



TACOMA

**1900 Commerce Street
Box 358431
Tacoma, WA 98402-3100**

June 18, 2008

Memo

To: **Brodie Bain**

From: Milt Tremblay
Director of Facilities and Campus Services
(253) 692-4754, milt@u.washington.edu

Re: New Tacoma Council Planning Group

This morning I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the New Tacoma Councils' planning committee. In attendance were Marty Campbell (Also of Downtown Merchants' Group), Katie Rose, and Brett Santhuff (of Belay Architecture). They provided the following comments on our alternatives:

Brent:

- He would like to see us keep the Whitney Building in order to retain some historical context west of Market.
- He was interested in seeing, at some point, our development phasing (5yr/10yr) to provide a sense of how we would build-out the site.
- He spent a lot of time on discussing Tacoma Avenue and its role as a green corridor linking neighborhoods with some grand, monumental trees retained or planted. He mentioned that there is an existing large tree around 19th and Tacoma that we should consider keeping.

Marty:

- Market Street should have a certain amount of traffic on it. It can serve as a transit service corridor but should not have so many stops that it doesn't flow. Slow and steady traffic is better than stop and go. This can be assisted by planning vehicle turn offs for drop offs and careful planning of streetlights and crosswalks.
- University should look into ways to protect area due west of the footprint for possible expansion. He stated that it is currently being bought by developers and is being turned into low-income housing which, because of it's funding, may commit the property to this use for an extensive period of time (30 years plus).
- It's great that we are maintaining north-south transportation link. The closing of 19th is OK but we should look at how people move east-west.

- Would like to see more parking. Especially in light of our many “non-traditional” students who, because of family obligations, may not be able to use public transportation.
- Would like to see retail identified to the south of 19th on the west side of Jefferson.
- Concerned about intersection at 17th and Pacific. (Tollefson Plaza)

Katie:

- Questioned whether or not the 12% number for student housing is adequate. Would like to see more student housing to bring vibrancy to the area.
- Liked the openness and sightlines of Alternate 2 but expressed concern that those of Japanese heritage may prefer a more contemplative setting for the JLS memorial.

All:

- Were positive about these alternatives and would welcome a presentation to the New Tacoma Council at either their July 9th or August 13th Meetings. (Note: I will be on leave on August 13th so July 9th is my preferred if it works for Mithun staff.)