



## Seattle Light Rail Review Panel

**Julie Bassuk**  
Design Commission, LRRP Co-Chair

**David Cutler**  
Planning Commission, LRRP Co-Chair

**Catherine Benotto**  
Planning Commission

**Shannon Loew**  
Design Commission

**Seth Geiser**  
Design Commission

**Kurt Kiefer**  
Public Art Advisory Committee

**Brad Khouri**  
Planning Commission

**Laurel Kunkler**  
Design Commission

**Perri Howard**  
Public Art Advisory Committee

**Kevin McDonald**  
Planning Commission

**Tom Nelson**  
Design Commission

**Julie Parrett**  
Design Commission/  
Public Art Advisory Committee

**Osama Quotah**  
Design Commission

**Ellen Sollod**  
Design Commission/  
Public Art Advisory Committee

**Debbie Harris**  
Design Commission

**Valerie Kinast**  
Coordinator

**December 20, 2012**

Convened 11:00 am  
Adjourned 12:30 pm

### Project Reviewed

Northgate Light Rail Station

### Panel Members Present

Julie Bassuk, Chair  
David Cutler  
Julie Parrett  
Shannon Loew  
Tom Nelson  
Catherine Benotto  
Kurt Kiefer  
Ellen Sollod  
Debbie Harris  
Brad Khouri  
Kevin McDonald  
Perri Howard

### Excused Panel Members

Seth Geiser  
Laurel Kunkler

### Staff Present

Valerie Kinast  
Tom Iurino

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<b>December 20, 2012</b>	<b>Project:</b>	<b>Northgate Light Rail Station Guideway</b>
	<b>Phase:</b>	60% Design
	<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	Nov 1, 2012; Nov 3, 2011
	<b>Presenters:</b>	Ron Endlich, Sound Transit David Hewitt, Hewitt Andrew Engel, Hewitt Barb Swift, Swift and Company Tanja Wilcox, JA Brennan Associates
	<b>Attendees:</b>	Debora Ashland, Sound Transit Fred Wilhelm, Sound Transit Michael James, SDOT Dean Withers, Hewitt Bob Nichols, Sound Transit Erik Finley, Sound Transit Gordon Clowers, DPD

**Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm**

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### **Recusals**

Panel member Quotah.

### **Disclosures**

Panel member Kiefer's firm is working on a small database application for the Sound Transit Art Program. His firm has presented the appropriate disclosure forms to the Ethics Commission.

Panel members Nelson and Benotto are working with King County on a TOD project.

Panel member McDonald is working with Sound Transit on its east alignment and station planning.

### **Summary of Project Presentation**

The guideway project is a component of Sound Transit's Northgate Light Rail Station, which was reviewed by the Light Rail Review Panel on 11-1-2012 at 60% design. This review is of a revised 60% design of the guideway, not the station or station plaza which will return for review by the panel at a later date.

The guideway connects to the elevated Northgate Station, which will be located east of 1st Avenue NE, spanning NE 103rd Street. Station entrances will be on the Northgate Mall property north of NE 103rd Street and south of NE 103rd Street near the Northgate Transit Center. This station would provide access to the Northgate Mall, bus transfers at the transit center, adjacent park-and-ride facilities, North Seattle Community College and surrounding Northgate residences and businesses. The station is being designed to be compatible with the extension of light rail north to Lynnwood. The station is elevated 25-45 feet above ground. There are two station entrances, one at the north and one at the south: elevators, escalators and stairs will be provided at each entrance. Construction of

the Northgate Station and elevated tracks will begin in 2016, and construction of the tunnel portal and tunneling to Roosevelt Station will start the end of 2013 and last through the end of 2017.

The guideway is a mile and a half section of elevated tracks that runs north from the tunnel portal at NE 94th St to the station just south of NE 103<sup>rd</sup> St. The guideway runs at-grade out of the tunnel portal within the WSDOT right-of-way until it rises and veers east toward the elevated station, crossing 1st Ave NE south of NE 100th St. The design of the guideway and station accommodates a 10' cycle track along 1st Ave NE. The cycle track is being designed by SDOT and is planned to run along the west side of 1st Ave NE from NE 92nd St to NE 103rd St., then cross to the east side and continue as a multi-use track toward the north. The guideway, when it is at-grade, screens the operations facility by approximately 80%. The entire guideway includes sound walls and an acoustical barrier along both sides of the track. The wall lies along the east side of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N. and is composed of three elements: a gabion wall with 4" basalt rock about 8-16' high; metal screens with colorful acrylic panels set in a pattern; and a concrete acoustical wall textured with a vertical rope and horizontal smooth ribbed pattern. The landscaping covers numerous properties and progresses through a full spectrum of hydrological conditions.

### **ACTION (by Bassuk)**

**The Light Rail Review Panel thanked Sound Transit and its design team for its presentation of the 60% design of the guideway for the Northgate Light Rail Station. The panel was pleased with the evolution of the design and how it was explained. The rationale and choice of elements were commended, particularly the panel through the gabion walls and the use of the green screen at the north end of the guideway.**

**By a vote of 10-0, the panel approved the 60% design of the guideway for the Northgate Light Rail Station with the following comments. Note: The 60% design of the Station will be reviewed at a later date.**

#### **Overall**

- **Continue coordination with SDOT regarding the cycle track. Provide a buffer in tight areas.**
- **Connect disparate components along the corridor with a uniting thread. Be more intentional about the design of the wall pattern and wall steps for the whole corridor. Consider using the landscape strategy to tie the area and different elements together.**
- **Study and consider a wall rhythm pattern that is vertical in orientation rather than horizontal.**
- **Consider a concrete cap atop gabion wall as it could further carry the design concept. Consider the metal material and color and how they could influence choices for the cap.**
- **Treat with a pattern both the west and east sides of the interior walls that border the tracks.**
- **Choose the color of the metal screens in conjunction with the artist's work at the station.**
- **Further develop the screen idea so that it does not collect trash and require a lot of maintenance.**
- **Ask WSDOT to develop a better solution for the fence; use a different material or reduce the size of it.**