

Mason County Transit Community Center

Community Kick-Off Meeting

Shelton Armory, July 30, 2008

Approximately 30 community members participated in the kick-off meeting for the Mason County Transit Community Center design project.

The Design Team (Foster & Williams Architects, Clinkston Brunner Architects and FLT Consulting) gave a presentation (please use link on Community Transit page for viewing), describing the process for developing the design and funding plan for the new Transit Community Center.

Representative Kathy Haigh (Dist. 35), Mason County Transportation Authority General Manager Dave O'Connell, SOCK Executive Director Sue Sheldon, and Mason County Commissioners Lynda Ring-Erickson and Ross Gallagher each spoke to the group about their visions for the project. The rest of the group also participated in a facilitated discussion about their perspectives on the project. Following is a summary of the visions shared by meeting participants:

Major themes

- **Shape the Future:** This is one of the most important things done in this community and should be something that will make Mason County residents proud for many years to come.
- **Safety:** Safety for youth and others needs to be addressed.
- **Trans-generational:** The center should serve all generations of community members, with integrated intergenerational activities.
- **Integrated:** The development of this facility should be coordinated with the development of downtown Shelton, taking a holistic look at building the city center and not duplicating county-wide efforts for kids and families.
- **Accessible:** It should be accessible to all physical abilities, all incomes, and all ages, and it should feel open and welcoming.
- **Local:** It should feel like Mason County – not somewhere else.
- **Entrepreneurial:** It is ok to build in some ways to collect revenue to pay for itself.

Desired look and feel of the site

- Natural light
- Versatile
- Open
- Airy
- Active
- Integrate into community with a small town feel inside and out
- Durable
- Comfortable
- Visual connection across rooms

Desired features and services

- Place to stay out of the rain while waiting for bus
- Safe place to gather
- Continued/improved access to computers/internet services, including another entrance to avoid crossing the gym
- Integrate elder population into activities – make center intergenerational
- Work with city to coordinate plans – structure pedestrian-friendly routes, making sidewalks and transit routes more attractive
- Make sure routes and building are accessible for people with disabilities
- Keep center open for everyone
- Accessible to everyone regardless of income
- Welcoming for all, including Hispanic population and people with higher incomes
- Programs designed to be inviting – exciting to come to the center and bring kids
- Aim for high environmental standards
- Accessible physically – work with city to make accessible in light of transit activity, considering frontage, street and relationship to neighboring businesses
- Include a coffee shop or other enterprise run by teens
- Include multiple entrances but address safety issues that come with more than one entrance
- Keep gym, kitchen and computer room
- Soundproof the gym
- Address safety issues by:
 - Having a community policing office on site
 - Having more evening activities that draw more people
 - Making Franklin more walkable
 - Creating a large room with smaller rooms inside