I-5 Willamette River Bridge Project Design Enhancement Steering Committee

Meeting Summary - DRAFT
May 15, 2013 2 – 5 p.m.
CAWOOD conference room, 1200 High Street, Suite 200

Attendance: Chris Henry; Bob Kline; Vicky Mello; Joe Valasek; Scott Wylie; Frannie Brindle, ODOT; Karl Wieseke, ODOT; Justin Lanphear, Cameron McCarthy.

Prepared by: Nichole Hayward, CAWOOD.

Meeting purpose: Discuss south bank storm water filter strip and seating area possibilities. Review refined north bank concepts. Provide updates on contracted enhancements and interpretive signs. Prepare for May 31 CAG/PDT meeting.

Interpretive signs

Bob Kline brought examples of interpretive sign structures to share with the committee. Nichole Hayward will scan and send electronic copy to all.

Scott Wylie expressed concern and encouraged balance between the structure and the content. He is concerned the structure/pavilion might over power the content and wants to ensure the structural design relates to the content, but does not distract from the information on the sign.

Frannie Brindle provided an update on the progress. Justin Lanphear will work with the historical and tribal representatives to establish design and content for the displays. She also provided clarification on the project budget. The permit funds will pay for the basic design work, but anything above and beyond standard display parameters and design must be maintainable and funded from a different budget. In conversations with Parks and Open Spaces, Frannie was informed they don't have excess maintenance funds or manpower. ODOT has an existing IGA with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, so Frannie inserted the ability to request additional work into the agreement.

Chris Henry mentioned that the City of Eugene applied for Surface Transportation Program – Urban funds to maintain/reestablish the path on the south side of Franklin Boulevard and for the replacement of the Knickerbocker Bridge railing. If funding is approved, the City can start using those funds in Oct. 2013.

Karl Wieseke agreed that Justin's time spent collaborating with the DESC and designing anything beyond basic interpretive signs should come out of design enhancement budget. He clarified that the contract with the Tribes and the historians include budget for Justin's time, but reiterated that anything above and beyond standard format, material and style will need to come from the design enhancement budget.

Frannie added clarification that the time spent on iterations with the DESC is a good example of what would come out of the design enhancement budget.

Justin anticipated that ODOT and the cultural/historical representatives would act as the contextual experts, while Cameron McCarthy would be responsible for blending the content and desired design to fit with adjacent areas and accommodate long-term maintainability. He suggested that DESC provide input regarding placement of the displays.

Bob Kline asked if DESC would be involved monitoring those meetings with the contextual experts, as he'd like to be kept informed. Frannie identified the Parks Coordination meeting as the best venue to monitor and track that information.

Update on south bank storm water filter strip

Justin provided a photograph, two preliminary concepts for seating areas and a section and perspective view of the first concept as a starting point for the conversation. He summarized the parameters of the storm water filter strip and explained the function for treating water run off, which impacts the available area for seating.

The group identified and discussed:

- What is considered a seating area?
- Concerns about creating an invitation to camp under bridge. Be mindful of creating a path down there.
- Be cautious on the bank flood plains, project border/area, etc.
- Transitions from seating area to filter strip can they be naturally softened or hidden with basalt boulders?
- Use of downed tree as bonus seating opportunity.
- What will view of river and bridge be like?
- What will the area look like in 10-20 years?
- Is the addition of a naturalistic berm possible?

Justin and the committee agreed to view and stake the seating area at the actual site immediately after the next Parks Coordination meeting, on June 7 at 11 a.m.

Review and discuss refinement of north bank concepts

Justin provided a revised north bank concept plan and perspective view for discussion and review. He is waiting for more feedback from the City of Eugene regarding the path adjustments and width reduction. After some research and conversations with Willamalane, he identified that the clearance under the arch ribs on the north end is minimal; therefore changing the configuration of that end of the path is not realistic. He suggested maintaining the existing configuration but moving the southern path edge north four feet, which would result in a 12-foot wide path and increase the area between the path and the top of the riverbank. Justin will keep the committee informed about the City of Eugene's feedback regarding the path adjustment.

As options were discussed amongst the committee, it was determined that Justin and Karl will work together to identify quantities and prices for the concept.

Update on existing design enhancement contracts

Canoe Canal transitional area

Justin provided a base plan that identified the parameters that impact the design capabilities in the area, as well as the surrounding artistic enhancements. He also provided an initial concept to start the discussion.

Committee feedback

Chris Henry:

- Is the river rock embedded?
- The mural will include slope-paying grid.
- Raised edges may collect trash. Could it be scalloped?
- Is stamping an option?
- It could be simplified, but likes the concept.
- Envisions children using it as a place of discovery.

Scott Wylie:

- Image shows clarity graphically, but colors and contrast may be less showy in reality.
- Understands reason for raising the rock salt finished area, but suggests minimizing to quiet the design.
- Use of different material will still break up design and paved area.
- Loves the interest but doesn't want the design to be too bold or compete with the surrounding art.
- Is there a way to tie in the sandblasted line work used on the mural?
- Could the grouping of the fish mimic the rhythm of the tiles?
- Compare to Zen garden.
- Include one or two powerful elements.

Vicky Mello:

- Is it necessary to pave the entire area?
- Was hoping to see more boulder placement for seating and varied elevation.
- Would this concept make it easy to camp there?
- Highlight that this is a natural area.

Joe Valasek:

- The longest gray area is irregular and competes with the mural.
- The realistic colors may make a big impact on perspective horizontal surfaces often go unnoticed.

Frannie:

- Likes it, but could be simplified.
- Fish looks like a coy fish; would like more local option.

Karl:

- Asphalt shown? Currently specified for concrete path.
- Appreciates different finishes, but uncertain of practicality of rock salt finish. Crew typically uses trowel or broom finish.
- Consider white paths and the contrast typically seen.
- This is a departure from previous iterations.

Camas Basket by rhiza A&D

The artist has completed their submittal and approval process. Foundation work is now being prices by the CM/GC. Work on the foundation will not occur until after traffic is switched to the new northbound bridge. Expected to be installed early next year.

River by Lillian Pitt

The artist has completed the technical and constructability review. Work has been priced and foundation work has started. The piece installation is scheduled for this August.

Blue Camas Basket by Devin Laurence Field

The artist has submitted calculations and drawings for the technical and constructability review. The foundation for this piece is scheduled for construction this summer. The piece is scheduled for completion next year.

Blue Camas Tiles by Litus

The artist completed their proposal (fee) to the State for 2'x2' tile and is working to submit pricing for a 4'x4' option. Budget for this work is \$32,864. The 2'x2' option includes 15 tiles furnished and installed for approximately \$26,075. No schedule conflicts with the Willamette River Bridge Project are known at this time.

The artist will not provide extra replacement tiles. Proceeding with the 2'x2' option allows some excess funds that could be included in the Willamalane IGA to store the electronic files and funds for future repair and/or replacement. Karl will share second option electronically and will ask for DESC vote to accommodate June slope-paving schedule.

Transportation Crossover by Betsy Wolfston

The artist has just completed the revised proposal for work. This work now includes budget originally approved for replacement of the north bank chain link fence. ODOT is proceeding with getting the artist and subcontractors under contract. Sandblasting to be completed this year and tiles to be installed summer 2014. The artist is aware of DESC comments and the tile work is to be approved by the Tribes.

CILOS managed by Eugene Parks and Open Space

The strategy to deliver this enhancement is to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement to identify EPOS to provide management and oversight to Walama Restoration and NearbyNature. The draft agreement is under review. The Community Involvement and Long-term Ownership Strategy will be delivered per the Litus report dated January 22, 2010. The budget has been adjusted per DESC and ODOT approved the amounts.

CAG/PDT meeting

One of the main purposes at the upcoming May 31 CAG/PDT meeting will be to provide an update on design enhancements, and ODOT would like to give the DESC the opportunity to provide the updates. The remaining committee members discussed and assigned presentation topics:

Canoe Canal
North Bank
South Bank
Above Deck
CILOS
Talking Stones
Vicky Mello
Justin Lanphear
Scott Wylie
Vicky Mello
David Sonnichsen

Nichole will email the absent committee members to offer taking part in the presentations. Nichole will work with the project and public involvement team to ensure DESC members have the most current renderings and information about the enhancements.

Agenda build for next meeting

The next DESC meeting was scheduled for June 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at CAWOOD.

Suggested agenda topics for the next meeting:

- North bank concept costs
- Canoe Canal refinements (transitional area)
- South bank seating area
- Update on CILOS and other existing contracts

Action items

- Nichole scan and distribute electronic copy of Bob's interpretive display ideas.
- All view south bank seating area June 7 at 11 am (after Parks Coordination meeting)
- Justin or Nichole take new photo from south bank seating area to better illustrate view (for CAG/PDT meeting).
- Justin get itemized pricing for north bank concepts and continue conversation with COE and Willamalane re: path width.
- Justin distribute electronic copy of refined concepts for reference and use at CAG/PDT meeting.
- Justin develop more concepts for Canoe Canal area (include perspective view and more realistic colors) and distribute some of the previous design iterations for additional comment/feedback.
- Karl/Nichole distribute option A and B (include price) for Blue Camas Tiles to take DESC vote electronically.
- Karl/Frannie eventually look into including funds for replacement Blue Camas Tiles in Willamalane IGA.
- Karl ask Tulsi/Litus if she has a sample tile available for use at CAG/PDT meeting.
- Karl distribute River rendering for reference and use at CAG/PDT.
- Nichole confirm June 21 meeting with all DESC members.
- Nichole distribute CAG/PDT presentation assignments and offer to all DESC members. Work with Karl and Frannie to provide DESC with information for presentations by 5/24.
- Nichole send Justin comments/feedback from discussions.