buildings to be demolished. Early Design Guidance conducted under 3036964-EG.

The following approvals are required:

Administrative Design Review with Departures (Seattle Municipal Code 23.41)*
***Departures** *are listed near the end of the Design Review Analysis in this document.*

SEPA - Environmental Determination (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 25.05)

SEPA DETERMINATION:

Determination of Non-Significance.

☐ No mitigating conditions of approval are imposed.

☒ Pursuant to SEPA substantive authority provided in SMC 25.05.660, the proposal has been conditioned to mitigate environmental impacts.

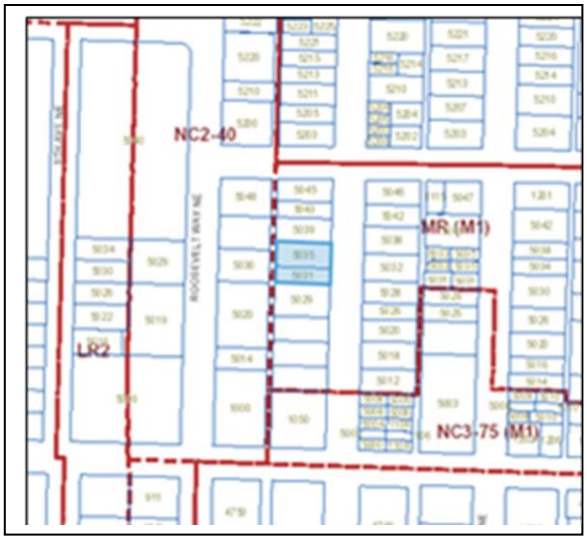
SITE AND VICINITY

Site Zone: Midrise 1 (M1) [MR (M1)]

Nearby Zones:

(North)	MR (M1)
(South)	MR (M1)
(East)	MR (M1)
(West)	Neighborhood Commercial 2-40 [NC2-40]

Environmentally Critical Areas: There are no mapped ECAs on site.



The top of this image is North. This map is for illustrative purposes only. In the event of omissions, errors or differences, the documents in SDCI's files will control.

Current and Surrounding Development; Neighborhood Character; Access:

The site is comprised of two existing tax parcels, which are currently developed with a duplex residential structure built in 1920 and a triplex residential structure built in 1918. The site slopes downward west to east approximately two-feet and is elevated approximately two-feet above the public right-of-way.

The site is located on the west side of 11th Ave NE, midblock between NE 50th St and NE 52nd St, in the University District Urban Center. Adjacent to the site are multifamily residential structures to the north, east, and south, and a commercial structure to the west. Surrounding development transitions from larger-scale commercial and mixed-use development to the south to primarily single-family and lowrise residential to the north. Commercial and service uses are also concentrated along Roosevelt Way NE, one-block to the west, and University Way NE, three-blocks to the east.

The adjacent street, 11th Ave NE, is a principal arterial connecting the University District to the south to the Roosevelt neighborhood to the north. Interstate 5 is located a quarter mile to the west. The University of Washington campus is located a half mile to the southeast. Nearby recreational amenities include the University Branch of the Seattle Public Library and University Playground. Historic City landmark structure Fire Station #17 is located at the south end of the block.

The immediate vicinity maintains a residential character. The surrounding blocks are predominantly developed with two to three-story single-family and multifamily residential structures dating to the early to mid-20th century; however, no one architectural style dominates. Single-family residences recurringly exhibit traditional residential secondary architectural details, including gabled roof forms, trim, eave returns, and dormers, while multifamily structures contrastingly have flat facades and flat roof forms with minimal details. Structures are commonly setback from the public right-of-way and screened by dense landscaping and trees. Rockeries, retaining walls, and sloped yards address the difference in elevation of properties, which are elevated above the public right-of-way.

The area was rezoned from Lowrise 3 to Midrise (M1) in April 2017. As a result, the University District is experiencing redevelopment in the form of midrise and high-rise residential structures. Multiple projects in the vicinity are currently in review or under construction for proposed development, including 4731 15th Ave NE, 1300 NE 45th St, 1415 NE 43rd St, 4525 9th Ave NE, 700 NE 45th St, and the University District Link light rail station at 4328 Brooklyn Ave NE. Existing and proposed vehicular access occurs from the alley. Existing and proposed pedestrian access occurs from 11th Ave NE.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public comment period ended on May 26, 2022. In addition to the comment(s) received through the Design Review process, other comments were received and carefully considered, to the extent that they raised issues within the scope of this review. These areas of public comment related to loss of tree canopy and cultural resources. Comments were also received that are beyond the scope of this review and analysis per SMC 23.41 and 25.05.]

I. ANALYSIS – DESIGN REVIEW

The design packets includes materials that are available online by entering the record numbers at this website:
http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/news/events/DesignReview/SearchPastReviews/default.aspx

The packets are also available to view in the files, by contacting the Public Resource Center at SDCI:

Mailing Address:	**Public Resource Center** 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000 P.O. Box 34019 Seattle, WA 98124-4019
Email:	PRC@seattle.gov

ADMINISTRATIVE EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE February 8, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

SDCI staff received the following design related comments:

- Encouraged innovation that responds to the history and eclectic nature of the U District; would not like to see another clone box building. Concerned that the noble ideas and concepts stated throughout the packet will not be reflected in actual designs. Noted this is a precedent setting project.
- Would like to see greater effort made to decrease the bulk of the structure and recommended achieving this through the choice of vegetation; a prominent, inviting entrance and lobby; appropriate setbacks to address privacy in relationship to adjacent buildings; and the softening of the impact caused by its box-like, LEGO appearance.
- Recommended a merging the positive aspects of each of the three options into a new scheme.
- Concerned the Lego-shape of the Option A is overwhelming, but noted the vertical circulation and setbacks reduce bulk on the street-facing façade.
- Concerned Option B does not respect the privacy of the residents in the adjacent building to the north.
- Concerned that Option C is out of proportion with the neighborhood.
- Recommended the entries be bold, inviting, and prominent from the streetscape, while ensuring safety and security for the residents, to promote a sense of belonging. Supported

the street-facing entry in Option A. In options B and C, the entry should be designed to be inviting and safe.

- Supported the departure request if it allows a greater setback on the north side, promoting access to sunlight for adjacent site.
- Recommended inviting entrance designs to engage residents and the neighborhood, and allow space for interaction; avoid hidden, screened entries. Prioritized creating privacy and security through design.
- Would like to see further development of facades with well-proportioned windows, as hinted at in the EDG packet.
- Concerned that the location of decks and vertical circulation created unusually shaped units; noted it is least impactful in Option C.
- Supported that the building is generally designed to respect buildings on adjacent sites.
- Preferred the balconies in Option A; in Option C they are primarily for aesthetic value rather than create usable space. Recommended Juliette balconies for units without full balconies.
- Preferred the bike parking and access in Option C as it is secure and separated from the lobby, but still conveniently and directly accessed.
- Supported alley access to parking.

SDCI received non-design related comments concerning parking, unit type, and emergency egress.

The Seattle Department of Transportation offered the following comments:

- A 4-foot right-of-way (ROW) setback is required on 11th Ave NE; noted that the EDG packet depicts only a 2-foot ROW setback.
- A Street Improvement Permit (SIP) is required for a public main extension per required ROW improvements, if proposed.

One purpose of the design review process is for the City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design. Concerns with off-street parking, traffic and construction impacts are reviewed as part of the environmental review conducted by SDCI and are not part of this review.

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the record number (3036964-EG): http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/

PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, Staff provides the following siting and design guidance.

1. **Massing & Architectural Concept**
    a. Staff supports massing Option C – the applicant's preferred massing option – as it is a promising contemporary design with the potential to establish a positive precedent and desirable context for others to build upon. Staff recommends further study of the evolving nature and eclectic roots of the University District as the design evolves, and specifically prioritizes University District Design Guidelines CS3-1-a, Architectural Styles, and DC2-2-a, Context-Sensitive Approach, and citywide Design Guidelines CS3-A-2, Contemporary Design, and CS3-A-4, Evolving Neighborhoods. (CS3-1-a, CS3-A-2, CS3-A-4)
    b. Staff notes that the mass responds well to datums established by the existing apartment to the south and future development to the north; however, the design has the strength to stand alone should redevelopment occur. (CS2-C, CS2-D-1, CS3)
    c. Staff supports the intent to provide visual interest with angled facades, but is concerned that the angles are too subtle to meaningfully express the concept or be legible from the public realm. Provide pedestrian eye-level graphics in the Recommendation packet demonstrating legibility. (DC2, DC2-C-1)
    d. In response to public comment, locate vertical circulation away from the building perimeter to minimize impacts on adjacent sites and visibility from the public realm, or consider whether the north stairwell could open to the exterior to bring light in and encourage active use. (DC2-1-f)
    e. Staff supports the upper-level setback on the rear/west façade as it responds well to the lower height and scale of the Neighborhood Commercial zone across the alley. Study using varied expressions of horizontal banding coupled with the projecting and recessed balconies to tie portions of the façade above and below the setback together for a cohesive architectural expression. (CS2-D-1, CS2-D-3, CS2-2-b

2. **Façade Treatment & Secondary Architectural Features**
    a. Staff strongly supports the design intent portrayed by the precedent images on page 38 of EDG Packet, particularly the sculpted entry, horizontal banding, floor-to-ceiling glazing, textured façade treatments, balconies, and decorative screens/railings that are well-integrated into the overall façade composition. The glazing and simple, textured materiality create a backdrop that accentuates the offset horizontal banding and balconies. In agreement with public comment, staff is excited to see these inspirational ideas reflected in the actual design. (DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-2-a)
    b. Staff recommends wrapping the horizontal banding on all facades for a consistent overall architectural expression, particularly at the northeast corner. Attention to materiality and detail will be critical to the successful expression of a seamless wrapped band. Maintain a plane change between the horizontal band and adjacent façade. Staff specifically prioritizes University District Design Guidelines DC2-2-h, Detailing, and DC2-2-i, Depth. Provide dimensioned details in the Recommendation packet. (DC2-2-h, DC2-2-i)

c. Staff strongly supports the intent to provide both recessed and projecting balconies that are well-integrated with the horizontal banding expression, as depicted in the precedent images on page 38 of the EDG packet. In agreement with public comment, balconies should be designed and adequately sized to function as a usable amenity. Staff specifically prioritizes citywide Design Guideline DC2-C-1, Visual Depth and Interest, and DC2-C-2, Dual Purpose Elements. (DC2-C-1, DC2-C-2)
d. Staff recommends developing a high-quality material palette that reinforces the architectural concept. Staff specifically prioritizes University District Design Guidelines DC2-2-c, Cohesive Design; DC2-5-a, Materials and Expression; and DC4-1, Durable, High-Quality Exterior Materials; and citywide Design Guideline DC4-A, Exterior Elements and Finishes – to be applied to the development of the material palette. (DC2-2-c, DC2-5-a, DC4-1, DC4-A)
e. Staff specifically prioritizes University District Design Guideline DC2-4-b, Façade Design; which states, *"Integrate building service elements, such as drainage pipes, grilles, screens, vents, louvres, and garage entry doors into the overall facade design, and use these features as opportunities to provide artful or unique applications."* (DC2-4-b)

3. **Open Space & Entry Experience**
   a. In response to public comment, staff supports the scale of the primary entry volume in proportion to the overall mass, but recommends using materiality and secondary architectural features to establish a human scale and texture at the ground level. Staff specifically prioritizes University District Design Guideline PL3-1-a, Prominent Design, and citywide Design Guideline PL3-A, Entries. (PL3-A, PL3-1-a)
   b. In response to public comment, staff recommends harnessing the deep front setback to create an attractive outdoor space for social interaction. Consider how this space contributes to the sequence of a well-designed entry experience. Staff specifically prioritizes citywide Design Guidelines PL3, Street-Level Interaction; PL3-B-4, Interaction; and DC3-C-2, Amenities/Features. (PL3, PL3-B-4, DC3-C-2)
   c. In response to public comment, staff notes bike storage appears to be conveniently located and requests a secondary entry that provides direct access from the street. Demonstrate how the bike storage room will be designed to activate the street frontage. (PL4-B-2, PL4-1-c)
   d. Staff specifically prioritizes University District Design Guideline PL1-1-d, Alleyways, and citywide Design Guideline PL2-B-2, Lighting for Safety; treat the alley as a pedestrian route. Incorporate lighting and a pedestrian scaled entry. Staff is concerned about the ability for landscaping to thrive along the alley edge; design the setback to be attractive and robust. (PL1-1-d, DC4-D-1)

4. **Parking & Service Use**
   a. In agreement with public comment, staff supports alley access to parking. Minimize the impacts of vehicular access and the parking garage on building aesthetics and pedestrian safety. Staff specifically prioritizes University District

Design Guideline DC1-2-b, High-Quality Materials; avoid blank wall conditions and create visual interest at the ground-level along the alley. (DC1-B-1, DC1-C, DC1-2-b)

b. Staff supports locating trash storage with the parking garage. Demonstrate how trash staging and service will function in a manner that minimizes visual impacts. (DC1-C-4, DC1-2-a)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION November 12, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

SDCI staff received the following design related comments:

- Supported the proposed design, noting that it was the best project to be proposed through the Design Review process for a long time.
- Supported vehicle and solid waste access via the alley as it is the safest choice for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Supported the design of street edge facade and particularly the generous lobby and entryway.
- Supported the landscape and garden features and encouraged the use of native plants.
- Suggested upper level building setbacks be relocated from alley side to street side as this would mitigate its height and bulk.
- Did not support the all-white exterior and suggested incorporating color, possible at the main entrance, to help distinguish this important element.
- Noted that the packet was difficult to review online and too long.
- Concerned by inconsistencies in the packet, particularly the depiction of sidewalk and planting strip, and encouraged making the sidewalk as wide as possible.
- Supported the bike parking and access from 11th as it is secure and separated from the lobby, but still conveniently and directly accessed.
- Supported alley access to parking.

SDCI received non-design related comments concerning parking, unit type and size and construction impacts.

The Seattle Department of Transportation offered the following comments:

- A 4-foot right-of-way (ROW) setback is required on 11th Ave NE; noted that the EDG packet depicts only a 2-foot ROW setback.
- A Street Improvement Permit (SIP) is required for a public main extension per required ROW improvements, if proposed.

One purpose of the design review process is for the City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design. Concerns with off-street parking, traffic and construction impacts are reviewed as part of the environmental review conducted by SDCI and are not part of this review.

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the record number http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/

SDCI PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS & CONDITIONS

SDCI visited the site, considered the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and considered public comment. SDCI design recommendations are summarized below.

1. **Architectural Concept and Design Development**
    a. Staff echoes public comment and recommends approval of this contemporary and appropriately eclectic design, which has the potential to establish a positive precedent and desirable context for others to build on in this re-zoned and evolving neighborhood. (CS3-1-a, DC2-2-a, CS3-A-2, CS3-A-4)
    b. Staff reiterates earlier support for the degree of modulation and visual interest created by the angled facades, as well as the concern regarding their legibility. Staff notes specification of 7/16" cementitious cladding material and agrees that the flat appearance provided by the structural integrity of this product and the crisp high-quality detailing it allows for will help these shallow angles read clearly. Staff recommends a condition to maintain the durable high quality 7/16-inch panel as the cladding material for the project as shown in the recommendation packet. (DC2, DC2-C-1, DC2-B, DC4, DC4-1-a.)
        i. Although a color change at the inflection point between the two facets would be heavy handed, staff suggests exploring the use of two slightly different colors (in hue, saturation, or darkness), as this could highlight the subtle change in plane.
    c. Staff continues to support the upper-level setback on the rear façade as a response to the lower height and scale across the alley, the horizontal banding coupled with projecting and recessed balconies, and the resulting cohesion of architectural expression. Staff recommends approval of this aspect of the design (CS2-D-1, CS2-D-3, CS2-2-b)

2. **Facade Treatment & Secondary Architectural Features**
    a. Staff supports and recommends approval of the sculpted entry, horizontal banding, floor-to-ceiling glazing and sculpted form at the entry, textured façade treatments, horizontal banding, balconies, and decorative screens and railings, noting that all are well-integrated into the overall façade composition. (DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-2-a)
    b. Staff supports and recommends approval of the proposed glazing pattern, which results in a well-composed and contemporary arrangement of large, well-proportioned and simply demised glazing units. Staff recommends a condition that this aspect of the design be maintained. (DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C DC2-2-a)
    c. Staff supports the subtle texture and visual interest created on the alley façade created by offsetting the cladding panels (as shown on p. 18-19) and recommends approval of this aspect of the design. (DC2-2-c, DC2-5-a, DC4-1, DC4-A)
    d. Staff appreciates the extension of the horizontal banding to all facades in response to guidance and the plane change between the horizontal band and adjacent

façade, and notes the resulting consistency of overall architectural expression, particularly at the northeast corner. Staff recommends approval of these aspects of the design. (DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-2-a)

e. Staff reiterates previous guidance noting the critical importance of attention to materiality and detail in the successful execution of this nuanced design concept and recommends a condition to provide specifications and details for the exterior materials including the cladding assembly and projecting bands, balcony railings, vertical screening at entry, entry doors, and offset panels at alley. (DC2-2-h, DC2-2-i, DC2)
f. Staff supports the recessed and projecting balconies which are well-integrated with the horizontal banding expression and adequately sized to create occupiable, usable amenity space and recommends approval of this aspect of the design. (DC2-C-1, DC2-C-2)
g. Staff reiterates earlier guidance regarding the importance of University District Design Guideline DC2-4-b, Façade Design, regarding the integration of building service elements into the overall facade design. Staff recommends a condition that all visible exterior service elements be fabricated from high quality materials and carefully located to support the architectural concept, and that all exterior vents be flush and color matched. (DC2-4-b)

3. **Open Space & Entry Experience**
    a. Echoing public comment, Staff supports the scale of the primary entry volume in proportion to the overall mass but recommends a condition to create an additional human level of scale at the entry. This could be accomplished using some combination of signage, lighting, materials and other secondary architectural detailing. (DC2-D-1, DC2, PL3-A)
    b. Staff appreciates the wider path provided in response to public comment and previous guidance and suggests, but does not recommend as a condition, to study a 20-30% increase in hardscape area that would create an occupiable zone which is not in the circulation path for social interaction. (PL3, PL3-B-4, DC3-C-2)
    c. Staff supports and recommends approval of the convenient location and direct access provide for bike storage. However, Staff is concerned that this area of the façade continues to lack street level activation. The bike storage presents a blank wall to the street and the bike storage room is accessed from either a side door or from the lobby. At EDG, Staff provided guidance to design the bike storage room to activate the street frontage and Staff now recommends this as a condition. (PL4-B-2, PL4-1-c)
    d. At EDG, Staff specifically prioritized University District Design Guideline PL1-1-d, Alleyways, and citywide Design Guideline PL2-B-2, Lighting for Safety. Staff recommends a condition to specify the location and fixture type for exterior lighting at the alley that will help provide pedestrian safety. (PL1-1-d, DC4-D-1)

4. Parking & Service Use
    a. Staff supports and recommends approval of vehicle access from the alley and trash storage location within the parking garage. (DC1-C-4, DC1-2-a)

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

SDCI Staff's preliminary recommendation on the requested departures are based on the departures' potential to help the project better meet these design guidelines priorities and achieve a better overall project design than could be achieved without the departures.

At the time of the Recommendation review, the following departures were requested:

1. **Front Setback (SMC 23.45.518):** The Code requires an average front setback of 7-feet. The applicant proposes to reduce the average front setback to 5.8-feet.

   Staff supports and recommends approval of the requested departure from average front setback requirements as the consistent architectural expression will result in a design that better meets University District Design Guideline DC2-2-I, Depth, and citywide Design Guidelines DC2, Architectural Concept, and DC2-B-1, Façade Composition. (DC2-2-I, DC2, DC2-B-1)

2. **Side Setbacks (SMC 23.45.518):** Above 42-feet, the Code requires an average side setback of 10-feet. The applicant proposes an average side setback from the north property line of 9-feet 8-1/2-inches.

   Staff supports and recommends approval of the requested departure from average side setback requirements above 42-feet as this will result in a design that better meets University District Design Guideline DC2-2-I, Depth, and citywide Design Guidelines DC2, Architectural Concept; DC2-B-1, Façade Composition; and DC2-C-1, Visual Depth and Interest. (DC2-2-I, DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C-1)

3. **Side Setbacks (SMC 23.45.518):** Above 42-feet, the Code requires an average side setback of 10-feet. The applicant proposes an average side setback from the south property line of 9-feet 10-1/2-inches.

   Staff supports and recommends approval of the requested departure from average side setback requirements above 42-feet as this will result in a design that better meets University District Design Guideline DC2-2-I, Depth, and citywide Design Guidelines DC2, Architectural Concept; DC2-B-1, Façade Composition; and DC2-C-1, Visual Depth and Interest. (DC2-2-I, DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C-1)

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Seattle Design Guidelines and University District Neighborhood Design Guidelines recognized by Staff as Priority Guidelines are identified above. All guidelines remain applicable and are summarized below. For the full text please visit the Design Review website.

CONTEXT & SITE

CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.

CS1-A Energy Use

CS1-A-1. Energy Choices: At the earliest phase of project development, examine how energy choices may influence building form, siting, and orientation, and factor in the findings when making siting and design decisions.

CS1-B Sunlight and Natural Ventilation

CS1-B-1. Sun and Wind: Take advantage of solar exposure and natural ventilation. Use local wind patterns and solar gain to reduce the need for mechanical ventilation and heating where possible.

CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading: Maximize daylight for interior and exterior spaces and minimize shading on adjacent sites through the placement and/or design of structures on site.

CS1-B-3. Managing Solar Gain: Manage direct sunlight falling on south and west facing facades through shading devices and existing or newly planted trees.

CS1-C Topography

CS1-C-1. Land Form: Use natural topography and desirable landforms to inform project design.

CS1-C-2. Elevation Changes: Use the existing site topography when locating structures and open spaces on the site.

CS1-D Plants and Habitat

CS1-D-1. On-Site Features: Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. Consider relocating significant trees and vegetation if retention is not feasible.

CS1-D-2. Off-Site Features: Provide opportunities through design to connect to off-site habitats such as riparian corridors or existing urban forest corridors. Promote continuous habitat, where possible, and increase interconnected corridors of urban forest and habitat where possible.

CS1-E Water

CS1-E-1. Natural Water Features: If the site includes any natural water features, consider ways to incorporate them into project design, where feasible

CS1-E-2. Adding Interest with Project Drainage: Use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements.

University Supplemental Guidance:

CS1-1 Plan for Daylight & Trees

CS1-1-a. Building Massing & Upper Level Step-Backs: Arrange building massing and use upper-level step-backs to increase solar access into ground floors, shared amenity spaces, streets, and the public realm, especially on narrow rights-of-way such as University Way NE. Use two-story or mezzanine layouts for residential or live-work units at or below-grade to increase daylight access to those units.

CS1-1-b. Recessed or Sunken Living Space: Avoid recessed or sunken living space, and minimize the distance that units are located below grade to provide direct access to daylight and air from above-grade windows for each unit.

CS1-1-c. Trees: Incorporate new and existing trees. Site the buildings and design building massing to preserve and incorporate existing mature trees, especially on slopes; this is especially relevant in the Ravenna Springs character area. Where removal is unavoidable, configure open space to accommodate large canopy trees that replace those removed.

CS2 Urban Pattern and Form: Strengthen the most desirable forms, characteristics, and patterns of the streets, block faces, and open spaces in the surrounding area.

CS2-A Location in the City and Neighborhood

CS2-A-1. Sense of Place: Emphasize attributes that give a distinctive sense of place. Design the building and open spaces to enhance areas where a strong identity already exists, and create a sense of place where the physical context is less established.

CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence: Evaluate the degree of visibility or architectural presence that is appropriate or desired given the context, and design accordingly.

CS2-B Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces

CS2-B-1. Site Characteristics: Allow characteristics of sites to inform the design, especially where the street grid and topography create unusually shaped lots that can add distinction to the building massing.

CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street: Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and public realm.

CS2-B-3. Character of Open Space: Contribute to the character and proportion of surrounding open spaces.

CS2-C Relationship to the Block

CS2-C-1. Corner Sites: Corner sites can serve as gateways or focal points; both require careful detailing at the first three floors due to their high visibility from two or more streets and long distances.

CS2-C-2. Mid-Block Sites: Look to the uses and scales of adjacent buildings for clues about how to design a mid-block building. Continue a strong street-edge and respond to datum lines of adjacent buildings at the first three floors.

CS2-C-3. Full Block Sites: Break up long facades of full-block buildings to avoid a monolithic presence. Provide detail and human scale at street-level, and include repeating elements to add variety and rhythm to the façade and overall building design.

CS2-D Height, Bulk, and Scale

CS2-D-1. Existing Development and Zoning: Review the height, bulk, and scale of neighboring buildings as well as the scale of development anticipated by zoning for the area to determine an appropriate complement and/or transition.

CS2-D-2. Existing Site Features: Use changes in topography, site shape, and vegetation or structures to help make a successful fit with adjacent properties.

CS2-D-3. Zone Transitions: For projects located at the edge of different zones, provide an appropriate transition or complement to the adjacent zone(s). Projects should create a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the anticipated development potential of the adjacent zone and the proposed development.

CS2-D-4. Massing Choices: Strive for a successful transition between zones where a project abuts a less intense zone.

CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites: Respect adjacent properties with design and site planning to minimize disrupting the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.

University Supplemental Guidance:

CS2-1 Character Areas & Corridor Character Areas

CS2-1-a. Cowen Park Corners: Use lush landscaping to carry the experience of Cowen Park down the north end of University Way NE. Incorporate generous sidewalks and seating areas.

CS2-1-b. University Park South & 17th Ave Boulevard: Reinforce the existing pattern of generous front setbacks. Incorporate occupiable amenity spaces into front setbacks with areas for large shade trees and landscaping. Take cues from the design, scale, and character of historic buildings, including: grand entries; sloped roofs; the use of brick, masonry, and wood; vertical window proportions; and a high degree of architectural detailing.

CS2-1-c. Ravenna Springs: Design projects to create and reinforce the quality of a cohesive neighborhood with massing that is broken into multiple buildings, individual unit entries, ground-related housing, highly permeable blocks with walkways and open spaces, and a high degree of landscaping and pedestrian amenities.

CS2-1-d. University Village & 25th Ave NE: Prioritize active edges and direct pedestrian connections to 25th Ave NE and the Burke Gilman Trail. Development along 25th Ave NE should create an active, engaging building edge for pedestrians and create protected sidewalks by utilizing planter strips with lush landscaping.

CS2-1-e. The U District Core & The Ave: Express an urban character that is distinct to the U District and prioritize the pedestrian experience with human-scaled design and a high degree of visual interest. Foster an eclectic mix of businesses and architectural styles.

1. Reflect historic platting patterns by articulating and/or modulating buildings and design styles at 20-40 foot intervals.
2. Use upper-level step-backs that respond to predominant and historic datums in context.
3. Incorporate balconies or terraces in buildings with residential uses to contribute to passive surveillance and visual interest.
4. Use lush, layered landscaping at street level, especially in residential areas south of NE 43rd St.

CS2-2 Neighborhood Context

CS2-2-a. Contribute to Community Character: To enhance the eclectic character of the University District, plan and include elements that are easily customizable for tenants and businesses to individualize storefronts, kickplates, and streetscapes through paint colors, materials, lighting, signage, awning design, seating, or other pedestrian amenities. Use these features to express 20-40 foot storefront modules.

CS2-2-b. Provide Zone Transitions: When a project site abuts a zone with a height limit that is two stories shorter than the project site, provide upper-level setbacks that create a sensitive transition to the less intensive zone.

CS2-2-c. Activate Parks & Open Space: In development adjacent to open space and parks, activate the building edges by incorporating active uses, small public plazas or seating areas for ground-floor uses, as well as balconies or terraces at upper floors. Design adjacent projects to act as a deferential backdrop, with refined building facades that help frame the open space, or incorporate artistic features that complement the function of the open space and create an “outdoor room.”

CS2-3 Gateways & Placemaking Corners

CS2-3-a. Special Site Features: For new buildings located on a corner, including, but not limited to the corner locations identified in Map 3 of the full Guidelines, consider providing special building elements distinguishable from the rest of the building such as a tower, corner articulation or bay windows. Consider a special site feature such as diagonal orientation and entry, a sculpture, a courtyard, or other device. Corner entries should be set back to allow pedestrian flow and good visibility at the intersection.

CS2-3-b. Gateways: Gateways identified on Map A are significant "entry" points in the U District Neighborhood.

1. Express a sense of arrival to a distinct area with distinctive forms, prominent massing, unique design concepts, and the highest attention to design quality.
2. Create pedestrian accommodating entries with wider sidewalks, significant landscaping features, public plazas, active uses, and art.

CS2-3-c. Placemaking Corners: Placemaking Corners identified on Map A are key nodes and pedestrian activity areas within the U District Neighborhood.

1. Design projects as part of a composition with the adjacent corner-facing sites to frame the space and balance strong spatial edges with adequate space for movement and activity, including small plazas, seating, and public art.
2. Incorporate special paving and surface treatments; art installations; seating; kiosks.

CS3 Architectural Context and Character: Contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood.

CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together: Create compatibility between new projects, and existing architectural context, including historic and modern designs, through building articulation, scale and proportion, roof forms, detailing, fenestration, and/or the use of complementary materials.

CS3-A-2. Contemporary Design: Explore how contemporary designs can contribute to the development of attractive new forms and architectural styles; as expressed through use of new materials or other means.

CS3-A-3. Established Neighborhoods: In existing neighborhoods with a well-defined architectural character, site and design new structures to complement or be compatible with the architectural style and siting patterns of neighborhood buildings.

CS3-A-4. Evolving Neighborhoods: In neighborhoods where architectural character is evolving or otherwise in transition, explore ways for new development to establish a positive and desirable context for others to build upon in the future.

CS3-B Local History and Culture

CS3-B-1. Placemaking: Explore the history of the site and neighborhood as a potential placemaking opportunity. Look for historical and cultural significance, using neighborhood groups and archives as resources.

CS3-B-2. Historical/Cultural References: Reuse existing structures on the site where feasible as a means of incorporating historical or cultural elements into the new project.

University Supplemental Guidance:

CS3-1 University District Architectural Character

CS3-1-a. Architectural Styles: Foster the eclectic mix of architectural styles and forms on the block and throughout the neighborhood while maintaining articulated base designs

that are pedestrian-oriented. Repetition of architectural forms and character, whether visually adjacent or within the U District, is strongly discouraged.

CS3-1-b. Predominant Styles: Complement and continue predominant styles or materials when the immediate context of a site is comprised of buildings or a collection of buildings with local significance or identifiable architectural styles or similar materials.

CS3-1-c. Historic Patterns: Articulate building forms and facades to respond to historic platting patterns to create compatibility between contemporary architecture and existing development **.**

CS3-1-d. Horizontal and Vertical Patterns: Respond to nearby predominant horizontal and vertical patterns and datum lines, and take cues from design elements in older structures such as campus gothic style, punched windows, texture-rich materials, and thoughtful detailing.

CS3-2 Adaptive Reuse & Preservation

CS3-2-a. Existing Structures & Facades: Preserve or rehabilitate existing structures or facades, especially those with architectural merit, local significance, and/or quality materials including brick.

CS3-2-b. Repurpose Materials: Creatively repurpose materials, signage, and other physical pieces from existing development into new projects to create a connection with the neighborhood's past and contribute to a sense of place.

PUBLIC LIFE

PL1 Connectivity: Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.

PL1-A Network of Open Spaces

PL1-A-1. Enhancing Open Space: Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

PL1-A-2. Adding to Public Life: Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and quality of project-related open space available for public life.

PL1-B Walkways and Connections

PL1-B-1. Pedestrian Infrastructure: Connect on-site pedestrian walkways with existing public and private pedestrian infrastructure, thereby supporting pedestrian connections within and outside the project.

PL1-B-2. Pedestrian Volumes: Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, particularly in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to add or attract pedestrians to the area.

PL1-B-3. Pedestrian Amenities: Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian oriented open spaces to enliven the area and attract interest and interaction with the site and building should be considered.

PL1-C Outdoor Uses and Activities

PL1-C-1. Selecting Activity Areas: Concentrate activity areas in places with sunny exposure, views across spaces, and in direct line with pedestrian routes.

PL1-C-2. Informal Community Uses: In addition to places for walking and sitting, consider including space for informal community use such as performances, farmer's markets, kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vending.

PL1-C-3. Year-Round Activity: Where possible, include features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety.

University Supplemental Guidance:

PL1-1 Networks & Connections to Community Open Space

PL1-1-a. Engage the Public Realm: Include open space at grade that physically or visually engages the public realm: Options include plazas, public courtyards, play areas, gardens, and ground level patios.

PL1-1-b. Green Streets & Green Spines: Projects located on Green Streets and within the U District Green Spines: Include multiple types of publicly-accessible open spaces and private amenity spaces that address the public realm including: balconies and unit patios, pocket plazas, strategic setbacks at grade for seating areas and play areas, and upper-level setbacks with terraces or patios.

PL1-1-c. Burke-Gilman Trail: For projects adjacent to the Burke-Gilman Trail, provide physical and visual connections for pedestrians and cyclists. Design trail-facing facades with active uses, including retail, amenity space, and unit stoops or patios.

PL1-1-d. Alleyways: Treat all alleyways as potential pedestrian routes: Incorporate windows, entries, art, lighting, and active uses on alley-facing facades to activate and improve safety in alleys.

PL1-2 Shared Alleys & Mid-Block Pedestrian Connections

PL1-2-a. Pedestrian-Priority Network: Reinforce existing movement patterns and introduce connections that weave a pedestrian-priority network throughout the neighborhood with mid-block pedestrian pathways and shared alleys.

PL1-2-b. Connect Street to Alley: East-west mid-block pedestrian connections from the street to alley are strongly encouraged on blocks within the "Mid-block Pedestrian Pathway Priority Area." Projects within the approximate middle third of the block are the preferred location for mid-block pedestrian connections.

PL1-2-c. Activate Second "Fronts": Design facades adjacent to mid-block pedestrian connections and shared alleys as a second "front" with activating uses:

1. Locate active ground-level uses along shared alleys and pedestrian pathways, including secondary entrances for businesses and individual unit entries separated by grade or setbacks for residential uses.
2. Avoid long blank walls. Where unavoidable due to service uses, treat blank walls with artwork, interesting materials, lighting, and/or architectural features.

PL1-2-d. People-Friendly Spaces: Create usable, safe, people-friendly spaces:

1. Include upper-level balconies or terraces so that occupiable spaces overlook shared alleys and mid-block connections.
2. Strive for clear sightlines. Where mid-block connections do not cross the right-of-way or do not align across an alley or street, provide a focal point and wayfinding features at the visual terminus.
3. Incorporate secondary spaces for impromptu gatherings, play opportunities, outdoor seating, and bike racks.

PL1-2-e. Signage & Wayfinding: Create consistent signage & incorporate wayfinding elements:

1. Install wayfinding elements on street and alley facades to highlight entrances to alleys and midblock crossings including special architectural treatments, creative signage, ground treatments, lighting, and façade design. Strive for continuity of design features throughout the neighborhood.
2. Incorporate street furniture, art installations, creative paving, paint patterns or lighting throughout shared alleys and mid-block connections.

PL2 Walkability: Create a safe and comfortable walking environment that is easy to navigate and well-connected to existing pedestrian walkways and features.

PL2-A Accessibility

PL2-A-1. Access for All: Provide access for people of all abilities in a manner that is fully integrated into the project design. Design entries and other primary access points such that all visitors can be greeted and welcomed through the front door.

PL2-A-2. Access Challenges: Add features to assist pedestrians in navigating sloped sites, long blocks, or other challenges.

PL2-B Safety and Security

PL2-B-1. Eyes on the Street: Create a safe environment by providing lines of sight and encouraging natural surveillance.

PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety: Provide lighting at sufficient lumen intensities and scales, including pathway illumination, pedestrian and entry lighting, and/or security lights.

PL2-B-3. Street-Level Transparency: Ensure transparency of street-level uses (for uses such as nonresidential uses or residential lobbies), where appropriate, by keeping views open into spaces behind walls or plantings, at corners, or along narrow passageways.

PL2-C Weather Protection

PL2-C-1. Locations and Coverage: Overhead weather protection is encouraged and should be located at or near uses that generate pedestrian activity such as entries, retail uses, and transit stops.

PL2-C-2. Design Integration: Integrate weather protection, gutters and downspouts into the design of the structure as a whole, and ensure that it also relates well to neighboring buildings in design, coverage, or other features.

PL2-C-3. People-Friendly Spaces: Create an artful and people-friendly space beneath building.

PL2-D Wayfinding

PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding: Use design features as a means of wayfinding wherever possible.

PL3 Street-Level Interaction: Encourage human interaction and activity at the street-level with clear connections to building entries and edges.

PL3-A Entries

PL3-A-1. Design Objectives: Design primary entries to be obvious, identifiable, and distinctive with clear lines of sight and lobbies visually connected to the street.

PL3-A-2. Common Entries: Multi-story residential buildings need to provide privacy and security for residents but also be welcoming and identifiable to visitors.

PL3-A-3. Individual Entries: Ground-related housing should be scaled and detailed appropriately to provide for a more intimate type of entry.

PL3-A-4. Ensemble of Elements: Design the entry as a collection of coordinated elements including the door(s), overhead features, ground surface, landscaping, lighting, and other features.

PL3-B Residential Edges

PL3-B-1. Security and Privacy: Provide security and privacy for residential buildings through the use of a buffer or semi-private space between the development and the street or neighboring buildings.

PL3-B-2. Ground-level Residential: Privacy and security issues are particularly important in buildings with ground-level housing, both at entries and where windows are located overlooking the street.

PL3-B-3. Buildings with Live/Work Uses: Maintain active and transparent facades in the design of live/work residences. Design the first floor so it can be adapted to other commercial use as needed in the future.

PL3-B-4. Interaction: Provide opportunities for interaction among residents and neighbors.

PL3-C Retail Edges

PL3-C-1. Porous Edge: Engage passersby with opportunities to interact visually with the building interior using glazing and transparency. Create multiple entries where possible and make a physical and visual connection between people on the sidewalk and retail activities in the building.

PL3-C-2. Visibility: Maximize visibility into the building interior and merchandise displays. Consider fully operational glazed wall-sized doors that can be completely opened to the street, increased height in lobbies, and/or special lighting for displays.

PL3-C-3. Ancillary Activities: Allow space for activities such as sidewalk vending, seating, and restaurant dining to occur. Consider setting structures back from the street or incorporating space in the project design into which retail uses can extend.

University Supplemental Guidance:

PL3-1 Entries

PL3-1-a. Prominent Design: Design prominent, accommodating entries with vertical emphasis and intricate architectural interest at a variety of scales. Use high-quality materials and detailing to create an identifiable entrance and welcoming experience for visitors and users.

PL3-1-b. Grade Separations: Avoid grade separations at retail entries: Step building floor plates along sloped sites to avoid raised or below-grade entries for commercial along the sidewalk.

PL3-1-c. Courtyard Entries: Courtyard entries should be physically and visually accessible from the street. Units facing the courtyard should have a porch, stoop, or deck associated with the dwelling unit to support community interaction. Any fences or gates should be set back from the sidewalk to incorporate a semi-public transitional space.

PL3-2 Ground-Level Residential Design

PL3-2-a. Articulate Units: Articulate individual dwelling units and provide usable stoops or patios for street-facing residential units. Include architectural detailing that expresses a residential use, such as contrasting trim, hardware, awnings, mailboxes, address numbers, and appropriately scaled materials. Provide opportunities for personalization.

PL3-2-b. Rowhouse-Style: Use rowhouse-style units at the base of residential structures to transition to the pedestrian sidewalk and street; they provide large windows, entries, patios and other activating features.

PL3-2-c. Buffer Space: Provide adequate buffer space as a transition from the sidewalk to residential uses for visual connection and passive surveillance of the public realm. Raise units slightly above grade or provide an adequate setback. Use buffers of low walls, planters, and layered landscaping; avoid tall fences and patios below grade.

PL3-2-d. Shared Space: Where direct-unit entries are challenging due to a site's physical constraints, include a generous main entry with occupiable shared space or forecourt to create a "front porch" for residents. Provide ample space for bicycles, seating, furniture, and planters.

PL3-3 Mixed Use Corridors & Commercial Frontages

PL3-3-a. Street Wall: Maintain a well-defined street wall on mixed-use corridors to create an urban character. Incorporate strategic setbacks at corners and entries for seating, usable open space, and landscaping.

PL3-3-b. Human-Scaled Experience: Provide frequent entrances, expressed breaks, and architectural interest at regular intervals of 20-30 feet (regardless of uses/ tenants occupying ground-level spaces) to create a human-scaled experience and accommodate the presence or appearance of small storefronts. Add unique features to long sections of storefront systems.

PL3-3-c. Residential Entries & Signage: Residential entries for upper-floor residential uses and residential signage should not dominate the street frontage over commercial uses.

PL3-3-d. Non-Activating Uses: Minimize the size and presence of residential lobbies and other non-activating uses to maintain the commercial intensity and viability of mixed-use corridors.

PL3-3-e. Edge: Design a porous, engaging edge for all commercial uses at street-level. Include operable windows at all levels of the building and especially at the street level to maximize permeability and activate the streetscape. Design street-level facades that open to or near sidewalk level allowing uses to spill out, and provide areas for outdoor seating.

PL3-3-f. Adaptability: Design live-work units and all other non-commercial spaces for conversion to street-accessed commercial uses over the life of a building. Provide a direct path to the entry from the sidewalk, transitional areas that can be used as outdoor seating, awnings, and pavement treatments. Avoid or minimize tall, structural sills that would inhibit future storefront flexibility. Use recessed entries and non-permanent solutions for privacy for residential uses, such as movable planters. Unit layout should separate living spaces from work space, to provide appropriate privacy for living spaces.

PL4 Active Transportation: Incorporate design features that facilitate active forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and use of transit.

PL4-A Entry Locations and Relationships

PL4-A-1. Serving all Modes of Travel: Provide safe and convenient access points for all modes of travel.

PL4-A-2. Connections to All Modes: Site the primary entry in a location that logically relates to building uses and clearly connects all major points of access.

PL4-B Planning Ahead for Bicyclists

PL4-B-1. Early Planning: Consider existing and future bicycle traffic to and through the site early in the process so that access and connections are integrated into the project along with other modes of travel.

PL4-B-2. Bike Facilities: Facilities such as bike racks and storage, bike share stations, shower facilities and lockers for bicyclists should be located to maximize convenience, security, and safety.

PL4-B-3. Bike Connections: Facilitate connections to bicycle trails and infrastructure around and beyond the project.

PL4-C Planning Ahead For Transit

PL4-C-1. Influence on Project Design: Identify how a transit stop (planned or built) adjacent to or near the site may influence project design, provide opportunities for placemaking.

PL4-C-2. On-site Transit Stops: If a transit stop is located onsite, design project-related pedestrian improvements and amenities so that they complement any amenities provided for transit riders.

PL4-C-3. Transit Connections: Where no transit stops are on or adjacent to the site, identify where the nearest transit stops and pedestrian routes are and include design features and connections within the project design as appropriate.

University Supplemental Guidance:

PL4-1 Bicycle Circulation & Parking

PL4-1-a. Efficient & Secure Parking: Design bicycle parking for efficiency and security. Bicycle use and parking should be encouraged to promote a healthy and active neighborhood and to support local businesses. Bicycle racks should be plentiful, and either be from the Seattle Department of Transportation's bike parking program or be an approved rack of similar "inverted U" or "staple style".

PL4-1-b. Placemaking: Integrate design features into bicycle facilities that enhance placemaking, such as having a uniform color for bike racks within the U District or having distinctive place-names designed into the racks.

PL4-1-c. Convenient Location: Locate bicycle parking and bicycle racks in convenient locations for residents and temporary users with easy access, weather protection, and minimal grade changes. Provide direct routes from bicycle lanes to bicycle parking in garages or bicycle racks, and provide signage that directs bicyclists to these facilities. When bicycle parking is located indoors, minimize obstructions, and consider using sliding or automatic doors.

PL4-2 Connections and Facilities for Transit

PL4-2-a. Connections to Light-Rail: Ensure convenient connections to the light-rail station for development near the station or other high-volume transit stops. This might include voluntary setbacks to afford widened sidewalks, chamfered building corners, and/or recessed entries to facilitate higher pedestrian volumes near the stations.

PL4-2-b. Integrated Waiting Areas: Integrate waiting areas for transit and vehicle pick-up into the building design, rather than adjacent to the street, where possible and with approval of agencies. Include shelters, large canopies, lean bars, and benches.

DESIGN CONCEPT

DC1 Project Uses and Activities: Optimize the arrangement of uses and activities on site.

DC1-A Arrangement of Interior Uses

DC1-A-1. Visibility: Locate uses and services frequently used by the public in visible or prominent areas, such as at entries or along the street front.

DC1-A-2. Gathering Places: Maximize the use of any interior or exterior gathering spaces.

DC1-A-3. Flexibility: Build in flexibility so the building can adapt over time to evolving needs, such as the ability to change residential space to commercial space as needed.

DC1-A-4. Views and Connections: Locate interior uses and activities to take advantage of views and physical connections to exterior spaces and uses.

DC1-B Vehicular Access and Circulation

DC1-B-1. Access Location and Design: Choose locations for vehicular access, service uses, and delivery areas that minimize conflict between vehicles and non-motorists wherever possible. Emphasize use of the sidewalk for pedestrians, and create safe and attractive conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

DC1-B-2. Facilities for Alternative Transportation: Locate facilities for alternative transportation in prominent locations that are convenient and readily accessible to expected users.

DC1-C Parking and Service Uses

DC1-C-1. Below-Grade Parking: Locate parking below grade wherever possible. Where a surface parking lot is the only alternative, locate the parking in rear or side yards, or on lower or less visible portions of the site.

DC1-C-2. Visual Impacts: Reduce the visual impacts of parking lots, parking structures, entrances, and related signs and equipment as much as possible.

DC1-C-3. Multiple Uses: Design parking areas to serve multiple uses such as children's play space, outdoor gathering areas, sports courts, woonerf, or common space in multifamily projects.

DC1-C-4. Service Uses: Locate and design service entries, loading docks, and trash receptacles away from pedestrian areas or to a less visible portion of the site to reduce possible impacts of these facilities on building aesthetics and pedestrian circulation.

University Supplemental Guidance:

DC1-1 Activating Uses

DC1-1-a. Street Frontages: Maximize active uses along street frontages and minimize the amount of frontage dedicated to lobby/lounges, office, and leasing spaces - uses which can be located elsewhere in the building. Provide a high frequency of entries for both commercial and residential uses.

DC1-1-b. Commercial Spaces: Group commercial spaces (or live-work) at corners and clusters at street level rather than fragmenting them between lobbies and other ground-floor uses.

DC1-1-c. Passive Surveillance: Where residential uses face on-site or public open spaces, parks, or access drive, balance privacy layering with passive surveillance by incorporating stoops, patios, and balconies, lighting. Minimize garage frontages at these locations.

DC1-2 Visual and Safety Impacts

DC1-2-a. Service Entries & Trash Receptacles: Locate service entries and trash receptacles within the building, mid-block along shared alleys and away from pedestrian crossings or gathering spots at mid-block connections.

DC1-2-b. High-Quality Materials: Use high quality materials and finishes for all service screening and garage doors with artful treatments and architectural detailing that reinforces the design concept and contributes to visual interest at street level.

DC2-2-c. Above Grade Parking: Wrap any above grade parking with active uses to minimize 'dead facades'. Design any above-grade parking with a high degree of architectural detailing consistent with the non-vehicle design, possibly integrating changing displays or community artwork.

DC1-3 Shared Open Spaces

DC2-3-a. Access Drives: If access drives are provided on site, design them as shared space for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles to move slowly and safely. Include entries, windows, landscaping, and opportunities for personalization. Curbless drive aisles are desirable.

DC2-3-b. Layout: Design the layout of the open space and surrounding uses intentionally to function as shared community space. Include landscaping, pedestrian amenities, lighting, and paving treatments that clearly delineate paths from gathering areas.

DC2 Architectural Concept: Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.

DC2-AMassing

DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses: Arrange the mass of the building taking into consideration the characteristics of the site and the proposed uses of the building and its open space.

DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass: Use secondary architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.

DC2-BArchitectural and Facade Composition

DC2-B-1. Façade Composition: Design all building facades—including alleys and visible roofs— considering the composition and architectural expression of the building as a whole. Ensure that all facades are attractive and well-proportioned.

DC2-B-2. Blank Walls: Avoid large blank walls along visible façades wherever possible. Where expanses of blank walls, retaining walls, or garage facades are unavoidable, include uses or design treatments at the street level that have human scale and are designed for pedestrians.

DC2-CSecondary Architectural Features

DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest: Add depth to facades where appropriate by incorporating balconies, canopies, awnings, decks, or other secondary elements into the façade design. Add detailing at the street level in order to create interest for the pedestrian and encourage active street life and window shopping (in retail areas).

DC2-C-2. Dual Purpose Elements: Consider architectural features that can be dual purpose— adding depth, texture, and scale as well as serving other project functions.

DC2-C-3. Fit With Neighboring Buildings: Use design elements to achieve a successful fit between a building and its neighbors.

DC2-DScale and Texture

DC2-D-1. Human Scale: Incorporate architectural features, elements, and details that are of human scale into the building facades, entries, retaining walls, courtyards, and exterior spaces in a manner that is consistent with the overall architectural concept

DC2-D-2. Texture: Design the character of the building, as expressed in the form, scale, and materials, to strive for a fine-grained scale, or "texture," particularly at the street level and other areas where pedestrians predominate.

DC2-EForm and Function

DC2-E-1. Legibility and Flexibility: Strive for a balance between building use legibility and flexibility. Design buildings such that their primary functions and uses can be readily determined from the exterior, making the building easy to access and understand. At the same time, design flexibility into the building so that it may remain useful over time even as specific programmatic needs evolve.

University Supplemental Guidance:

DC2-1 Massing & Reducing Bulk and Scale

DC2-1-a. Response to Context: Design building massing and form to express an intentional and original response to the context, streetscape and all guidelines, not merely a reflection of the code-allowable building envelope.

DC2-1-b. Large Buildings: Reduce the bulk and scale of large buildings: A large building should be legible as a series of discrete forms at multiple scales to reduce perceived bulk, create interest, and help users understand how the building is occupied.

1. Break up larger development into multiple buildings and smaller masses with pass-throughs and pathways
2. Alternatively, give the impression of multiple, smaller-scale buildings by employing different facade treatments at intervals that complement the context by articulating the building at regular intervals
3. Employ purposeful modulation that is meaningful to the overall composition and building proportion, or that expresses individual units or modules. Avoid over-modulation. Changes in color and material should typically be accompanied by a legible change in plane and/or design language.
4. Opt for distinctive and sculptural forms and elements, especially in highly visible locations or corners.

DC2-1-c. Building Base: Design the building base to create a solid and "grounded" form that transitions to a human-scale at the street. The height of the base/podium should be proportional to and substantial enough to "anchor" the upper massing.

DC2-1-d. Upper-Level Step-Backs: Use upper-level step-backs to maintain a human scale along the street and respond to historic datums.

DC2-1-e. Addressing the Public Realm: Ensure that building massing does not dominate the public realm: Setbacks along the sidewalk should be open to the sky. Where overhangs create usable open space at grade, provide an adequate ceiling height—generally at least two stories—with lighting and design detail to create a welcoming space.

DC2-1-f. Stairs & Elevator Cores: Locate vertical stair and elevator cores internally to minimize height impacts to the street. Stair cores visible to the street should be designed as a prominent feature with a high degree of transparency.

DC2-2 Architectural Concept & Façade Composition

DC2-2-a. Context-Sensitive Approach: Embrace contemporary design through distinctive, elegant forms that demonstrate a context-sensitive approach to massing and facade design.

DC2-2-b. Mix Styles: Create a finely-grained mix of complementary buildings and architectural styles on a block, taking cues from established patterns such as frequent entries, the use of brick and other highly-articulated materials.

DC2-2-c. Cohesive Design: Reinforce the massing and design concept with a deliberate palette that limits the number of materials, colors, and fenestration patterns to achieve design cohesion.

DC2-2-d. Base Materials: Use brick, stone or other high-quality, durable, and non-monolithic materials as the predominant base material to reinforce a strong base massing.

DC2-2-e. Color Application: Employ a restrained and purposeful application of bold or high-contrast colors and moments of whimsy to contribute to the eclectic character of the University District, without overwhelming the streetscape.

DC2-2-f. Roof Lines: Provide architectural interest with legible roof lines or the top of the structure that is clearly distinguishable from the facade walls.

DC2-2-g. Large Masses: Avoid expanses of large panels with minimal detailing, and do not rely on the use of colored cladding alone to provide visual interest: Break down large masses or facades by 1) using quality materials that provide relief and interest through shadow lines, depth of fenestration, and detailing, and 2) delineating a base, middle, and top with architectural detailing and massing.

DC2-2-h. Detailing: Intentionally detail joints, reveals, and fasteners to articulate and reinforce the design concept.

DC2-2-i. Depth: Incorporate depth into building facades, especially those with minimal modulation and boxy massing. Integrate facade depth and shadow casting detail, including projecting elements, setbacks and expression of window reveals, to give visual richness and interest. Recessed windows of 6-8 inches are preferable to window trims or fins applied to flush windows.

DC2-3 Pedestrian-Scaled Streetscape Design

DC2-3-a. Visual Interest: Design facades to a human-scaled rhythm and proportion and avoid monotonous repetition of the storefront or module by providing points of interest every 15-30 feet. Layer a hierarchical arrangement of articulation and detailing at a variety of scales to express a high degree of quality and visual interest by including features such as articulated mullions, setbacks, patios, intricate architectural detailing, art, light fixtures, entries, planters, and window groupings.

DC2-3-b. Retaining Walls: Limit the height and use of retaining walls along streets, open spaces, and in other areas of the public realm. Use stepped terraces as a preferred solution to resolve grade differences.

DC2-4 Service & Mechanical Elements

DC2-4-a. Design Concept: Intentionally design wall venting for commercial uses and other screening for mechanical equipment on the roof or affixed to the building into the overall design concept.

DC2-4-b. Façade Design: Integrate building service elements, such as drainage pipes, grilles, screens, vents, louvres, and garage entry doors into the overall facade design, and use these features as opportunities to provide artful or unique applications.

DC2-5 Blank Walls

DC2-5-a. Materials & Expression: Finish visible walls and rooftops with quality materials or artistic expressions that reinforce the design concept, avoiding simplistic treatments of cladding with only color changes.

DC2-5-b. Visual Scale & Interest: On party walls visible from streets, provide visual scale and interest with murals or other legible artistic or architectural expressions, including joint patterns, plane changes, and/or proportions that break down the scale of large walls.

DC2-6 Tall Buildings

DC2-6-a. Response to Context: Integrate and transition to a surrounding fabric of differing heights; relate to existing visual datums, the street wall and parcel patterns. Respond to prominent nearby sites and/or sites with axial focus or distant visibility, such as waterfronts, public view corridors, street ends.

DC2-6-b. Tall Form Placement, Spacing & Orientation: Locate the tall forms to optimize the following: minimize shadow impacts on public parks, plazas and places; maximize tower spacing to adjacent structures; afford light and air to the streets, pedestrians and public realm; and minimize impacts to nearby existing and future planned occupants.

DC2-6-c. Tall Form Design: Avoid long slabs and big, unmodulated boxy forms, which cast bigger shadows and lack scale or visual interest. Consider curved, angled, shifting and/or carved yet coherent forms. Shape and orient tall floorplates based on context, nearby opportunities and design concepts, not simply to maximize internal efficiencies. Modulation should be up-sized to match the longer, taller view distances.

DC2-6-d. Intermediate Scales: To mediate the extra height/scale, add legible, multi-story intermediate scale elements: floor groupings, gaskets, off-sets, projections, sky terraces, layering, or other legible modulations to the middle of tall forms. Avoid a single repeated extrusion from building base to top.

DC2-6-e. Shape & Design All Sides: Because towers are visible from many viewpoints/distances, intentionally shape the form and design all sides (even party walls), responding to differing site patterns and context relationships. Accordingly, not all sides may have the same forms or display identical cladding.

DC2-6-f. Adjusted Base Scale: To mediate the form's added height, design a 1-3 story base scale, and/or highly legible base demarcation to transition to the ground and mark the 'street room' proportion. Tall buildings require several scale readings, and the otherwise typical single-story ground floor appears squashed by the added mass above.

DC2-6-g. Ground Floor Uses: Include identifiable primary entrances-scaled to the tall form - and provide multiple entries. Include genuinely activating uses or grade-related residences to activate all streets.

DC2-6-h. Facade Depth & Articulation: Use plane changes, depth, shadow, and texture to provide human scale and interest and to break up the larger facade areas of tall buildings, especially in the base/lower 100 feet. Compose fenestration and material dimensions to be legible and richly detailed from long distances.

DC2-6-i. Quality & 6th Elevations: Intentionally design and employ quality materials and detailing, including on all soffits, balconies, exterior ceilings and other surfaces seen from below, including lighting, vents, etc.

DC2-6-j. Transition to the Sky & Skyline Composition: Create an intentional, designed terminus to the tall form and enhance the skyline (not a simple flat 'cut-off'). Integrate all rooftop elements and uses into the overall design, including mechanical screens, maintenance equipment, amenity spaces and lighting. Applicants should design and show how the tall buildings will contribute to the overall skyline profile and variety of forms.

DC2-6-k. Architectural Presence: Consider citywide visual appearance when designing tall buildings, both as an individual structure and as a collection with other tall buildings, as these will be visible from many vantage points throughout Seattle.

DC2-6-l. Landmarks & Wayfinding: Design tall buildings with memorable massing and forms, to serve as landmarks that enhance a sense of place and contribute to wayfinding in the U District.

DC3 Open Space Concept: Integrate open space design with the building design so that they complement each other.

DC3-ABuilding-Open Space Relationship

DC3-A-1. Interior/Exterior Fit: Develop an open space concept in conjunction with the architectural concept to ensure that interior and exterior spaces relate well to each other and support the functions of the development.

DC3-BOpen Space Uses and Activities

DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs: Plan the size, uses, activities, and features of each open space to meet the needs of expected users, ensuring each space has a purpose and function.

DC3-B-2. Matching Uses to Conditions: Respond to changing environmental conditions such as seasonal and daily light and weather shifts through open space design and/or programming of open space activities.

DC3-B-3. Connections to Other Open Space: Site and design project-related open spaces to connect with, or enhance, the uses and activities of other nearby public open space where appropriate.

DC3-B-4. Multifamily Open Space: Design common and private open spaces in multifamily projects for use by all residents to encourage physical activity and social interaction.

DC3-CDesign

DC3-C-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space: Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept that other projects can build upon in the future.

DC3-C-2. Amenities/Features: Create attractive outdoor spaces suited to the uses envisioned for the project.

DC3-C-3. Support Natural Areas: Create an open space design that retains and enhances onsite natural areas and connects to natural areas that may exist off-site and may provide habitat for wildlife.

University Supplemental Guidance:

DC3-1 Open Space Organization & Site Layout

DC3-1-a. Arrangement: Design outdoor amenity areas, open space, and pedestrian pathways to be a focal point and organizing element within the development, break up large sites, and foster permeability. Arrange buildings on site to consolidate open space

areas into designed, usable shared spaces or places for large trees instead of "leftover" spaces or drive lanes.

DC3-1-b. Pedestrian Routes: Extend pedestrian routes from entry courtyards or forecourts all the way through a project site to improve pedestrian walkability.

DC3-1-c. Street Orientation: Arrange residential development, especially townhouse and rowhouses, to orient units towards the street. Where units are oriented towards internal pathways or access drives, design these shared pathways that prioritize the pedestrian experience with paving, landscaping, lighting, stoops, and human-scaled design features.

DC3-2 Residential Open Space

DC3-2-a. Private Amenity Spaces: Provide a variety of types of outdoor private amenity space instead of only locating private amenity space on rooftops. Include usable patios, terraces, and balconies; opt for usable projecting or recessed balconies instead of flush railings.

DC3-2-b. Play Areas: Design shared play areas for children with sightlines to units.

DC3-2-c. Privacy: Design courtyards to incorporate layered planting and trees that provide privacy to units surrounding the courtyard as well as users.

DC3-3 Street-level Open Space

DC3-3-a. Welcoming Design: Design open spaces at street-level to be welcoming: Semi-public spaces such as forecourts should engage the street and act as a "front porch" for residents. Minimize the use of gates, or visual and physical barriers, especially those adjacent to the street. Any necessary fences or gates should be set far back from the street to create a semi-public transitional space.

DC3-3-b. Community Interaction: Open space design and location should support lively community interaction rather than passive space within a development, as well as the larger University District community.

DC4 Exterior Elements and Finishes: Use appropriate and high quality elements and finishes for the building and its open spaces.

DC4-AExterior Elements and Finishes

DC4-A-1. Exterior Finish Materials: Building exteriors should be constructed of durable and maintainable materials that are attractive even when viewed up close. Materials that have texture, pattern, or lend themselves to a high quality of detailing are encouraged.

DC4-A-2. Climate Appropriateness: Select durable and attractive materials that will age well in Seattle's climate, taking special care to detail corners, edges, and transitions.

DC4-BSignage

DC4-B-1. Scale and Character: Add interest to the streetscape with exterior signs and attachments that are appropriate in scale and character to the project and its environs.

DC4-B-2. Coordination with Project Design: Develop a signage plan within the context of architectural and open space concepts, and coordinate the details with façade design, lighting, and other project features to complement the project as a whole, in addition to the surrounding context.

DC4-CLighting

DC4-C-1. Functions: Use lighting both to increase site safety in all locations used by pedestrians and to highlight architectural or landscape details and features such as entries, signs, canopies, plantings, and art.

DC4-C-2. Avoiding Glare: Design project lighting based upon the uses on and off site, taking care to provide illumination to serve building needs while avoiding off-site night glare and light pollution.

DC4-DTrees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials

DC4-D-1. Choice of Plant Materials: Reinforce the overall architectural and open space design concepts through the selection of landscape materials.

DC4-D-2. Hardscape Materials: Use exterior courtyards, plazas, and other hard surfaced areas as an opportunity to add color, texture, and/or pattern and enliven public areas through the use of distinctive and durable paving materials. Use permeable materials wherever possible.

DC4-D-3. Long Range Planning: Select plants that upon maturity will be of appropriate size, scale, and shape to contribute to the site as intended.

DC4-D-4. Place Making: Create a landscape design that helps define spaces with significant elements such as trees.

DC4-EProject Assembly and Lifespan

DC4-E-1. Deconstruction: When possible, design the project so that it may be deconstructed at the end of its useful lifetime, with connections and assembly techniques that will allow reuse of materials.

University Supplemental Guidance:

DC4-1 Durable, High-Quality Exterior Materials

DC4-1-a. Durable & Permanent: Use materials that provide and evoke durability and permanence: Avoid thin materials that do not age well in Seattle's climate, including those that deform or warp, weather quickly, or require paint as a finish. Use materials in locations that have a durability appropriate for an urban application, especially near grade.

DC4-1-b. Brick & Masonry: Brick or other masonry units are the preferred materials, especially for podiums and the first 30-50 feet from grade.

DC4-1-c. Texture & Complexity: Use materials with inherent texture and complexity: Limit the use of large panels or materials that require few joints, reveals, or minimal detailing. Use materials that provide purposeful transitions and reinforce the design concept and building proportions.

DC4-1-d. Technology & Innovation: Utilize emerging technology and innovative materials that inspire inventive forms, applications, and design concepts.

DC4-1-e. Sustainability: Consider the life cycle impacts of materials, and choose those that are renewable, recyclable, reusable, responsibly sourced, and have minimal impacts to human and environmental health.

DC4-2 Hardscaping & Landscaping

DC4-2-a. Placemaking: Incorporate artistic, historical, and U District-unique elements into landscape materials to define spaces and contribute to placemaking, including mosaics, wayfinding elements, reused materials, and lighting.

DC4-2-b. Fine-Grained Texture: Use hardscape materials that contribute a fine-grained texture through joint patterns, scoring, or inherent material qualities. Avoid areas with minimal texture, especially in areas with pedestrian traffic.

DC4-2-c. Delineate Uses: Use pavers and ground treatments to delineate uses, including building entries and seating areas within the public right of way.

DC4-2-d. Green Walls: Integrate purposeful green walls into the construction and design of the building and landscape to avoid appearing "tacked on" as an afterthought. To maximize plant survival and potential for success, provide permanent irrigation and choose locations with appropriate growth conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis summarized above was based on the design review packet uploaded to SDCI on October 7, 2021. After considering the site and context, considering public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the Recommendation phase of the subject design and departures are APPROVED with the following preliminary conditions:

1. Maintain the specification of the durable high quality 7/16-inch panel as the cladding material for the project as shown in the recommendation packet. (DC2, DC2-C-1, DC2-B, DC4, DC4-1-a.)
2. Maintain the glazing pattern as shown in the recommendation packet. (DC2, DC2-B-1, DC2-C DC2-2-a)
3. Provide specifications and details for exterior materials including for the exterior cladding assembly and projecting bands, balcony railings, vertical screening at entry, entry doors, and offset panels at alley. (DC2-2-h, DC2-2-i, DC2)
4. Fabricate all visible exterior service elements from high quality materials, carefully locate these elements to support the architectural concept, and design all exterior vents to be flush and color matched to the adjacent siding. (DC2-4-b)
5. Create an additional human level of scale at the entry, using a combination of signage, lighting, materials and other secondary architectural detailing. (DC2-D-1, DC2, PL3-A)
6. Design the bike storage room street facing façade to engage and activate the street frontage. (PL4-B-2, PL4-1-c)
7. Specify the location and type of exterior light fixtures at the alley to support pedestrian safety. (PL1-1-d, DC4-D-1)

ANALYSIS & DECISION – DESIGN REVIEW

Director's Analysis

The design review process prescribed in Section 23.41.016.G of the Seattle Municipal Code describing the content of the SDCI Director's administrative design review decision reads as follows:

1. A decision on an application for a permit subject to administrative design review shall be made by the Director.

2. The Director's design review decision shall be made as part of the overall Master Use Permit decision for the project. The Director's decision shall be based on the extent to which the proposed project meets the guideline priorities and in consideration of public comments on the proposed project

Subject to the preliminary conditions identified during the recommendation phase of review, the design of the proposed project was found by the SDCI Staff to adequately conform to the applicable Design Guidelines.

Staff identified elements of the Design Guidelines which are critical to the project's overall success.

SDCI staff worked with the applicant to update the submitted plans to address the preliminary design review conditions identified during the recommendation phase of review.

Applicant response to the preliminary Design Review Conditions:

1. The durable high quality 7/16-inch panel has been maintained as the cladding material for the project. This satisfies Condition #1
2. The glazing pattern as shown in the recommendation packet has been maintained. This satisfies Condition #2.
3. Basic construction details have been added to the drawing set. This response is fine for MUP decision, but results in a MUP condition to be satisfied prior to building permit issuance: Complete specifications and details for exterior materials including for the exterior cladding assembly and projecting bands, balcony railings, vertical screening at entry, entry doors, and offset panels at alley will be required prior to approval of the Building Permit application. This will satisfy Condition #3.
4. Demonstration that all visible exterior service and weathering elements will be fabricated from high quality materials and carefully located to support the architectural concept, and that all exterior vents will be flush and color matched will be required in the Building Permit application. This will satisfy Condition #4.
5. The entry condition has been revised to provide additional human level scale, including a lower canopy, lighting and landscape features. This satisfies Condition #5.
6. The street facing façade of the bike storage room has been redesigned to include glazing that will help engage and activate the street frontage. This satisfies Condition #6.
7. The location and type of exterior light fixture sat the alley have been specified and will support pedestrian safety. This satisfies Condition #7.

The applicant shall be responsible for ensuring that all construction documents, details, and specifications are shown and constructed consistent with the approved MUP drawings.

The Director of SDCI finds that the proposal is consistent with the City of Seattle Design Review Guidelines.

DIRECTOR'S DECISION

The Director CONDITIONALLY APPROVES the proposed design and the requested departures with conditions listed at the end of this document.

II. ANALYSIS – SEPA

Environmental review resulting in a Threshold Determination is required pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11, and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance (Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 25.05).

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant dated 1/20/2022 The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) has annotated the environmental checklist submitted by the project applicant; reviewed the project plans and any additional information in the project file submitted by the applicant or agents; and any pertinent comments which may have been received regarding this proposed action have been considered. The information in the checklist, the supplemental information, and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665 D) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, and certain neighborhood plans and other policies explicitly referenced may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority. The Overview Policy states in part: "*where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation*" subject to some limitations.

Under such limitations/circumstances, mitigation can be considered. Thus, a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate.

Short Term Impacts

Construction activities could result in the following adverse impacts: construction dust and storm water runoff, erosion, emissions from construction machinery and vehicles, increased particulate levels, increased noise levels, occasional disruption of adjacent vehicular and pedestrian traffic, a small increase in traffic and parking impacts due to construction related vehicles, and increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Several construction-related impacts are mitigated by existing City codes and ordinances applicable to the project such as: the Stormwater Code (SMC 22.800-808), the Grading Code (SMC 22.170), the Street Use Ordinance (SMC Title 15), the Seattle Building Code, and the Noise Control Ordinance (SMC 25.08). Puget Sound Clean Air Agency regulations require control of fugitive dust to protect air quality. The following analyzes construction-related noise, air quality/greenhouse gas, construction traffic and parking impacts, and environmental health, as well as mitigation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Construction activities including construction worker commutes, truck trips, the operation of construction equipment and machinery, and the manufacture of the construction materials themselves result in increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, no further mitigation is warranted pursuant to SMC 25.05.675.A.

Construction Impacts - Parking and Traffic

Increased trip generation is expected during the proposed demolition, grading, and construction activity. The area is subject to significant traffic congestion during peak travel times on nearby arterials. Large trucks turning onto arterial streets would be expected to further exacerbate the flow of traffic.

Additional parking demand from construction vehicles would be expected to further exacerbate the supply of on-street parking. It is the City's policy to minimize temporary adverse impacts associated with construction activities.

However, the amount of excavation and size of construction will result in a small and temporary increase in truck trips and demand for on-street parking. Any closures of the public right of way will require review and permitting by Seattle Department of Transportation. Additional mitigation is not warranted per SMC 25.05.675.B.

Construction Impacts - Noise

The project is expected to generate loud noise during demolition, grading and construction. The Seattle Noise Ordinance (SMC 25.08.425) permits increases in permissible sound levels associated with private development construction and equipment between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on weekdays and 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM on weekends and legal holidays in Neighborhood Commercial zones.

If extended construction hours are necessary due to emergency reasons or construction in the right of way, the applicant may seek approval from SDCI through a Noise Variance request. The applicant’s environmental checklist does not indicate that extended hours are anticipated.

The limitations stipulated in the Noise Ordinance are sufficient to mitigate noise impacts and no additional SEPA conditioning is necessary to mitigate noise impacts per SMC 25.05.675.B.

Environmental Health

Demolition of the existing structures has the potential to result in exposure to asbestos and lead. Should asbestos be identified on the site, it must be removed in accordance with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and City requirements. PSCAA regulations require control of fugitive dust to protect air quality and require permits for removal of asbestos during demolition. The City acknowledges PSCAA’s jurisdiction and requirements for remediation will mitigate

impacts associated with any contamination. No further mitigation under SEPA Policies 25.05.675.F is warranted for asbestos impacts.

Should lead be identified on the site, there is a potential for impacts to environmental health. Lead is a pollutant regulated by laws administered by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X), Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) among others. The EPA further authorized the Washington State Department of Commerce to administer two regulatory programs in Washington State: The Renovation, Repair and Painting Program (RRP), and the Lead-Based Paint Activities Program (Abatement). These regulations protect the public from hazards of improperly conducted lead-based paint activities and renovations. No further mitigation under SEPA Policies 25.05.675.F is warranted for lead impacts.

Long Term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal including greenhouse gas emissions; parking, increased traffic in the area. Compliance with applicable codes and ordinances is adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation of most long-term impacts and no further conditioning is warranted by SEPA policies. However, greenhouse gas, height bulk and scale, parking, transportation, and historic resources warrant further analysis.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Operational activities, primarily vehicular trips associated with the project's energy consumption, are expected to result in increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, no further mitigation is warranted pursuant to SMC 25.05.675.A.

Historic Resources

The existing structures on site are more than 50 years old. The Department of Neighborhoods reviewed the proposal for compliance with the Landmarks Preservation requirements of SMC 25.12 and indicated the structures on site are unlikely to qualify for historic landmark status (Landmarks Preservation Board letters, reference number LPB 330/22). Per the Overview policies in SMC 25.05.665.D, the existing City Codes and regulations to mitigate impacts to historic resources are presumed to be sufficient, and no further conditioning is warranted per SMC 25.05.675.H.

The project site is identified in the WISAARD (Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data) database with potential risk of encountering potential archeological artifacts, but since this designation applies broadly across large swaths of north Seattle and in the absence of any other indication of the probable presence of archaeologically significant resources on site, Section A of Director's Rule 2-98 applies.

The following conditions are warranted to mitigate impacts to potential historic resources, per SMC 25.05.675.H consistent with Section A of Director's Rule 2-98:

Prior to Issuance of Master Use Permits:

1. The owner and/or responsible parties shall provide SDCI with a statement that the contract documents for their general, excavation, and other subcontractors will include reference to regulations regarding archaeological resources (Chapters 27.34, 27.53, 27.44, 79.01, and 79.90 RCW, and Chapter 25.48 WAC as applicable) and that construction crews will be required to comply with those regulations.

During Construction:

2. If resources of potential archaeological significance are encountered during construction or excavation, the owner and/or responsible parties shall:

- Stop work immediately and notify SDCI (Planner name and phone #) and the Washington State Archaeologist at the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The procedures outlined in Appendix A of Director's Rule 2-98 for assessment and/or protection of potentially significant archeological resources shall be followed.

- Abide by all regulations pertaining to discovery and excavation of archaeological resources, including but not limited to Chapters 27.34, 27.53, 27.44, 79.01 and 79.90 RCW and Chapter 25.48 WAC, as applicable, or their successors.

Height, Bulk, and Scale

The proposal completed the design review process described in SMC 23.41. Design review considers mitigation for height, bulk and scale through modulation, articulation, landscaping, and façade treatment.

Section 25.05.675.G.2.c of the Seattle SEPA Ordinance provides the following: "The Citywide Design Guidelines (and any Council-approved, neighborhood design guidelines) are intended to mitigate the same adverse height, bulk, and scale impacts addressed in these policies. A project that is approved pursuant to the Design Review Process shall be presumed to comply with these Height, Bulk, and Scale policies. This presumption may be rebutted only by clear and convincing evidence that height, bulk and scale impacts documented through environmental review have not been adequately mitigated. Any additional mitigation imposed by the decision maker pursuant to these height, bulk, and scale policies on projects that have undergone Design Review shall comply with design guidelines applicable to the project."

The height, bulk and scale of the proposed development and relationship to nearby context have been addressed during the Design Review process. Pursuant to the Overview policies in SMC 25.05.665.D, the existing City Codes and regulations to mitigate height, bulk and scale impacts are adequate and additional mitigation is not warranted under SMC 25.05.675.G.

Parking

The proposed development includes 32 residential units with 13 off-street vehicular parking spaces. The King County Multifamily Residential Parking Calculator indicates a peak demand for 12 parking spaces for this use at this location. Peak residential demand typically occurs overnight.

The traffic and parking analysis noted that the peak parking demand for this development is 12 vehicles. The number of proposed parking spaces accommodates all of the anticipated parking demand, and no additional mitigation is warranted per SMC 25.05.675.M.

Transportation

Per the ITE Manual, midrise multifamily development in a general urban or suburban context generates approximately 0.44 trips per unit. Thus, the proposal is expected to generate approximately 14.1 peak trips per day.

The additional trips are expected to distribute on various roadways near the project site, including 11th Ave NE, NE 50th St and Roosevelt Way NE, and would have minimal impact on levels of service at nearby intersections and on the overall transportation system. The SDCI Transportation Planner reviewed the information and determined that no mitigation is warranted per SMC 25.05.675.R.

DECISION – SEPA

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

☒ Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21.030(2) (c).

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355 and Early review DNS process in SMC 25.05.355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

CONDITIONS – DESIGN REVIEW

For the Life of the Project

1. The building and landscape design shall be substantially consistent with the materials represented at the Recommendation packet and in the materials submitted after the Recommendation report, before the MUP issuance. Any change to the proposed design, including materials or colors, shall require prior approval by the Land Use Planner (Joseph Hurley / 206-684-8278 / joseph.hurley@seattle.gov).

Prior to Issuance of a Construction Permit

2. Provide complete specifications and details for exterior materials including for the exterior cladding assembly and projecting bands, balcony railings, vertical screening at entry, entry doors, and offset panels at alley.

3. Provide drawings and details demonstrating that all visible exterior service and weathering elements will be fabricated from high quality materials and carefully located to support the architectural concept, and that all exterior vents will be flush and color matched will be required in the Building Permit application.

CONDITIONS – SEPA

Prior to Issuance of Demolition, Excavation/Shoring, or Construction Permit

4. The owner and/or responsible parties shall provide SDCI with a statement that the contract documents for their general, excavation, and other subcontractors will include reference to regulations regarding archaeological resources (Chapters 27.34, 27.53, 27.44, 79.01, and 79.90 RCW, and Chapter 25.48 WAC as applicable) and that construction crews will be required to comply with those regulations.

During Construction

5. If resources of potential archaeological significance are encountered during construction or excavation, the owner and/or responsible parties shall:

    - Stop work immediately and notify SDCI (Joseph Hurley / 206-684-8278 / joseph.hurley@seattle.gov) and the Washington State Archaeologist at the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). The procedures outlined in Appendix A of Director's Rule 2-98 for assessment and/or protection of potentially significant archeological resources shall be followed.

- Abide by all regulations pertaining to discovery and excavation of archaeological resources, including but not limited to Chapters 27.34, 27.53, 27.44, 79.01 and 79.90 RCW and Chapter 25.48 WAC, as applicable, or their successors.

Joseph Hurley, Senior Land Use Planner Date: September 12, 2022
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections

JH:bg

Hurley/3036901-LU Decision