
MT BAKER PEDESTRIAN

ENVIRONMENTS & RESILIENCY



A QUICK

OVERVIEW

- Gehl Criteria for Public Space
- Methods
- Findings
- Recommendations



MT BAKER TOWN CENTER

CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC SPACE

GEHL

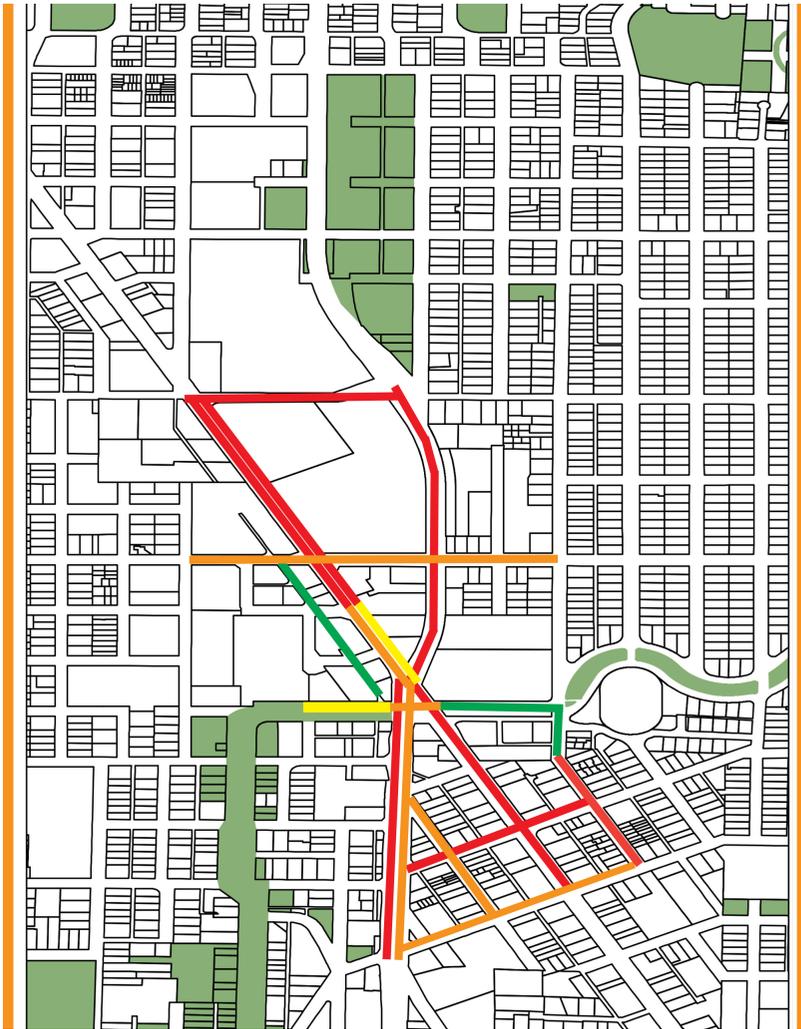
The 12 quality criteria concerning the pedestrian landscape, as designed and created by Jan Gehl in *Cities for People*, define three categories of pedestrian experience in urban areas, protection, comfort, and enjoyment.

THE TWELVE

QUALITY CRITERIA

We used Gehl's quality criteria to assess the Mt. Baker Town center. We developed our own rating system on a scale of 1-5 to better represent our assessment of the area.

Protection	<p>PROTECTION AGAINST TRAFFIC AND ACCIDENTS — FEELING SAFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection for pedestrians Eliminating fear of traffic 	<p>PROTECTION AGAINST CRIME AND VIOLENCE — FEELING SECURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lively public realm Eyes on the street Overlapping functions day and night Good lighting 	<p>PROTECTION AGAINST UNPLEASANT SENSORY EXPERIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind Rain/snow Cold/heat Pollution Dust, noise, glare 
Comfort	<p>OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Room for walking No obstacles Good surfaces Accessibility for everyone Interesting façades 	<p>OPPORTUNITIES TO STAND/STAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edge effect/ attractive zones for standing/staying Supports for standing 	<p>OPPORTUNITIES TO SIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zones for sitting Utilizing advantages: view, sun, people Good places to sit Benches for resting 
	<p>OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonable viewing distances Unhindered sightlines Interesting views Lighting (when dark) 	<p>OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK AND LISTEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low noise levels Street furniture that provides "talkscapes" 	<p>OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLAY AND EXERCISE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitations for creativity, physical activity, exercise and play By day and night In summer and winter 
Delight	<p>SCALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings and spaces designed to human scale 	<p>OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun/shade Heat/coolness Breeze 	<p>POSITIVE SENSORY EXPERIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good design and detailing Good materials Fine views Trees, plants, water 



GEHL CRITERIA

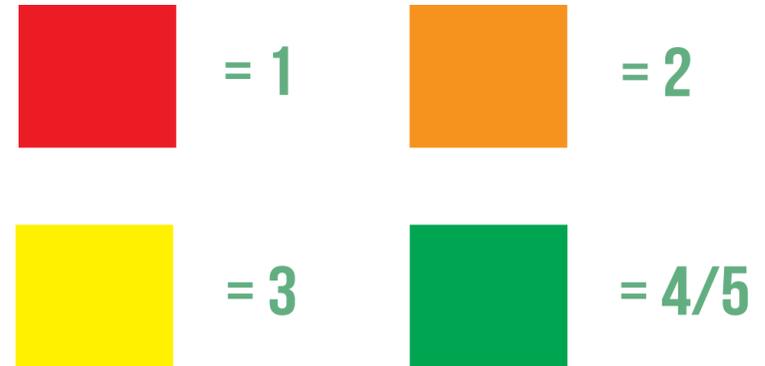
ASSESSMENT

For each of the twelve Gehl criterium for public space, we have chosen to rank pedestrian spaces in Mt. Baker on a scale from one to five. With one being the lowest possible rating, and 5 being the highest possible rating. We have defined what a one, a three, and a five actually look like in practice, to keep a consistent rating system for all spaces evaluated. This leaves us room to rank a space a two or four if we feel it does not fit into one of the defined categories.

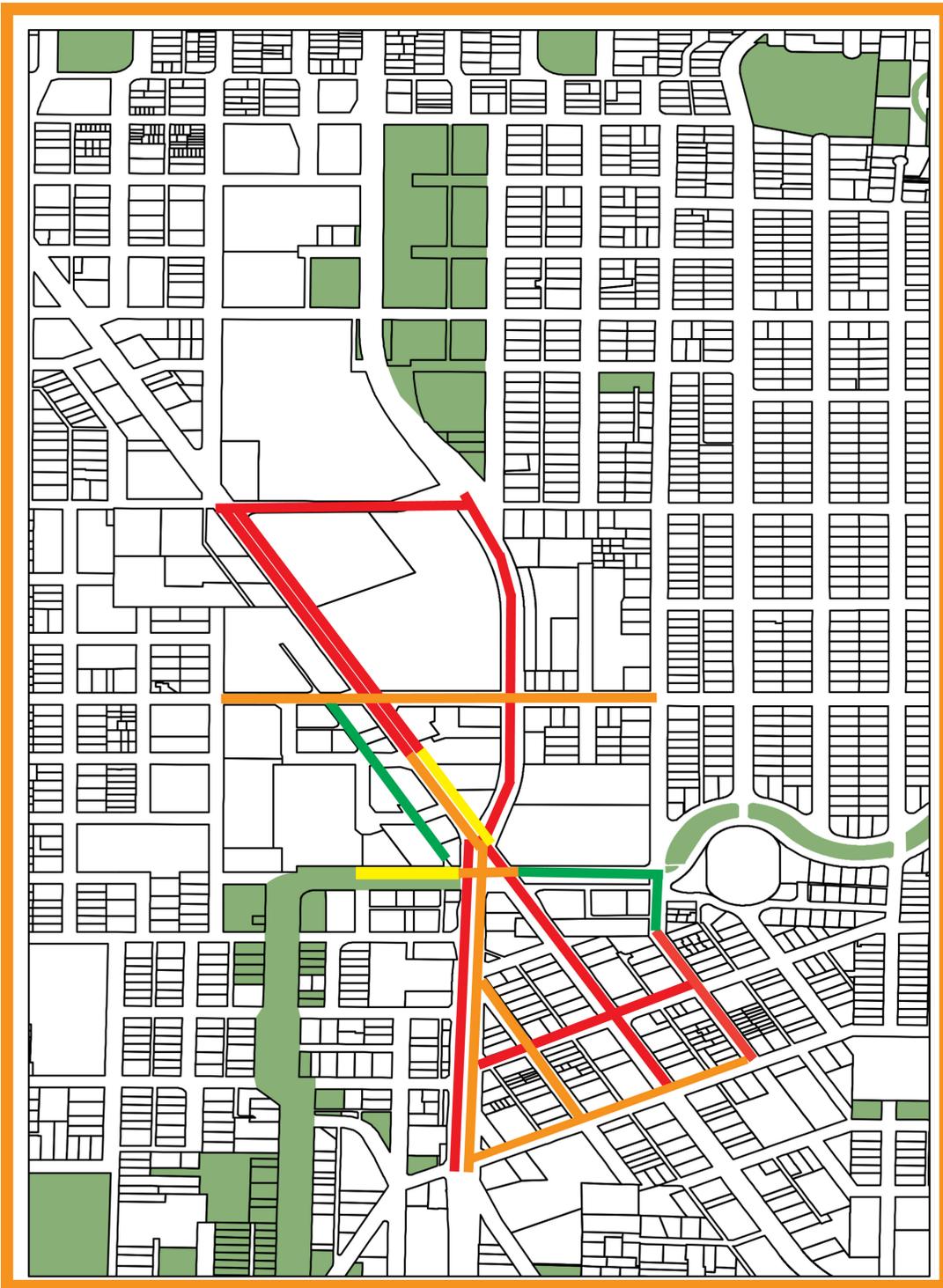
GEHL CRITERIA METHODS

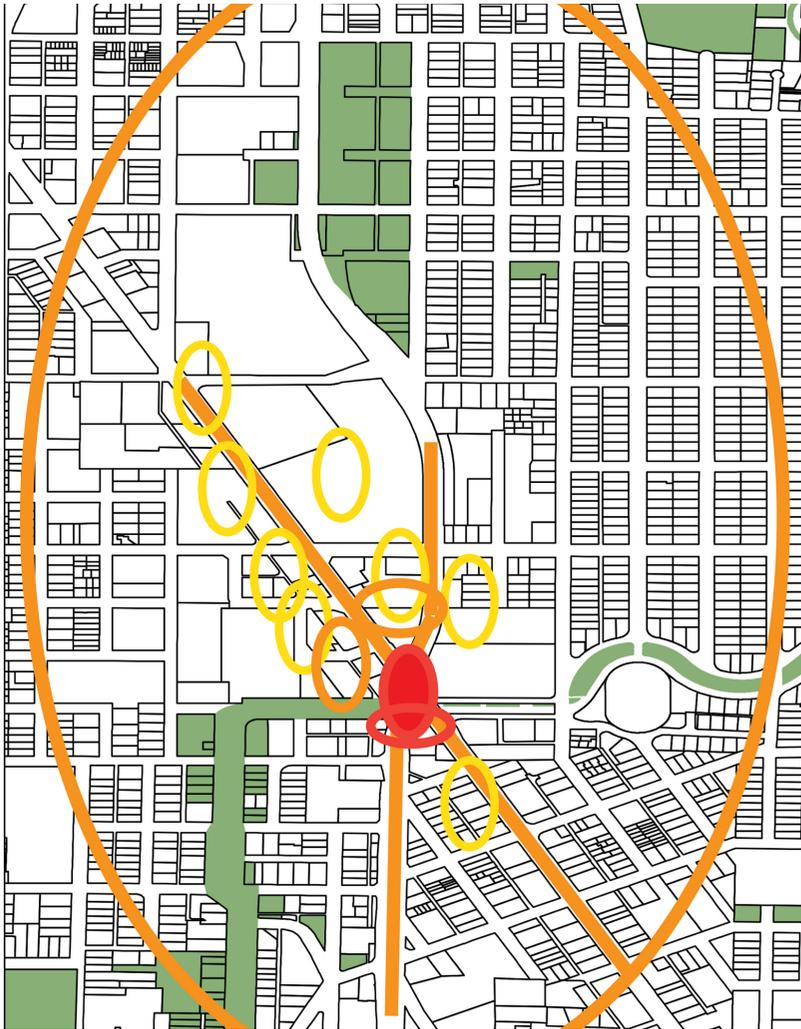
	Rainier Ave						
	E Mt. Baker Blvd to Forest	W Mt. Baker Blvd to Forest	E McClellan to Forest	W McClellan to Forest	E McClellan to Bayview	N&S Forest St.	W McClellan to Bayview
traffic and accidents	3	4	2	2	1	1	1
crime and violence	3	4	4	4	1	1	2
unpleasant sensory experiences	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
opportunities to walk	1	5	3	3	2	2	1
opportunities to stand and stay	4	3	1	1	1	1	1
opportunities to sit	4	3	1	1	1	1	1
opportunities to see	2	4	3	3	2	2	3
opportunities to talk and listen	4	2	1	1	1	1	2
opportunities to play and exercise	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
scale	3	4	1	1	1	1	1
opportunities to enjoy climate	3	2	1	1	1	1	1
positive sensory experiences	1	3	1	1	1	1	1

STREET AVERAGE



*Disclaimer: although we have done our best to eliminate personal bias from this evaluation, the natural subjectivity of how people interpret public spaces differently cannot be ruled out

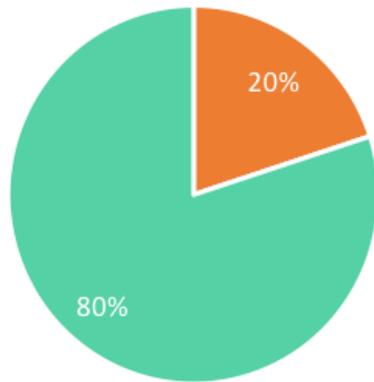




THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE COMMUNITY

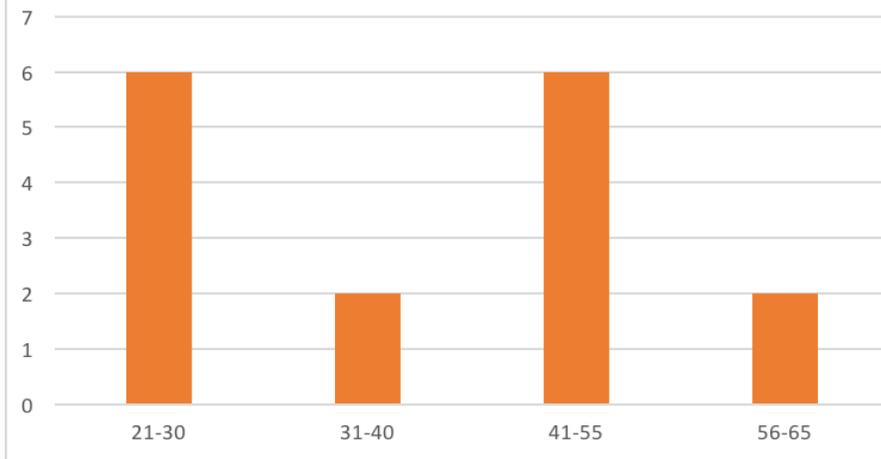
In order to gain a better understanding of the community's perception of the pedestrian environments in Mt. Baker, we surveyed community members at our Community Workshop held at Compadre Coffee near the Light Rail Station on February 9, 2018.

Respondents, by Gender



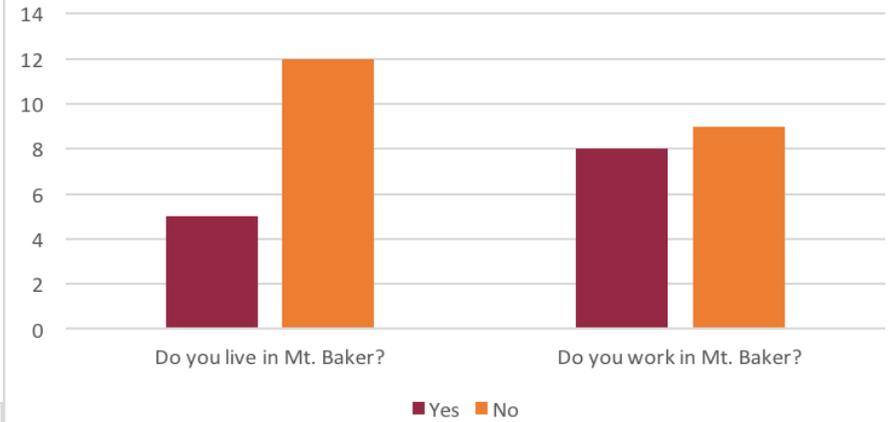
Male Female

Number of Respondents, by Age



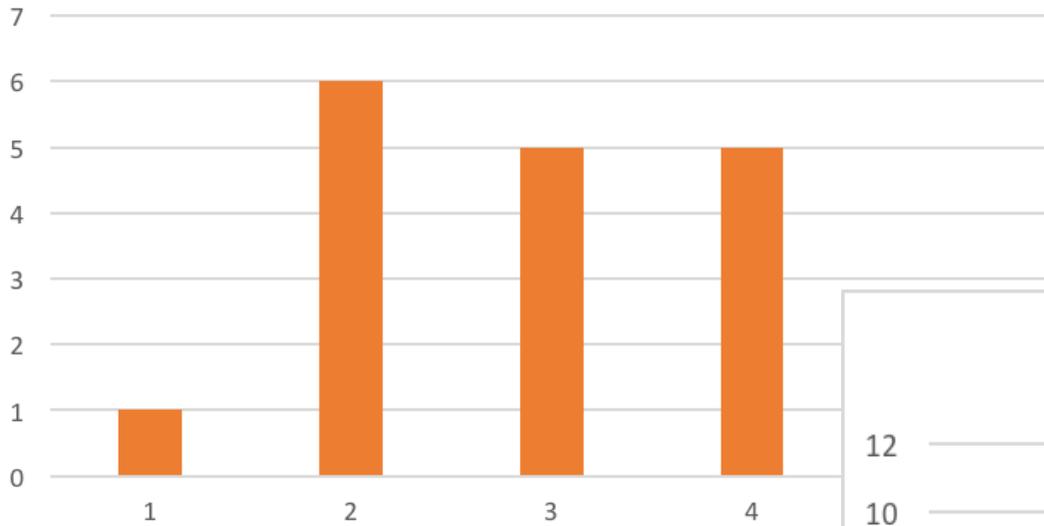
DEMOGRAPHICS

Mt. Baker Station Survey Respondents



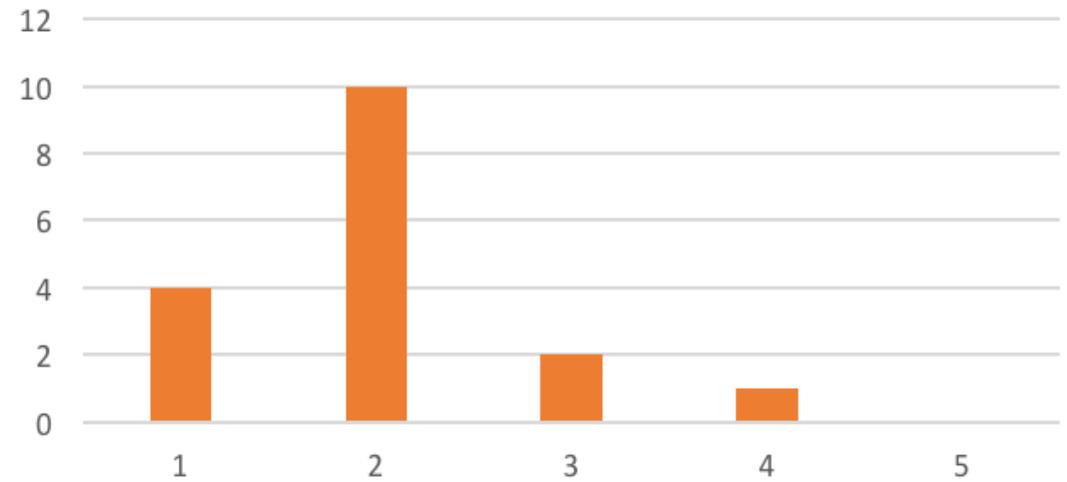
SAFETY

Perceived Safety from Crime and Violence



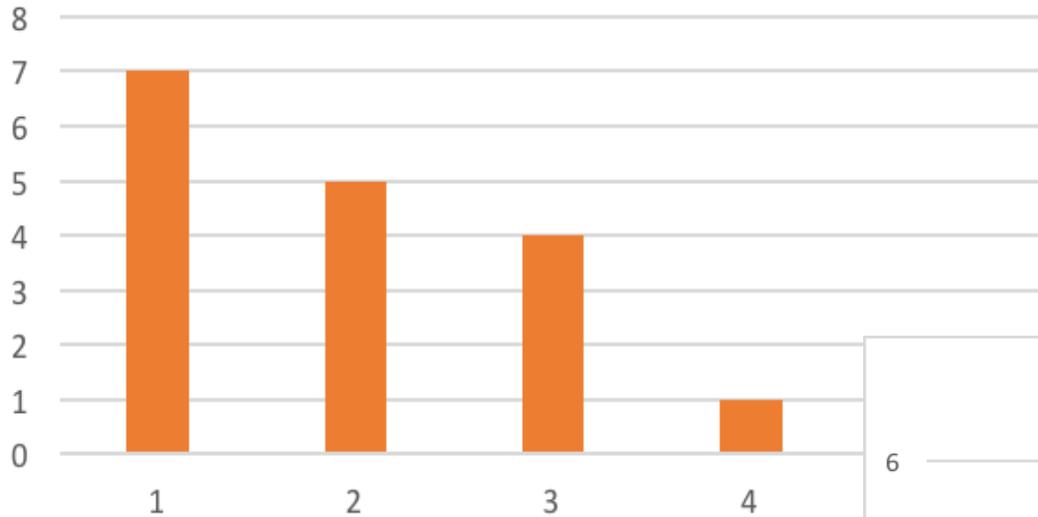
NOT AT ALL

Perceived Safety from Traffic



VERY

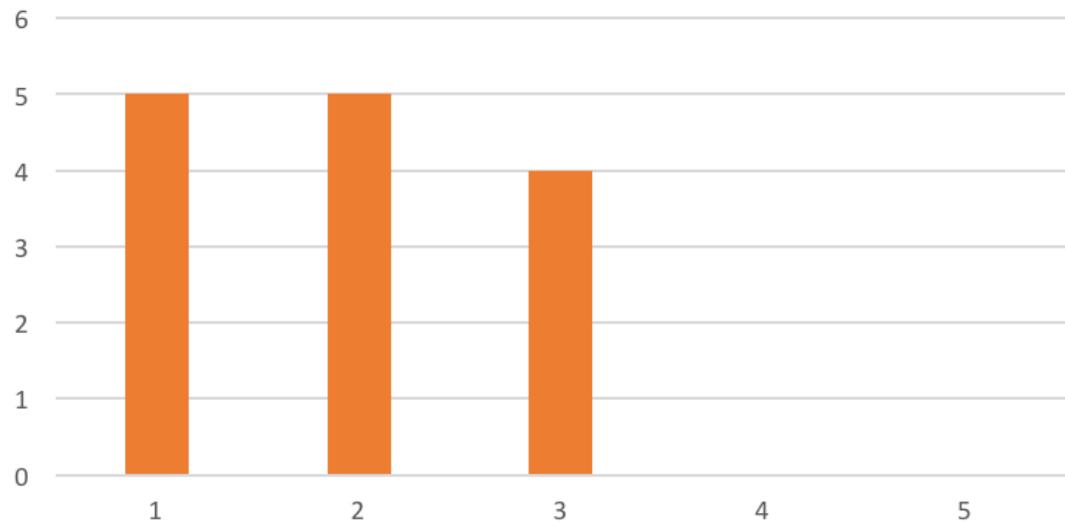
Adequate Green Space



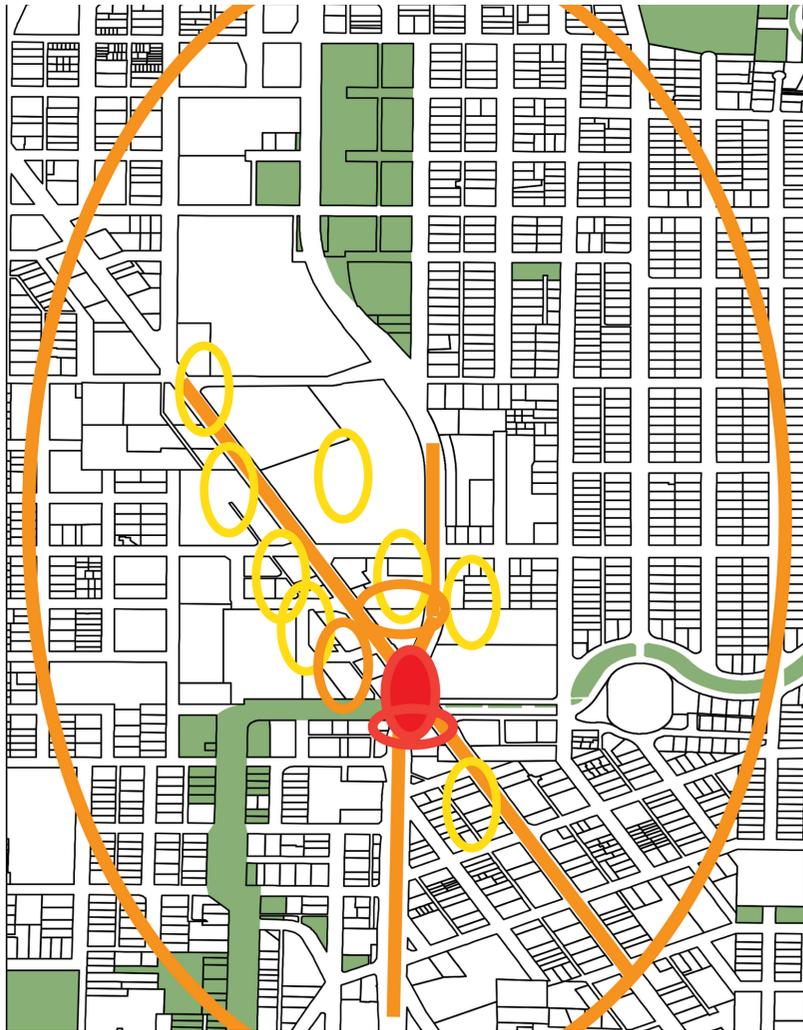
NOT AT ALL

ENJOYMENT

Is it Enjoyable to Walk in Mt. Baker?



VERY



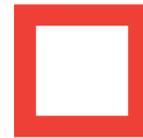
THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE COMMUNITY



1
RESPONDENT



2-3
RESPONDENTS



4-5
RESPONDENTS



6+
RESPONDENTS

RESULTS

Overall, there is serious concern from community members about the pedestrian environments in Mt Baker Town Center. Our Gehl quality criteria assessment results align with community concerns and demonstrate the vast potential for an accessible, walkable neighborhood. As development in the neighborhood continues, the MB Town Center should be routinely reevaluated using these criteria for improvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We broke our recommendations out into two sections based off of our personal understanding and interest within resiliency. Will studied how pedestrian connections can increase resiliency and Carlie examined the concept of how public space development increases resiliency before and after a natural disaster.

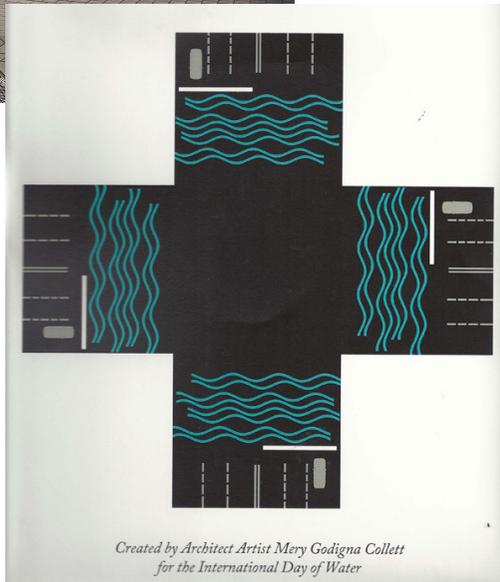


TARGETED IMPROVEMENT FOR PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS

Looking at the existing neighborhood assets - and future ones - it is important to link walkable sites with human scale in mind.

Human experience of public space hinges on the ability to move about and for senses to be stimulated. How can the built environment in Mt Baker Town Center foster this experience in a positive way?

Linking experiences together with inviting, scaled down, visually appealing yet functional crosswalks and pedestrian bridges



GOALS

PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS

Increase pedestrian safety and perceived comfort in regards to traffic

Traffic calming Link public spaces and (future?) popular destinations

Get local artists involved - support the community



TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SPACE FOR

RESILIENCY

"This resilience is based on a pre-existing state of dynamic balance and raises important questions: is resilience the ability to resume a former rhythm of urban life? How can we be sure that this rhythm was a just and desirable one, and that a return to it is what is needed?" - Resilience, Rhythm, Public Space

PLACE MAKING

CONNECTION

RESILIENCY

MT BAKER PEDESTRIAN ENVIRONMENTS

**THANK
YOU!**