

Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Speakers Bureau

Group/Organization: Magnolia Summer Festival
Date: August 5, 2005, 11 am - 7 pm; August 6, 2005, 11 am - 6 pm
Location: Magnolia Playfield
Team Members: Chelsea Tennyson, Molly Edmonds

Overview

Project team members staffed a booth at the Magnolia Summer Festival with the traveling display, aerial photo, and handouts introducing the Rehabilitation Alternative and revised schedule. Almost one hundred people stopped by during the two-day event to review the alternatives and ask questions. Four citizens signed up to be added to the project mailing list.

Questions/Comments

- Many people asked about the project timeline through construction, and wanted to know when a preferred alternative would be picked. Some thought a preferred alternative had already been picked.
- Most people expressing a preference about the alternatives liked A the best; a few supported alternative D.
- Alternative C was criticized by many for its circuitous route and added travel time.
- Many were concerned about the bridge's closure during construction. One visitor suggested having police direct traffic at Dravus during the bridge closure.
- People were interested in the cost and bridge closure time associated with each alternative.
- Many wanted to go with the least expensive option, Rehabilitation. Quite a few were surprised to find out that rehabilitation would involve such a lengthy bridge closure and said that the length of the bridge closure would make them rethink their preference.
- A few people were confused about the difference between the rehabilitation alternative and the rehabilitation that occurred after the earthquake.
- Some asked about the project's awareness of and integration with North Bay development.
- Some people wanted to know how to provide input on the project, and how project input was being considered.
- Some visitors hoped to see better mass transit available in Magnolia; increased mass transit would reduce the number of cars on the bridge and hopefully ease the stress of bridge closure.
- Most people who stopped by had heard of the project, but felt that they had not had any updates for a while. They appreciated the project team's presence at the festival.