1.1 WATERFRONT SEATTLE

Over the past few years, the City of Seattle has been actively re-imagining the future of its Central Waterfront. The imminent replacement of the Elliott Bay Seawall and removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct now present a tremendous opportunity to turn visions into reality and create a vibrant public realm that will reconnect the city and its people to their waterfront. With a new surface street, improved East-West connections and enhanced access to the waterfront, the vision for Seattle’s Central Waterfront will extend into the heart of the city and claim a new and authentic front porch on Elliott Bay.

This Schematic Design document draws on the vision outlined for Waterfront Seattle in the July 2012 Planning and Design Document and specifically on the concepts described in Book 3: Concept Design which focuses on the initial “core project” area of Waterfront Seattle.

This is not a legal or binding document, but a summary of the Schematic Design work put forth during the Schematic Design phase of the Central Waterfront Project.
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles were created by a group of citizens working with the city and adopted by the City Council (Resolution #31264), to capture the key civic goals and objectives that should shape the creation of new public spaces on the Central Waterfront project. They expand on established principles from existing city policies and civic efforts.

1. Create a Waterfront for all.
The Waterfront should engage the entire city. It should be a place for locals and visitors alike – a place where everything comes together and co-mingles effortlessly.

2. Put the shoreline and innovative, sustainable design at the forefront.
The Waterfront will bring people to the water’s edge to experience the water and ecology of Elliott Bay. It will improve shoreline ecology while preserving and enhancing maritime activities, and will reflect Seattle’s commitment to sustainability and innovation.

3. Reconnect the city to its Waterfront.
The waterfront should provide a front porch to the downtown neighborhoods and the City. It will build a network of public spaces that connect the waterfront to important destinations, nearby neighborhoods, the city and region.

4. Embrace and celebrate Seattle’s past, present and future.
The Waterfront is a lens through which to understand Seattle – from its natural history and early Native American settlements, to the rich variety of maritime, industrial, commercial and recreational activities today. The Waterfront should tell these stories in ways that are authentic and bring them to life.

5. Improve access and mobility.
The Waterfront is and remains a crossroads. The future waterfront should accommodate safe, comfortable and efficient travel by pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles and freight.

6. Create a bold vision that is adaptable over time.
The vision for the Waterfront should clearly define how the waterfront will take shape and the essential character of key elements. At the same time, the vision must be flexible to adapt over time.

7. Develop consistent leadership– from concept to construction to operations.
It is necessary to have strong leadership tasked with realizing the Waterfront vision. This leadership needs to ensure design excellence and root the process in a broad and transparent civic engagement.

Schematic Design
SCHEMATIC DESIGN

The July 2012 Concept Design document defines the Core Project Area as the first section moving forward into Schematic Design. The design of the Main Corridor described in this volume involved the coordination of several disciplines and offers an integrated approach to Schematic Design.

The Schematic Design Deliverable includes:
- A set of Technical Drawings at 1”= 20’-0”
- A Basis of Design Technical Report

Together, the documents listed above provide a complete picture of the Core Project Area at this time, and must be understood in concert with one another.

The complete Schematic Design Report will include several volumes, each focusing on a specific part of the Core Project Area:
- Book 1: Schematic Design: Railroad Way
- Book 2: Schematic Design: Main Corridor
- Book 3: Schematic Design: Public Piers
- Book 4: Schematic Design: Union Street
- Book 5: Schematic Design: Overlook Walk
- Book 6: Schematic Design: East West Streets

This is Book 2: Main Corridor.

Related design documents are developed in parallel with the above Schematic Design Report. Those include:
- Pier 54-59 Vehicle and Pedestrian/Bicycle data
- Waterfront Transit Report
- Public Space Program
- GSI Guidelines
- Lighting Master Plan
- Wayfinding Master Plan
- Engineering Basis of Design Document
- Preliminary Cost Estimate