



January 4th, 2017

Dear Seattle City Councilmembers,

My name is Rene' Commons and I am the Director of **The West Seattle Junction Neighborhood Organization: JuNO**. JuNO is a Seattle non-profit neighborhood group working to make the West Seattle Alaska Junction & Triangle areas a better place to live, work & play! Most of our member are like myself: community people who work full time, have a personal life and then volunteer as they can to help their community.

Our West Seattle Community is requesting a six-month extension for the HALA draft proposal to you, OCPD Director Assefa and Mayor Murray. We are actively collecting signatures for this extension. The community here is stunned at the glaring lack of engagement and guidance in the community outreach process put forth by OCPD. The timeline OCPD proposes does not allow enough time for our community to assess and respond responsibly. Our neighborhood only saw its first glimpse of the **West Seattle Alaska Junction Rezone Map HALA** proposal on 10/21/16 by way of our independent news website, The West Seattle Blog. A picture of our map was not distributed by city email to the community nor was the map included in a mailer. A progressive city like Seattle should have reached out to all it's non profit neighborhood councils and organizations to share this map. This detached approach to engage the broader community and neighborhood non-profits is a sad, blatant dismissal of good will on part of the City of Seattle to to resolve and plan good solutions that work for neighborhoods. It's a seeming attempt to purposely circumvent a working community engagement process.

JuNO – after seeing our Map – contacted Jesseca Brand to appear as guest speaker. Nicolas Welch came to speak at our request. Our community learned about the timeline and the impacts of the HALA draft proposal to our single family neighborhoods in this neighborhood facilitated meeting on 11/15/16. Later the Morgan Junction Neighborhood facilitated Jesseca Brand to attend their neighborhood meeting. The OCPD outreach meeting that came later at Shelbys and Youngstown was bewildering for those that attended. The remaining engagement time is far too short to facilitate a proper review of such sweeping proposals. The current timeframe leading up to the EIS study is insufficient. As a result, we are asking you and the City of Seattle for a six-month extension before OCPD produces the DEIS.

JuNO has invited Director Assefa to be a guest speaker at the next JuNO meeting on January 17th, 2017 to engage in a dynamic discussion of the HALA proposal and how this rezone can objectively be improved to support the policies of our neighborhood plan. **Our neighborhoods advocate affordable housing and we seek to maintain the integrity and character of existing single family areas. We also want to discuss basic infrastructure for urban villages with targeted growth. The WS Junction Urban village does not have a local train station included in the plan, nor does it have a library or community center in its walk shed.** We are a friendly group. It is a hardship for our greater community to engage and support a huge proposal such as the HALA draft without healthy dialogue with people that live in our neighborhoods. We want the City of Seattle to hear clearly what our specific and consistent recommendations are for our neighborhood - we see this outreach conducted in several meetings over a 12-week period, with a leadership team from OCPD to document our recommendations for future record to OCPD and Mayor. We want to steward good growth of this Seattle neighborhood for future generations.

On behalf of JuNO, we support OCPD to take the extra time it needs to allow our community to process this sweeping proposal and to learn what our suggestions as a community may be to improve it.

Best Regards,

Rene' Commons
WS JuNO

cc

Mayor Murray
Sam Assefa, Seattle Office of Community Planning and Development
Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim
Deputy Mayor Kate Joncas
Vanessa Murdock -Executive Director Seattle Planning Commission
WS Blog