

Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Speakers Bureau

Group/Organization: Queen Anne Chamber Board (7 members in attendance)
Date: November 5, 2002
Location: Bayview Manor (11 W Aloha, Seattle), 10th Floor
Team Members: Kirk Jones, Sarah Brandt

Overview

Kirk Jones provided an overview of the Magnolia Bridge Project, describing the project's purpose and need, background, and process for narrowing the universe of alternatives. He explained that the process would result in the completion of either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS), and the project team will decide which to pursue in late January or early February. After working through the EA or EIS and selecting a preferred alternative, the project team would put together a funding package. If planning, design, studies, and funding proceed without problems, construction would begin in late 2005. Kirk expressed excitement about this project because it begins with no preconceived ideas (and thus allows room for creativity).

He ended with a discussion of the public involvement activities being conducted in conjunction with the project, and encouraged the board to share their ideas and thoughts. Fran would like the project team to speak at a Chamber luncheon in early 2003.

Notes

Members of the committee asked the following questions (responses are included in *italics*):

- If a route were selected along the marina to connect with 32nd, would a causeway be built along the beach? *While it's too early to know how the final design might look, a causeway probably would not be built, as there are several expensive homes along that stretch. Rather, the project might buy those properties and/or move the route along the side of the bluff.*
- Have you thought about the problems that could occur in the 15th Avenue corridor during construction? *Yes, we've heard concerns voiced repeatedly about the traffic impacts that could occur in the corridor, and one of the most frequently mentioned requests is that we keep the existing bridge open during construction.*
- John Coney urged the board to represent the Queen Anne view during early stages of the project, and stated that access to Magnolia is an important issue to Queen Anne residents who work, shop, or move freight in Magnolia. He urged the

Queen Anne Chamber to support the development of a less seismically sensitive bridge, as well as the creation of a fourth access point, if possible. He explained that Kirk would also be working closely with the Port as they embark on a master planning process.

- Would the fourth access point be in addition to the existing bridge? *Maybe. The project team has an open mind, and several possibilities for a fourth access point exist (e.g., connections through street grid on Port property, etc.).*
- John Coney stressed that the Magnolia Bridge Project team is running an open process, and that Queen Anne must participate and voice interests.
- Kirk asked for suggestions about communicating with businesses along the 15th Avenue corridor.
- What other funding sources are being considered? *The project team will be talking with the BNSF railroad and Port, as well as pursuing state bridge and federal funding money. Developers of the area between 15th Ave and the railroad could also be a potential source of funding.*
- The Northwest Center (in the northeastern corner of the project area) would like to see improved flow in the 15th Ave corridor, and must have intersections that work for people as well as cars.
- Have there been seismic advances in technology since the original bridge was built? *Yes, very much so.*
- Is most of the ground underneath the existing bridge fill? *Yes. That area used to be a tidal estuary.*
- How long will we endure earthquake risks with the current bridge? *Construction will start in late 2005 and last for about 2 years (through 2008), so a reasonable estimate would be 5 years.*
- Would construction of the Magnolia Bridge occur at the same time as the monorail? *The monorail should be constructed before the Magnolia Bridge Project, and our project includes a piece dealing with construction coordination to help avoid congestion.*

Action Items

Schedule visit to Queen Anne Chamber luncheon in early 2003.

Briefing Materials

Open House I Handouts, copies of Open House I display boards, aerial photograph.