

Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Speakers Bureau

Group/Organization: BINMIC Action Committee
Date: December 11, 2002, 7:30 AM
Location: Ballard Little City Hall
Team Members: Kirk Jones, Lee Holloway, Sarah Brandt
Attendance: 10 members

Overview

Kirk Jones presented the Magnolia Bridge slideshow, describing the history of the bridge and the process developed to design a replacement facility. He described the nine surviving alternative alignments, described the project team's next steps, and answered questions from the group. BINMIC committee members were most concerned about freight mobility and how the project could potentially impact the operations of local industrial businesses (City Ice, Trident, etc.). Kirk followed a presentation by Mark Griffin on the Port Planning process, which created greater frustration and discontent than the Magnolia Bridge Project among committee members.

Notes

Members of the committee asked the following questions (responses are included in *italics*, and are categorized as either "general" or by alignment):

General

- ◆ How will this project provide access to the Port property? *Most of the alignments include ramps to and/or from the Port property to the conceptual spine road indicated with a dashed line.*
- ◆ If you build a route along the surface, would there be impacts to City Ice/Trident? *Yes, quite possibly. We've met with (and have additional meetings scheduled with) City Ice and Trident to better understand their operations.*
- ◆ Is the Port looking at opening the north gate to their property? *No. We are assuming that the gate would need to be opened to accommodate some of our attempts to provide good links between the Port property, Magnolia, and the waterfront.*
- ◆ How is the north gated? *It's actually gated in two places: on 20th and 21st Avenues. We will likely propose to open the gate at 21st Ave.*

Alternative B

- ◆ Would the bridge used to get over the railroad for Alternative B need to be as high as the current structure? *No, we would run the alignment along the surface to the west of the tracks.*

Alternative C

- ♦ How much structure would be required? *To scale the bluff, we'd need 1400 feet of structure at approximately 6% grade.*
- ♦ Would you go through the greenbelt/treed area [it was revealed during the Port's briefing that this area is actually zoned for industrial uses]? Who owns this area? *Yes, to a certain extent (though a structure might be able to run alongside of the greenbelt). The Port owns most of this land.*

Alternative D

- ♦ How high would the ramps be? Would the ramps take out some industrial uses? Note that the beauty of industrial uses is that you could build the bridge and then give us back the use of the area under the bridge (which you can't do with residential areas). *Alignment D would potentially run through City Ice warehouses.*

Alternative E

- ♦ Would ramps go down into the rail yard?
- ♦ Would there be a major take of property along the eastern ramp and flyover? *Yes.*
- ♦ It would be a good idea to try the underpass at Wheeler instead of the overpass.
- ♦ It would also be good because you'd be moving out of the slide area.
- ♦ Do Magnolia residents like this one? *It's not great for people in southern Magnolia, and the creation of cut-through traffic through the neighborhoods is a drawback.*

Alternative G

- ♦ Where will the monorail station(s) be? *We're not sure yet.*
- ♦ Are you looking at connections to commuter rail? It would make sense to include it as a multi-modal connection. *No. The stations are too far apart to really impact this project.*

Alternative H

- ♦ Will Alternative H cost more? *Maybe not. We're not sure yet.*
- ♦ Have you completed any cost analysis? *Only a comparative analysis. We've only estimated construction, right-of-way acquisition, and mitigation costs with the information that we have so far.*

General

- ♦ Have you considered any connections north of the golf course? *No. That was getting too close to the existing crossing at Dravus, and would have created more congestion along 15th Ave W.*
- ♦ How long before you'll need to replace the Dravus bridge? *It was just retrofitted, so there is plenty of good life left in it.*
- ♦ It's clear that someone who is good and who knows bridges is doing this project.
- ♦ When you select three final alignments, will you pick three different alignments, or just tweak one of them for three options? *We'll pick three different alternatives from those that I've shown you today.*

- ◆ In terms of the land use analysis you're completing, will that be city-based? Will you be going beyond what the Port is doing in their planning process? *Yes, the city will conduct the analysis, and will only consider industrial and current uses of the property.*
- ◆ When will the traffic analysis be available? *At the end of February 2003 (we'll be projecting conditions to the years 2010 and 2030).*
- ◆ What kinds of grades are you looking at to accommodate trucks and rail? Trucks won't use some streets in the area because of the steep grades. *We're looking at a maximum grade of 6.5%. We hope to not have to use maximum grades.*
- ◆ While trucks don't use the Magnolia bridge a ton, they do have to get to grocery stores.
- ◆ We're more concerned with access to industrial lands, and this shouldn't be hard for trucks. While City Ice and Trident don't have grade problems, the proposed spine road could impact traffic and interfere with their freight mobility.
- ◆ Would the Port pay for the spine road? *It's a possibility, since their property will be serviced by the road. We are charged with looking at providing connections to the Marina. This could become a kind of partnership in funding the road.*
- ◆ The spine road is OK if it improves access, but make sure that there aren't impacts on the surface.
- ◆ What will the future evaluation requirements be? Will you complete an EIS? *The team will reach a decision point next month to determine if we will need to complete an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.*
- ◆ I'd encourage you to look at the BINMIC EIS that was recently completed and piggyback off of what we did there.

Action Items

- ◆ Obtain a copy of BINMIC EIS to aid in further evaluation.

Briefing Materials

- ◆ Reproductions of slide show presentation
- ◆ Aerial photograph