

David Goebel

From: David Goebel <david@vifs.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 11:22 PM
To: 'Brian Scott'
Cc: 'Dori Krupanics'; Milanese, Marco; Lyttle, Lance; 'Brian Wilson'; Calkins, Ryan; Cho, Sam; Felleman, Fred; Hasegawa, Toshiko; Mohamed, Hamdi; 'Trumbauer, Marielle'; Dominic Gates
Subject: Written Public Comment on 8/24/22 Port of Seattle "StART" Meeting
Attachments: KSEA Monthly JUL22d1.pdf

[Cc: Facilitator and Port staff from 8/24 StART* meeting, StART member Brian Wilson, Port of Seattle Commissioners, Rep. Jayapal's staff, and Dominic Gates (Seattle Times)]

Written Public Comment on 8/24/22 Port of Seattle "StART" Meeting

I'm writing to comment on the fundamental and negative change in engagement brought about by the new virtual meeting procedure introduced at this evening's StART meeting from conventional Zoom to Zoom's closed and opaque "Webinar Panelist" style format. Facilitator Brian Scott described it this evening:

"Then there are, however many observers; anybody that wants to participate in this public meeting can be here as an observer, uhm, but we won't be able to see them or hear them, so they are more like they were in the audience and away from the microphones in a big room, if we were all together."

No, this is nothing like a real in-person public meeting "in a big room" where the presenters can **see** who is attending and understand the public's engagement in the topics discussed. Imperfect as Zoom is, it at least created some semblance of true public engagement as when Rep. Jayapal presented at the April StART meeting:

Previous Engaged Format



Now the official StART members are safely insulated from the public and can only see themselves; the public is invisible:

New Public Invisible Format

PowerPoint Slide Show - [StART-Meeting 10 Presentation-20220824-v2]

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UPDATED ZOOM FACILITATION PLATFORM

- Zoom Webinar Panelist Style Format
 - Improves virtual facilitation
 - Better virtual platform for StART meetings
- StART Members & Guest Speakers
 - Can speak during the meeting
 - Can chat with facilitators, guest speakers & lead Port staff
- Observers
 - Facilitator will enable / disable audio and video for public commenters
 - No chat available

StART SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table

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1:55:24



When the time for public comment rolls around, “observers” signed up to give comment are escorted from their isolated viewing pod by having their camera and mic enabled for two minutes.

I can't help but suspect this change was motivated, perhaps subconsciously, by the discomfort generated from the contradiction that the community seemingly most upset about plane noise, as measured by complaints, unique complaining households (see the Port's attached July report), and past public participation in StART meetings is explicitly excluded from actually having a seat at the StART table. Attempting to alleviate that discomfort by making the public invisible is antithetical to open government.

At your upcoming Steering Committee meeting I would ask you to please either (1) revert to the previous Zoom meeting style or (2) go back to in-person meetings. While in-person is substantially less convenient than Zoom – especially for Vashon Island residents – it is at least a real public engagement and not just, effectively, a performance in an empty studio.

Sincerely,

David Goebel
President, Vashon Island Fair Skies

PS: Feel free to forward as desired

*StART = “SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table” (https://www.portseattle.org/page/StART_Partners) is the Port's primary nexus for discussion of the Port's environmental impact on surrounding communities.