



**MAY 7, 2018**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement by Community Package Coalition about May 7 Council Vote**

*In January 2017, an alliance of community organizations serving neighborhoods adjacent to the three block WSCC Addition came together to ensure that the \$1.7 billion expansion—to be built on publicly owned land, by a public entity, and using public funding—provide a package of public benefits commensurate with its size, scale and impact. We called ourselves the Community Package Coalition.*

*Over the course of over a year, we collectively put in thousands of volunteer hours to fight for investments in what our community needs most: public open spaces, safe routes for walking and biking and affordable homes for working families. The package represents what is possible when the community advocates for a vision that ensures communities can thrive and benefit from the growth of our city. It also represents what is possible when a developer is encouraged to work with the community towards that vision. The Coalition advocated for approximately \$61 million of improvements and experienced success beyond that with a total of over \$83 million.*

*Today we are pleased to see City Council approve the Community Package as part of the street and alleyway vacations for the Convention Center Addition. Make no mistake: this public benefits package would not have come without intense, sustained community pressure on the developer and the City. It should not have to be this hard. Simply put, this process was long, wildly complicated, and difficult for those without a legal, policy, or planning background.*

*We are pleased to see City Council taking steps toward making the street vacation process reflect racial and social justice priorities and increasing the predictability of the process for all parties. Adoption of a new simplified street vacation policy would allow community members without planning or policy expertise engage in the process. Through adoption of an Equitable Development Agreement Policy, Seattle has a chance to encourage more developers to identify and deeply engage with stakeholders within an equity framework, so that efforts like the Community Package can be replicated and improved upon in the future.*

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**About the Community Package Coalition**

We are a coalition of eight nonprofits, community organizations, and advocacy groups serving neighborhoods adjacent to the Washington State Convention Center (WSCC) Addition. We collectively represent thousands of Seattleites who are dedicated to a more attractive, safe, livable, and affordable

city center. Members include: Capitol Hill Housing, Cascade Bicycle Club, Central Seattle Greenways, First Hill Improvement Association, Housing Development Consortium, Freeway Park Association, Lid I-5, and Seattle Neighborhood Greenways. Learn more at [CommunityPackage.org](http://CommunityPackage.org).