



*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board would like to express its support of the efforts that the Friends of Mount Baker Town Center have taken to create a vibrant open space in the Mount Baker town center and to connect the Cheasty and Mount Baker Boulevards. As the Mount Baker area develops, a vibrant open space is essential for people to come together and build a sense of community. Additionally, creating a functional link between the Cheasty and Mount Baker Boulevards would connect the Mount Baker town center, Jefferson Park on Beacon Hill, and the Lake Washington Parkway. While the two parks are geographically close to one another, they are separated by the high-traffic corridors of Rainier Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, which intersect at the Mount Baker town center and form a confluence of people and destinations.

The Southeast area of Seattle has historically been an underserved community, but with the introduction of light rail and the re-zoning of Mount Baker into a town center, there are new opportunities to improve the facilities available to residents and visitors. Such enhancements will prove critical as Mount Baker develops and attracts more people and traffic. With its light rail station and bus route hub, activating open space in the transit-oriented Mount Baker town center will create a place where people can gather, share diverse experiences, and generate the sense of community necessary for a healthy, vital urban environment, as has proven effective in other Seattle neighborhoods.

The intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Rainier Avenue has earned a reputation for being difficult to cross due to its design prioritizing north-south vehicular traffic over east-west pedestrian traffic. The current pedestrian bridge does not satisfy the needs of users, and students at the adjacent Franklin High School often choose to jaywalk across the busy highways. Providing a more desirable way to cross the thoroughfares will enable students, residents, and others to reach their destinations safely. The proposed connection supports the Olmsted Brothers' original vision for a citywide system of parks and parkways, and also provides an opportunity to connect the greenways being developed in the Rainier Valley and on Beacon Hill.

The proposals made by the Friends of Mount Baker Town Center support the Safety, Equity, Vibrancy, and Health goals of the Pedestrian Master Plan. The City of Seattle offers its residents a unique experience of parks and open spaces within an urban setting. These shared resources foster community by providing safe and welcoming places for individuals and families to interact with one another. In order for residents to experience the full benefit that comes with living in this city, it is essential to provide gathering spaces and to connect facilities like Jefferson Park and the Lake Washington Parkway with community centers. The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board applauds the efforts being made by the Friends of Mount Baker Town Center and looks forward to the development of this project.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) was created by the Seattle City Council in 1993 and is composed of volunteers who oversee implementation of Seattle's Pedestrian Master Plan, advise city offices on pedestrian-related issues, and promote pedestrian safety and access. SPAB supports SHB 1217 for the safety advantages that accrue to pedestrians and all other users of the road across Washington State. Although SPAB advises Seattle city government on pedestrian-related issues, this endorsement is intended only to represent the position of the board and not the government of Seattle.

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

*-City Council Resolution
28791*