

University Green Stormwater Infrastructure project public outreach, alternatives analysis phase

In September and October 2018, King County conducted public outreach to share information about the project and request input on community values around green stormwater infrastructure benefits and challenges, and the balance of benefits and costs the project will consider when choosing how and where to install GSI in the area.

Respondents were asked to share feedback on their priorities in a survey for a variety of benefits and challenges factored by the County in the definition of alternatives. This feedback is currently informing the definition and selection of a preferred alternative, which the County plans to share with the community in early 2019.

Outreach snapshot

A media release and a flier mailed to residents, property owners, and businesses in the Project Study Area encouraged them to visit an online open house or attend an open house in their neighborhood to learn about the project and respond to a priorities questionnaire. Outreach events included three weekday evening drop-in sessions and one all-day Saturday drop-in open house at convenient neighborhood locations within the Project Study Area. In addition, social media notifications were posted by partnering community organizations.

Survey responses – an overview

Survey comment period: Sept. 24-Oct. 9, 2018

This overview reflects 123 responses, and includes both quantitative survey questions, as well as related observations from open-ended responses. Scroll down for a more detailed breakdown of responses.

-  Respondents were **split** on whether they thought **parking, parking access, and traffic changes** were important (**51%**) or not important (**49%**).
-  Respondents were **most enthusiastic** about **traffic calming and safety improvements**, with **66%** of respondents identifying this category as very important. Participants also cited a preference toward designs that promote pedestrian walkability and bike safety.
-  Respondents indicated **adding green space and educational opportunities** through green stormwater infrastructure installations as **very important (51%) or as somewhat important (28%)**. Respondents also noted designs should consider ecological benefits and be aesthetically pleasing. Some respondents indicated a preference for prioritizing improvements to existing infrastructure (i.e., curbs and sidewalks).

-  Most respondents noted **collaborating with other agencies and community organizations** is **very important (55%) or somewhat important (34%)**.
-  Most respondents (**76%**) indicated that they prefer King County **reduce the complexity of operations and maintenance** of the green stormwater infrastructure installations. Responses included understanding and appreciation to learn that King County will maintain the installations.
-  **58%** of respondents noted King County should somewhat or strongly focus more on **additional community and environmental benefits** than on costs savings. **28%** of respondents wanted a focus on cost savings and **14%** had no opinion or were neutral on the topic.

Comment themes

Respondents were given the opportunity to identify additional priorities not represented by the proposed criteria and/or provide additional comments. The following themes emerged from this open-ended feedback:

- Agency coordination (i.e., between City of Seattle and WSDOT)
- Assess life-cycle cost/benefits of green stormwater infrastructure
- Congestion
- Construction impacts (environmental impact)
- Design (ecological benefits; aesthetics; existing trees/landscaping; infrastructure improvements)
- Funding sources for project
- Incentives/rebates for green stormwater infrastructure
- Maintenance of green stormwater infrastructure after installed
- Prioritize bike-ability
- Prioritize parking
- Prioritize traffic calming
- Prioritize walkability
- Prioritize water quality
- Expedite schedule of construction
- Prioritize green stormwater infrastructure over parking/cars

Detailed breakdown of survey responses:

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important	No opinion	Responses
 Minimize the loss of parking, parking access, and traffic changes when designing and constructing green stormwater infrastructure	30.1%	21.1%	23.6%	25.2%	0%	123
 Consider green stormwater infrastructure and locations that provide traffic calming and safety improvements for people of all ages including walkers, bikers, and drivers	66.4%	16.8%	9.6%	7.2%	0%	125
 Focus on adding green space and/or educational opportunities especially in areas where the community's needs are greatest	51.2%	28.0%	13.6%	5.6%	1.6%	125
 Work with other agencies and community groups that may be doing projects in the same areas to save money, reduce community impacts (e.g., not doing any more road work than needed), and provide multiple benefits to the community	54.9%	33.6%	9.0%	2.5%	0%	122
 Reduce complexity of King County's operations and tree/plant maintenance requirements	28.5%	47.2%	12.2%	8.1%	4.1%	123

	Strongly focus on cost savings	Somewhat focus on cost savings	No opinion or neutral	Somewhat focus on benefits	Strongly focus on benefits	Responses
 If King County had to choose between cost savings and these additional benefits , which would you have them choose?	10.6%	17.9%	13.8%	30.9%	26.8%	123

Alternative formats available

206-477-5371 TTY relay: 711