



Aubrey,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the recent Laurelhurst Community Club (LCC) press release.

While we cannot comment on the appeal itself, since it is now a pending legal matter, we would like to address some of the broader information set forth by the LCC in your blog post yesterday. Hopefully this information is helpful to your readers.

While we appreciate the LCC's concerns, we are puzzled by their claims that we "just won't compromise" when in fact, we have carefully listened and responded to the LCC's concerns. We have collaborated with neighbors in all of the communities surrounding the hospital (including Laurelhurst), the Citizens Advisory Committee and the City of Seattle to propose a solution that meets our growth needs over the next 20 years and helps alleviate some of the impact of our proposed expansion.

Some of the areas where we have listened and adjusted our growth plan include:

Relocated Services and Facilities

- Where feasible, we relocated building facilities off-campus so needed inpatient bed growth could happen on our campus. We moved research facilities to the Research Institute in downtown Seattle and are building new outpatient facilities in Bellevue (expected to open in 2010), Everett and South King County.

Lowered Future Heights

- We significantly lowered the height of our proposed new buildings from 240 to 140 feet and made plans to purchase the Laurelon Terrace property to allow us to shift those buildings downhill from the original site. This also helps maintain existing views for neighbors near the hospital.

Removed Proposed Future Neighborhood Street Entrances to the Hospital

- We reconfigured future entrances to the hospital so they focus only on Sand Point Way, rather than impacting additional neighborhood streets.

Increased Our Commitment to Reducing New Traffic and Single Occupancy Vehicle Commutes

- We have proposed shifting even more employees and visitors from single-occupancy vehicles to bicycling, walking, shuttle and transit to help off-set future traffic. Already more than 60 percent of our employees arrive to work in something other than a single occupancy vehicle – but we're committed to increasing this even higher.
- In addition, we are including substantial investment in transportation infrastructure improvements that help reduce future delay and travel through key intersections, provide revenue for capital projects in Northeast Seattle and link our campus to regional transit systems through a dedicated shuttle-to-transit system. We are also investing in projects that will make Northeast Seattle more "walkable and bikeable."

Utilized Green Spaces to Reduce Visual Impact of New Growth

- Our future growth plans maximize green spaces to help ensure the hospital melds with the existing look and feel of surrounding neighborhoods. For example, the garden edge surrounding the campus will minimize the visual presence of the hospital while maintaining the quality of the existing landscape screen along the south, east and north edges of campus.
- Plazas, street frontages and roof gardens will be added and improved and a pedestrian connection between Sand Point Way NE to the Burke-Gilman Trail will be improved near the hospital.

The Laurelhurst Community Club has been an active participant in our growth plans at every step of the way and many of these changes reflect their ideas and concerns, which we value and have demonstrated by making adjustments.

Finally, our growth is based on the projected needs of children, referring physicians and referring hospitals in our region. Simply put, we are growing as a means to address the stark reality that we are currently at capacity and must grow to continue to serve the children of Seattle, Washington State and beyond.

Sincerely,
Lisa Brandenburg
Chief Administrative Officer
Seattle Children's