

**APPENDIX B**  
**Outreach and Support Documents**



**U-Loo Comments  
and Ideas**  
theuloo2015@gmail.com



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# The U-Loo: A Project for Public Restrooms in the U-District

20-OCT-15

The University District has an urgent need for one or more public restrooms available 24/7. While there are quite a few restrooms located in neighborhood businesses and other organizations, access is typically limited to staff, members and customers, and hours are limited. There are numerous reports of human waste in public places and some private locations, and this creates a health hazard and an unpleasant environment.

The U-District Partnership (UDP) in collaboration with the U-District Conversation on Homelessness (UDCH) received funding from the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods for a feasibility study to install at least one restroom in the U-District. Consultants from SvR Design and Broadview Planning have been enlisted to gather stakeholder perspectives, assess user needs, identify potential sites, research best practices for maintenance, and find potential funding.

We know that it's critical for any new public restroom to be clean, safe, and accessible to everybody. It will be used by visitors to the Farmers Market, students, staff and faculty coming and going to the UW campus, shoppers, transit bus drivers, homeless residents, families with children and many others passing through the neighborhood.

This is a challenging project, and it must be done right in order to become an asset to the U-District community. Location(s), initial funding and long-term maintenance must be clearly identified before we can move forward.

We would greatly appreciate your support for this project and want to hear about your concerns and ideas.

For more information, please contact the U-District Partnership <http://udistrictpartnership.org/contact-us/> or send comments to [theuloo2015@gmail.com](mailto:theuloo2015@gmail.com)

Ruedi Risler  
Co-Chair of the UDP Clean and Safe Committee  
For the U-Loo Team



## The ULoo Project

The U-District Partnership in collaboration with the U-District Conversation on Homelessness received funding from the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods in the form of a matching grant for a feasibility study to install at least one public restroom in the U-District.

The University District has an urgent need for one or more public restrooms available 24/7. While there are quite a few restrooms located in neighborhood businesses and other organizations, access is typically limited to staff, members and customers, and hours are limited. There are numerous reports of human waste in public places and some private locations, and this creates a health hazard and an unpleasant environment.

In addition to technical review for locations with utility access that would support a Loo, the project included a rigorous public outreach process with one-on-one interviews, tabling events, and presentations to neighborhood groups. After reviewing over 600 written comments, 12 potential locations were initially identified. Subsequent voting by the project Steering Committee resulted in narrowing the list down to six favorable sites, with one preferred location. The project work was performed by a consulting group, together with volunteers, who contributed over 520 volunteer hours.

### Next Steps

We're currently meeting with small businesses adjacent to the proposed locations in order to better understand the potential benefits and challenges a nearby Loo might pose to their businesses. In May, we will make a formal recommendation to the UDistrict Partnership, relevant City of Seattle Departments, City Council, and the Mayor's Office.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Elizabeth McCoury, Executive Director of the University District Partnership [Elizabeth.mccoury@udistrictpartnership.org](mailto:Elizabeth.mccoury@udistrictpartnership.org) or 757-788-1510.



### What is a Portland Loo?

The Portland Loos are simple, sturdy, flush toilet kiosks located on sidewalks in public areas. The Loos are free and accessible around the clock every day of the year. These ADA-compliant structures are built from lightweight stainless steel, are easy to clean and can take a lot of abuse. Louvers at the top and bottom of the wall create an interior environment that offers complete visual privacy, while remaining as connected with the outside as possible.



# U-Loo FAQ

26-OCT-15

## **What is this U-Loo project?**

The U-District Partnership (UDP) and U-District Conversation on Homelessness (UDCH) are doing a feasibility study for a permanent public restroom in the U-District. We're here today to get your input on possible designs, locations, concerns and ideas you have.

## **Do we need a public restroom in the U-district?**

Yes! There is no clean, safe, public restroom that's readily available 24/7. Especially in the evening there's high demand and little availability. There are many reports about human waste, which must be cleaned up.

## **Who is leading this project?**

The U-District Partnership (UDP) in collaboration with the U-District Conversation on Homelessness (UDCH) received funding for this feasibility study from the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods (DON).

## **Will there be a restroom at the new light rail station?**

No. The current design of the new light rail station does not include any public restrooms.

## **Where will a new restroom be located?**

We don't know yet! We're here today to get suggestions from community members, like you, for the best possible locations.

## **Who will maintain and take care of a new restroom?**

We know it's critical that any new public restroom be clean, safe, and accessible to everybody. Community organizations like the UDP and the UDCH support public restrooms, and we're working with stakeholders to identify the appropriate organization to take long-term responsibility for the maintenance of the restroom(s).

## **How will this affect our neighborhood?**

This will have a positive impact on our community. Access to the restroom is for all – people visiting the farmers market, transit bus drivers, UW students, faculty and staff coming to and from campus, other visitors, and our homeless residents.

## **Won't a new public restroom lead to an increase in drug and other illegal activity?**

We understand these concerns and intend to create public restroom that will be closely watched and well maintained in a way that contributes to the cleanliness and safety of the entire neighborhood.

**What about vandalism and graffiti?**

Because these are common in our neighborhood, it is important to choose a design that reduces the possibilities for abuse and a facility that can easily be cleaned. Prompt repairs and clean up must be part of the maintenance program.

**What will the new restroom look like?**

That's one of the things we are considering and would like your input on. What do you think a public restroom should look like?

(One style that's under consideration is the Portland Loo, developed by the City of Portland, OR)

**How much will this cost? Who will fund a new restroom(s)?**

A typical Portland Loo-style restroom averages \$90,000, plus installation costs. Maintenance contracts vary in amount, given the frequency of cleanings. We're exploring all options and best practices for affordably keeping a new public restroom clean and safe.

**What are the infrastructure requirements?**

The facility will require connections to sewer, water, and electricity. Fortunately the U-District is well served by these utilities. The choice of possible locations will take this into account.

**Why do you consider a public restroom a public health necessity?**

The U-District currently has considerable issues with human waste in public places as well as in some private locations. This presents a health hazard to everybody who lives, works, and shops in the neighborhood. Increasing access to public restrooms, particularly in the evening, will make our neighborhood cleaner and healthier.

**The City has done this already, haven't they? How is the U-Loo different?**

The City's earlier public toilets proved to be too large, too private, too expensive, and too fragile (because of the self-cleaning mechanism) to be effective. But the problem did not go away: people still have difficulty accessing restrooms and human waste continues to be a public health hazard. Improved designs and maintenance methods are now available, and the city has begun to work with communities to best address individual neighborhood needs.

**What other neighborhoods in the city have done this?**

Rainier Beach has two new public restrooms – Portland Loo style – that opened in summer 2015. Pioneer Square and Ballard have undertaken similar feasibility studies, and are moving forward with their projects.

**What are some examples from other cities?**

Portland, OR; Vancouver, BC; San Diego, San Francisco have all made efforts to expand options for public restrooms.



# The U-Loo: A Project for Public Restrooms in the U-District

26-OCT-15

The U-District Partnership Clean and Safe Committee together with the U-District Conversation on Homelessness obtained a grant from the Department of Neighborhoods to plan for one or more public restrooms (the U-Loo) in the U-District.

## Why do we need a Public Restrooms?

We have received numerous reports, where human waste must be cleaned up in public and private locations. This creates a health hazard and an unpleasant environment in the U-District.

## What about existing Restrooms?

While there are many restrooms in businesses and other organizations, access to most of them is limited to staff, customers and members, and they are not available 24/7.

## What about Problems?

We know there will be problems with cleanliness, needles, vandalism, graffiti and undesired activities. A new public restroom must take this into account through proper design, choice of location, maintenance and monitoring of the surrounding area, or it will turn into a nuisance.

## Where will the U-Loo be located?

We don't know yet, and we are collecting input from the public on location, concerns and ideas.

## How can I get involved?

Help spread the word about the U-Loo Project, and let us know what you think. For more information, please contact the U-District Partnership <http://udistrictpartnership.org/contact-us/>. For comments and ideas use our comment cards, or send a message to [theuloo2015@gmail.com](mailto:theuloo2015@gmail.com)