

Meeting Summary: Live Online Final Design Presentation and Q&A October 10, 2024

The Elliott Bay Connections (EBC) project team hosted [a live online presentation and Q&A](#) on October 10, 2024, to share the final project design with the community and answer questions. There were 77 attendees, not including the panelists. Below are the questions received at this meeting, organized by theme.

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Community Engagement

How can I watch the entire October 10th presentation?

The full recording of the October 10 live online presentation is available on the [EBC website](#) at elliottbayconnections.org, along with a [PDF of the presentation slides](#). During this event, the EBC project team discussed the final design of the project, highlighted how community feedback was reflected and outlined ways to stay informed as the project moves into the construction phase.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Greenway Trail

Will existing trees along the greenway trail be removed? If so, will they be replaced with smaller trees and shrubs so as not to impede resident and hotel views?

The EBC team is working with the City of Seattle Urban Forestry group to identify opportunities to add trees, develop a plan to improve available growing conditions and replace trees that may need to be removed. This approach aligns with community requests for a more resilient tree selection. The EBC project team is also in direct coordination with representatives from the residences and businesses in this area to address planting-related concerns.

What considerations are being taken with the additional light poles to preserve resident privacy and views?

The EBC project team is carefully assessing the new lighting fixtures, taking into account appropriate spacing and minimizing upward glare. The purpose of these additional fixtures is to light the greenway trail and not the surrounding areas.

What will the greenway trail look like across from Pier 70?

The segment of the greenway trail across from Pier 70, between Clay and Broad streets, will continue to be a green median that supports BNSF operations, with enhanced landscaping and new safety fencing. At Clay St, the greenway trail will feature new signs, markings and landscape features to guide pedestrians and bicyclists to and from the sidewalk and protected bike lane being constructed on the west side of Alaskan Way by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) as part of the [Alaskan Way Safety Project](#).

Elliott Bay Connections

Alaskan Way north of the Aquarium is not very busy, as traffic has been redirected to Western Avenue and Elliott Way. Are additional bike lanes necessary in this area? Couldn't bicyclists use the existing roadway?

The EBC project is a safe, green passage for people of all ages and abilities. The new greenway trail will complement SDOT's Alaskan Way Safety Project, a protected bike lane providing bicyclists with a direct route to get where they are going safely.

Are you adding any traffic calming elements on Alaskan Way, such as speed bumps, to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists?

The EBC project will replace the space currently occupied by the obsolete trolley tracks on the east side of Alaskan Way and make improvements to the existing pedestrian spaces on the east side of Alaskan Way. For information on roadway safety improvements being carried out by SDOT as part of the Alaskan Way Safety Project, please visit the [Alaskan Way Safety Project website](#).

Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Park Improvements

Currently, the north end of the park has quite a few places with minimal foot traffic where locals can relax along the water in peace and quiet. Will you intentionally keep some areas undeveloped, or will everything now be developed for busier traffic as it is by the Pike Place Market piers?

The EBC project design aims to preserve the serenity of Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks while improving trail surfaces and adding amenities for current and new park users. The project design intentionally maintains large areas of the parks as peaceful, natural spaces, just as they are today.

Why are you not adding a dog park?

The EBC team loves dogs and has incorporated dog-friendly features, such as dog drinking fountains, into the design of the Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks improvements and greenway trail. However, the City of Seattle's Shoreline Code does not permit the establishment of dog parks in Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks.

Will you incorporate braille into the new and updated signs?

The EBC team is exploring best practices for accessibility in all improvements to Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks.

Environment and Habitat

How is the overall design addressing rising sea levels now and in the future?

The design team has conducted a project-specific coastal analysis, including a sea level rise projection analysis. Some of the measures being explored include raising the grade in low-lying areas to prevent flooding during storms, adding native plants along the shoreline and improving shoreline paths and drainage to prevent erosion.

The noise of the railroad tracks detracts from the area's natural beauty, is anything being done to lessen its impact? Could the train bells be replaced with a voice, like in Edmonds?

The EBC design lessens the impact of the railroad tracks on the Parks' environment by adding more trees and shrubs along the railroad fence line, but it will not impact freight rail safety equipment or operations.

Restrooms and Concession

Who will operate the concessions? Will it be privately or publicly managed?

What will the hours of operation be?

The concession will be managed by the Port of Seattle. Plans for the concession opportunity and operations will be announced in the future.

Is there a possibility of adding a second public restroom further south, along the greenway trail or on Alaskan Way?

Adding a public restroom along the greenway trail is not feasible due to this area's lack of suitable space. Just south of the greenway trail along Alaskan Way near the Seattle Aquarium, [the Office of the Waterfront & Civic Projects](#) is adding a new public restroom. There is also an existing public restroom just north of the future greenway trail in the Olympic Sculpture Park PACCAR Pavilion.

Was there a noise assessment conducted for the location of the concession stand? The grain elevator nearby can be noisy.

The EBC team reviewed noise monitoring data before selecting the site for the amenities building.

Safety

What provisions will be included to keep rental scooters separate from pathways where people are walking?

New signs and markings will be installed to clearly indicate which trails are designated for bicyclists and people on scooters and which paths are for pedestrians.

Maintenance and Operations

Who will be responsible for maintenance once construction is completed? Is there an ongoing maintenance budget?

The donors to the EBC project have pledged support for operations and maintenance for the first decade after completion. Establishing the operational sustainability of these parks in collaboration with public agency partners was an essential part of the design process for the EBC project team.

With the addition of concession service, will there be an increase in trash servicing throughout the park?

Additional trash cans are part of the EBC project's planned improvements.

Is there any way to eliminate the graffiti "art"?

As with many public spaces throughout the city, areas along the future greenway trail and within Myrtle Edwards and Centennial Parks occasionally experience issues with graffiti. Please report graffiti to Seattle Public Utilities' [Graffiti Prevention and Removal Department](#). Reports can be made through the [Find It, Fix It mobile app](#) or by calling the city's graffiti report line at 206-684-7587. More information on reporting graffiti is available on [the City of Seattle website](#).

Will community members be invited to help plant or maintain some of the new spaces?

As part of operations and maintenance planning, the EBC project team is exploring potential opportunities for volunteer participation.

Construction

How will you minimize impacts on cruise season during greenway trail construction?

The EBC team is working closely with the Port of Seattle to minimize impacts on cruise operations, including scheduling construction of the greenway trail in stages.

Will the planters at Vine St and Alaskan Way be relocated?

The EBC contractor will temporarily move the barrel planters to install improvements. During construction, the plants will be cared for. When construction is complete, the planters will be returned to the location at the original intersection that best provides for pedestrian movements and vehicle sightlines.

Elliott Bay Fishing Pier

Is the restoration of the existing fishing pier at Pier 86 still part of the proposed park improvements?

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently designing the replacement of the Elliott Bay Fishing Pier and seeking up to \$20M from the State of Washington to fund the replacement in coordination with the Port of Seattle. The EBC project team will continue to collaborate with them as the design advances.

Will the fishing concessions by the fishing pier reopen?

The existing concession and restroom buildings in Centennial Park have been closed for several years and will not reopen. The EBC project is designing a new concessions and restroom building located just south of the current location, near the grain terminal. The new building will open with the rest of the project in Summer 2026, ahead of Seattle hosting the FIFA Men's World Cup.

Where can I find more information about the refurbishment of the existing fishing pier?

Please contact the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) for more information about the future of the Elliott Bay Fishing Pier at Centennial Park.