Areas of Security Concern

In interviews with students, faculty and the staff of Seattle University's Campus Public Safety department, the planning team was made aware of the following security issues:

Pedestrian Traffic Safety Crossings

There are a number of access points to campus which present safety challenges to pedestrians.

- There was once a crosswalk across East Madison Street at 10th Avenue. Students continue to jaywalk here, as it is a natural route from the Upper Mall to nearby neighborhoods. The City of Seattle is studying re-establishing this crosswalk.
- A similar conflict exists on East James Street in two locations. The existing crosswalk at the southern terminus of the Upper Mall is located on a bend in the downhill part of the street, so eastbound cars speed down from the Broadway intersection and often need to stop quickly to avoid students dashing across (whether they have waited for the warning light or not). Many students jaywalk across East James Street to the Student Center as it is the most direct route of travel from the walkway along Logan Field and the affordable apartments south of East Jefferson Street. It is also perceived as a quicker path from the Murphy Apartments parking garage to the Student Center than the overhead skybridge.

- There are reported conflicts between cars traveling quickly around the southeast corner of the Murphy Garage and pedestrians heading for the aforementioned shortcut.
- Conflicts exist where cars cross the sidewalk to enter and exit the Broadway parking garage off East Columbia.

Transients and Drug Use

One of the challenges of being an urban university is the fact that campus facilities are sometimes used as shelters for transients and for illicit drug activity. Poorly lighted, lush planting beds offer hiding areas for "non-affiliates" and are subsequently left littered.

The availability of valuable computers and personal belongings also attracts an opportunistic criminal element to campus.

Lighting

Existing lighting on the perimeter streets around the campus and on the internal walkways and malls is inconsistent.

- The Upper Mall is a notable example of a well-traveled but poorly-lit walkway. Students are uncomfortable walking in areas of lush landscaping where lighting levels are dim or non-existant.
- Other dark areas on campus that need to be lit for improved safety include the gardens behind Casey and Loyola, the Broadway Garage, the section of Spring Street in front of the Fine Arts Building, the parking lot south of Connolly and the east edge of the Quad.

• The area of industrial workshops to the north of East Madison, while home to a number of bars, clubs and restaurants, is still a predominantly dark area and acts as a significant barrier to students wishing to walk to bus lines or high-density residential areas to the north of campus. If a Sound Transit light rail station is built as planned at Broadway and Denny, this issue will need to be resolved to encourage students and staff to use the system and walk the half mile to campus from the station.

Neighborhood Parking

The Squire Park neighborhood to the east of campus is relatively crime-free with single-family homes and pockets of higher density apartments. It is not predominantly an area of student housing, but because there are few parking restrictions from 12th Avenue to 18th Avenue, students will park in the area and walk to campus. This leads to car prowls and sporadic assaults on students walking to their cars along the sparsely-lit streets. Seattle University instituted the Night Hawk Shuttle Bus, which picks up students regularly from the East Marion Street campus entrance and drops them off at their cars or homes, within a five-block radius.



The path along Logan Field from East Jefferson Street to East James Street is a security concern.





Though dangerous, students often jaywalk across East James Street instead of using the sky-bridge.

