

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Fifth Ave. NE Art Installment – Cloud Chamber Pole

2. Name of applicant:

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Ron Scharf
Seattle Department of Transportation
PO Box 34996
Seattle, Washington 98124-4996
206-684-5192

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 29, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Seattle Department of Transportation

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The project will not have phases and is expected to take two days to install. The installation is scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected to this proposal? If yes, explain:

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

None.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:

There are no known pending applications for other proposals affecting the project area.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:

None needed.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.):

This project is to install a piece of art at the intersection of 5th Ave NE and Ne 112th Street. This project is part of the larger Northgate Area Urban Redevelopment Plan and the streetscape improvements for the northern “gateway” entrance to the 5th Ave NE streetscape.

The art is proposed to be installed on a small concrete footing. The artwork will consist of a tall pole (33 feet high); at 30 feet there is an arm that is counter-balanced to protrude over the median 17 feet in one direction and 4 feet in the other. The sculpture is made out of metal and will have small LED light attachments.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist:

The art will be inside the street right-of-way at the intersection of 5th Ave NE and NE 112th St in the northwest corner. The project is located in the Northgate neighborhood on the northeast side of Seattle, WA. The project area is within Township 26, Range 4 and Section 29. A vicinity map (Figure 1) is attached.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH

- a. General description of the site (circle one):

Flat

Rolling

Steep Slopes

Mountainous

Other: Sloping

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The project area is flat.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland:

The area is classified as having Vashon Till. This soil type is characterized by being compact with silt, sand and well-rounded gravel. The Vashon Till was glacially transported and deposited under ice. It commonly has sand lenses.

This information comes from The Geologic Map of Seattle – A Progress Report 2005 (Troost, K.G., Booth, D.B., Wisher, A.P., and Shimel, S.A., 2005).

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe:

There are no surface indications of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity of the project area.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill:**

There is no fill associated with the project. The art will be placed on a concrete foundation.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe:**

The artwork will be installed on a concrete foundation. Soil disturbance is not expected and if it does occur would have a minimal chance of erosion.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

The foundation for the art will be up to 8 feet by 8 feet.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:**

Erosion is not expected to occur during the art installment because the median is bounded by curbs that will contain the water and soil. There will be some disturbance of soil during the installation of the foundation for the art; best management practices (BMPs) will be in place to reduce and control any erosion that may occur.

2. AIR

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known:**

Emissions during construction would include a minimal amount of exhaust (carbon monoxide, sulfur, and particulate matter) from construction and installation equipment.

No analysis is available to describe the impacts on greenhouse gas emissions for the completed project.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe:**

There are no known off-site sources of emissions or odor that would affect this proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

Emissions are very limited and no special measures will be taken to control them.

3. WATER

- a. Surface**

- i. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into:**

The nearest water body is Thornton Creek (approximately 1000 feet away). This creek eventually flows into Lake Washington.

- ii. Will project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans:**

This project will not be within 200' feet of any recognized waterbody.

- iii. **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material:**

There are no fill or dredge materials associated with this project.

- iv. **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known:**

The proposed project would not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- v. **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan:**

The proposed project is not located within a 100-year floodplain.

- vi. **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge:**

The project will not produce or discharge waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- i. **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No groundwater will be withdrawn as part of the proposed project. No water will be discharged to groundwater as part of the proposed project.

- ii. **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

No waste material will be discharged into the ground from the proposed project.

c. Water runoff (including storm water):

- i. **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

The sculpture has a very small foundation with impervious surface. Runoff collected on this will evaporate or flow onto the surrounding landscaping.

- ii. **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

The art will be ready for installation and no waste materials are associated with it that could impact the ground or surface water.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground and runoff water impacts, if any:

No impacts are anticipated for this project.

4. PLANTS

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- Deciduous Tree
- Evergreen Tree
- ✓ Shrubs
- ✓ Grass
- Pasture
- Crop or Grain
- Wet Soil Plants
- Water Plants
- Other

The art will be located near a park. The park will be planted with trees and shrubs.

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

No large vegetation removal is planned for this project.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are no threatened or endangered plants known to be on the project site. The project site is urban and surrounded by roads with heavy traffic.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

No changes are proposed for the landscaped areas of the project. If any of the landscaped areas are disturbed during construction, they will be restored to their current condition.

5. ANIMALS

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

- ✓ Birds
- ✓ Mammals
- Fish

Birds include: crows, pigeons, doves, starlings, house sparrows, sea gulls and other common urban species. Mammals may include species commonly associated with the urban environment such as raccoons, squirrels and rats.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None. The project area is located on a median in the center of a busy street and provides very little habitat. As a result, listed threatened and endangered wildlife species are unlikely to occur in the project area. There are no surface water bodies on-site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project is within a principal route of the North American Pacific Flyway. However, this project does not alter or remove any habitat that would that would affect migrating birds.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The project would not materially affect wildlife and therefore, the project will not include special measures to preserve or enhance wildlife.

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The art installment will have LED lights installed as part of this project. There will be 10 fixtures (4 watts each). The lights are on from dusk to dawn, and will be triggered by a photo-sensor on the top of the pole. The hours of use will vary throughout the year— longer in the winter, shorter in the summer. Seattle has approximately 4,295 dark hours per year, during which the lights will be on.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

The project does not involve building structures or planting vegetation that would block access to the sun for adjacent properties.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal?

List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The light bulbs are small and require less energy than conventional bulbs.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal?

If so, describe.

No potentially hazardous materials are associated with the installation of this project.

i. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Emergency fire or medical services could be required during installation of the project.

ii. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

No measures have been identified.

b. Noise

i. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Noise that exists in the area is predominantly from vehicular traffic and perhaps from children playing in the park when it is completed; there are no sources of noise that will affect the project.

ii. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

On a short term basis, there may be noise associated with the machinery installing the sculpture; however, there are no long-term noise impacts.

iii. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

SMC 25.08.425, which prescribes limits to noise and construction activities, will be fully enforced while the sculpture is installed.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

There is currently no official use of the right-of-way in the location of the artwork.

The adjacent properties:

- To the north of the project is a park (Northgate Urban Center Park) currently under construction;
- To the east and south of the project is a retirement home complex: the Northgate Plaza Retirement Homes
- South of the project is a large department store (Target) and a pharmacy.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Early records indicate that the area was used for farming from 1936 to around 1946. Aerial photos show that the Northgate Mall was under construction in 1949 (it opened in 1951). All of the agricultural uses of the surrounding area disappeared by 1960.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The project will be installed in the right-of-way on an existing foundation.

d. Will any structure be demolished? If so, what?

No existing structures will be demolished as part of the proposed project.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The project is in right-of-way and is only available for street use projects.

The surrounding area is currently zoned as MR, NC3-65 - Residential Multifamily mid-rise and neighborhood commercial 3.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The project is in an area zoned as commercial/mixed use. This designation is from the Future Land Use Map in the current City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan, *Toward a Sustainable Seattle* (2005).

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No environmentally critical areas.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No people will reside or work in the completed project.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

No people will be displaced by the project.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**

No measures are proposed because there is no change to existing and projected land uses.

9. HOUSING

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

This project does not involve the construction or elimination of any housing units.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.**

Not applicable; this project does not have any housing impacts.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; this project does not have any housing impacts.

10. AESTHETICS

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

The art will be 33 feet tall. At 30 feet, there will be an arm approximately 17 feet long in one direction and 4 feet long in the other. It is counter-balanced on to hold the 'cloud chamber.' The materials are metal with a concrete base.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

No views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed by this project.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

The sculpture is intended to be an aesthetic improvement to the area.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

The completed project will have small blue lights. The lights will only be on from dusk to dawn. They will not produce any glare.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

The lights have been placed at a height that they will not interfere with driver's line of sight.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

The traffic lights were a concern and so the height of the art project was increased to diminish their conflict.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

None - there are no glare impacts to mitigate.

12. RECREATION

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

The art installation is adjacent to a park.

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses?**

No.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.**

Not applicable.

13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- a. **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

None identified.

- b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence or historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site**

The results of the 2007 Seattle Historic Resources Survey (available on the seattle.gov website) were queried to determine whether historic properties occur in the project area. No properties were identified.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

The sculpture will be installed on a foundation located entirely within the street right-of-way. Therefore, the historic buildings and their parcels are not going to be impacted by the project. There is no excavation of native or undisturbed soils associated with the installation.

14. TRANSPORTATION

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on the site plans, if any.**

Not applicable; the project will consist of a small sculpture and will not have any transportation needs.

- b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

This project area has public transportation in the vicinity. Nearest bus stops are at NE Northgate Way at 3rd Ave NE and 5th Ave NE.

- c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

The project currently has no parking spaces. None would be added or eliminated.

- d. **Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

The proposed project is in the right-of-way of an existing road and will not require any changes to the road or access.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The proposed project does not occur in the immediate vicinity of water, rail, or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None - the number of vehicular trips and peak volumes are not expected to change as a result of the proposed project's completion.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

- SDOT will work to minimize disruptions and maintain adequate access during the installation
- SDOT will conduct public outreach before and during project construction to notify residents, businesses, local agencies, transit agencies, and other stakeholders of expected disruptions or changes in traffic flow.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

The project would not increase the need for public services.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, in any.

Not applicable.

16. UTILITIES

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, fiber optics, storm water drains

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The project will have a small electrical connection to illuminate the LED components. The project will not alter other utilities in the vicinity.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Ron Schaf

Date Submitted: 11-29-10