

Design Enhancements Panel Meeting #13 INTERNAL SUMMARY [DRAFT]

Wednesday, January 27, 2010
Lane Council of Governments
5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Panel Members Attendees: Charlotte Behm, Eric Gunderson, Bob Kline, Annie Loe, Vicky Mello, Randy Nishimura, John Rose, Scott Wylie
Absent: no one

Art and Design Team Attendees: Peg Butler, Robin Craig, Lee Imonen, Yotokko Kilpatrick, Adam Kuby, Pat Lando, Suzanne Lee, Bill Shaw, Tim Shaw, Buster Simpson, Tulsii Wallace

Staff: Don Kahle, Facilitator; Megan Banks, Douglas Beauchamp, Larry Fox, Justin Lanphear
Absent: no one

Welcome

Don welcomed everyone. He shared that DEP members had two sheets in front of them: an 8.5"x11" yellow sheet for notes and a smaller blue sheet. Don will be collecting only the blue sheets from the DEP for "snap impressions" and to provide a starting point for Monday's DEP meeting. He requested that no one break the rules—don't put something as low, medium and high; otherwise the scores can't be compared. Don added that the time to talk about nuances would be Monday. He hoped everyone had brought their packets. Don also noted that the yellow sheet includes page numbers of the individual elements within the ADTs' submittals.

Don stated that the room was set up for "all eyes forward" so that the ADTs have the DEP's full attention. He said that each of the ADTs has 40 minutes for their presentations followed by 15 minutes for clarifying questions. That would be the extent of any back and forth tonight. Next week is for deliberating. Douglas described the low (do not support), medium (could be swayed either way) and high (support) options. Douglas added that the purpose of the low/medium/high is to create a pattern—where is, or not, the passion? This will be the starting point for next week.

ADT #1

Peg expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work on this project. She distributed two sheets: 1) An errata sheet that clarified there was an extra \$30k available and 2) An enhanced matrix that described the three concepts, the ADT's priorities, materials, construction and maintenance.

Peg began with the overall site plan. She said their focus was on the family of ideas—creating a system of pieces rather than just pieces. She reminded the group that was also the focus of the design workshops. She shared that they have proposed three families—*passage pylons*, *welcome offering* and *ecotone expression/landscape enhancements*. Peg shared that they have brought forward the one-minute movie with a sense of rhythm followed by quietness over river then a rhythm picking up again.

Peg shared that the site was very challenging but the team found a lot of opportunities in it.

Buster said the *passage pylons* are monuments that talk about a historic crossing and a passage through. He added that what is below the bridge begins to be revealed up above the

deck. This evolved from the catenary idea. The interpretation is intended to be left up to the viewer. Those who travel through the area on a daily or weekly basis will know something that those who quickly drive through won't. It could mean that those who drive through may decide to stop and check it out.

The pylon on the north side is placed near where the bridge designer showed something originally. The structure itself is proposed as stainless steel with 12" wide bands in a curved conical shape. The team is leaning towards a camas color. The strips of stainless steel would have stories that respond to ambient light. The strips gently expand to about 8' wide at the top as they extend upwards. The woven lattice suggests basketry and the pylons have a satin feel to them.

Buster showed the bridge in section with the *passage pylons* and completion of a circle. From down below, one would be able to see completion of the arch and a strong connection between the two structures. On the south side, the pylon is floating while on the north side it is resting. Buster showed a video of how a driver would view the *passage pylons* when traveling on the highway southbound or northbound. The structure is located near the railroad fencing but could slide north if needed for pedestrians below. Buster said a saw mill blade, beaver tracks, camas, canoe paddles were all used as inspiration. Inside, the pylons could have reflective tape material like is used on highways. The pylons would have a long life span and would be illuminated by ambient light. They could be lighted for freeway travelers if that was desirable.

The team showed a video of the pylons from the path below the WRB bridge. They added that they had checked with bundle 3 and they do not have any issues with the location of the pylons.

Peg pointed out that computer modeling can portray an element as "stiff" but it is a good representation of scale. Buster showed the December shadow pattern.

ADT #1 shared their next idea—*welcoming offering*. They noted that they were wrestling with budget. Detailing was important for fencing and they see pixilation, as on the sound walls, as a theme. The team is proposing an amorphic hand in perspective so when one is driving on the freeway, they wouldn't notice the actual hand but from Franklin Boulevard, one would see an out-stretched hand. ODOT uses this technique on signs. Buster reviewed the details of the element and discussed the quality of light, installation efficiency during construction, etc.

Buster suggested that they would like to find the hand of an Elder who has significance to the place. As one travels north, the hand offering is over the river. As one travels south, the hand is welcoming you to the mountains. The element is abstract but also provides a kinesthetic sense of what is below you. Buster shared a video looking back up structure on the south side. He reviewed ways to pixilate the hand and fencing studies. He said their team is leaning towards straight fencing since that would be more complementary to the bridge.

Pat talked about last concept, *ecotone expression/landscape enhancements*. He talked about what is on the road surface and how they are trying to set up a cadence of the foothills or the valley depending on the direction. He talked about setting up a moment of crossing and connections; how bringing the viewer traveling at high speed into the space without making a bright splash or big exclamation point. The team was thinking about river rocks, gravel bar and/or basalt that already exist in area. He said they are proposing silica carbide for sparkle on the deck.

Pat talked about the area in plan view. On the north side, there is very little area to work with—there is a 2:1 slope that is already planted with mature trees. He is trying to bring the valley expressions to these areas and proposed a small planting area to highlight what is happening in the restoration area below. Plantings may include oak, camas, forbs, grasses, etc. Pat shared a slide of a bird's eye view of the planting area. The plantings build up slowly and then stop as travelers complete the crossing over the river. He said the team is addressing maintenance issues with Justin and striving for low maintenance.

On the south side, he said the proposal is similar to pixilation: in this case, pixilizing the landscape. Using basalt that composes the foothills, it starts building up so it becomes more frequent. The last few basalt rounds are made of concrete that mimics basalt columns. He said they are taking an expression of the natural and transitioning it into man-made. Then it goes into fencing. He shared a slide that showed the rippling of the silica carbide, mimicking the reflection of the river. He said that the plantings may be more containerized because the slopes so steep.

Peg reviewed the overall site plan again to show how the family of ideas come together.

Don said that he wanted to be sure questions were about making the presentation more clear. John asked about 3a, b and c; he was not sure of the lettering on the site plan. Peg explained that everything starts from right to left. Pat added that there may be multiple references.

Scott asked about 1) the pixilation of the fence: is there color other than white; and 2) the *passage pylons*—is there an opportunity to discuss colors inside of them? Peg responded that they have done color studies but are still in the concept phase. Everything will take more work so yes, the color of the pixels will be discussed further. Vicky asked what is supposed to be seen when one is traveling 65 mph? Buster responded that the shape will be evident since it is 10' across. He said it could be an oval on top. Peg added that the idea of a hoop had been discussed with Esther. The hoop is from this area and it reflects the circle of life. Pat added that whatever is up on top can't be so distracting as to be a safety hazard yet it should be interesting. He said there is a stainless steel and reflective light dynamic.

Vicky asked how high off the ground the pylon on south side would be and Buster responded 20'. Randy asked if the budget required that some elements be sacrificed, what concepts could go away? Peg referred to the updated matrix and the priorities listed. Randy added that he would want to maintain the whole without diminishing the intent. Buster said perhaps the fencing could be part of other budgets. Bob said that stainless steel for the pylons would be expensive—has the team considered other options? Buster said stainless is recommended for its durability. It comes in large rolls. He is more concerned with weight than cost at this point. Another material to consider is carbon fiber, which is already in a lattice pattern.

Eric said he likes the symphony of all these elements together. Is there some economy of thinking of the bundles together? For example, what about the gabions in this bundle as well as bundle 2? Scott asked Buster about the north pylon and the north end—what does Buster mean by “still resolving?” Pat responded that they want the elements to work as an orchestra so they need to be sure they are all working together.

Vicky asked about words. The team responded that the words could be determined.

ADT #2

Robin introduced bundle 2. She said that over time the area will change. It is not up to us, not up to the cities, etc. Seeds are going to grow and the place will change. The bundle 2 area is a linear corridor with a progression of moments and passage. She shared the site map slide—the haziness outlining the proposed elements is on purpose and depicts the general area only. Robin said that the team is focused on three themes: patterns of the river, technology and nature restored.

Beginning with the river and riparian corridor, Suzanne talked about how the *ripple benches* honor the river itself. The color of the benches—Celadon—is the color of clean, Oregon water. The benches will look like the rippling water. She said this is an opportunity for more than just a plain bench.

She talked about the *river railing*. The railing is proposed as galvanized with the verticals catching light. It links the south bank art together while showing the river itself. When moving towards the overlook area, there would be words. Since people learn in all different ways, she wanted to provide an opportunity for visual learners also.

Suzanne talked about *old growth*—was of nature, now of man, now a sculpture. It is visually demanding: the different bands reflect different information while it also provides an opportunity to think about man, nature, time, etc. Suzanne read a poem titled “Being a Person” by William Stafford from *Even in Quiet Places*.

Adam talked about experiencing the site in a different way. He said he was struck by ambitious human endeavors—the historic channeling of water and now the building of bridges. He was also struck by being in an area between two cities where homeless people live and an area that won't be maintained. He began to settle on gabions and was thinking about ways they could help bring the site to life. He shared that there had been discussion about saving the columns. He thinks the columns are a testament to that ambitious engineering while at the same time reflecting a history of the site. The total number of columns to be saved is still undetermined. He likes the idea of using the rubble from bridge, like a second life for these things. Allowing them to remain on the site provides a layer of history and time. In describing *remnant columns*, he talked about different heights of columns with staunch gabion cages on top. This sculpture brings the columns back up and provides remnants of past eras. Originally Adam had wanted them to be taller and provide habitat but he is respecting ODOT's wishes for a 6' maximum height.

Underneath Franklin Boulevard, he described *gabion ripples*. He proposed using gabion rubble stained an aqua color to resemble the river. There is the ghost of a millrace ripple underneath that resonates with the vocabulary of the highway.

Adam described the *water wheel* element along the path under the bridges. It includes fairly simple forms and is slightly abstract. He said he is again using glass and rubble about 6' high. He then showed *millstones*, sculptures that tumbles down the riprap and are also placed on the path. The *millstones* are a pretty recognizable form and are about 10' in size. Some could have planks to function as seating as well. When gabions are done as sculpture, would be done thoughtfully to convey crisp lines and shapes.

Robin also talked about the theme of lines—and noted the next three ideas have already gone through the open house. She said the *millrace of camas* would include a mix of 80% camas and

20% of Columbian larkspur that will serve to lengthen the bloom time. She mentioned the *dovetail boundary*, which will be a joint 4" in depth. The joint would be placed in the riverside path and the path along Franklin. Robin said she hoped it would be in bundle 3 too. She talked about *invisible lines made visible*, a border of 1 gallon red twig dogwoods totaling about 1,000 lineal feet that shows the mapped flood plain lines of the river.

Lee talked about multiple layers of history and the ways we've imposed on that history. He mentioned that while Adam had focused on the more recent history, he is referencing earlier history—the river and the people. He said the river used to have side channels and was up to a couple miles wide. He wanted to speak to the ingenious technologies that were likely used on this site thousands of years ago. He also wanted to tell the multi-layered history of the site and resources of the area. He described *fish net: provision* as a stainless steel element being pulled back like by river. He proposed it to be located at the end of foot bridge where the interpretive area is proposed. He envisions people pausing there. He sees the sculpture as loosely gesturing with light materials and look. Lee wants to be sure the net is woven in a way that is true to past peoples. He said it would be visible from Franklin and other areas and would be engineered so that it couldn't be climbed on.

Robin recapped the team's priorities for the elements. For example, *remnant columns* are the team's top choice. Robin talked about the different challenges with the elements and said her estimate for all the elements is slightly over budget.

Vicky asked about the lifespan of the *old growth* without treatment. Suzanne responded that it will have a cap and there will be an interior structure to keep it up. She has been told it will last 50 years or more if treated but that it will get pithy as the exterior degrades. Vicky asked if people might carve into it. Suzanne said she might consider planing some of the pieces. Carving into might not show very well, which may be a deterrent. Also, if preserved, paint will not stick.

Charlotte asked how to keep people from climbing on *fish net: provision*. Lee responded that it could have narrow posts and could have collar at the top. After quite a few public sculptures, he understands you can't deter everybody but you can eliminate a lot of people from attempting. The collars would be designed to blend in with sculpture.

Charlotte asked Adam about graffiti. Adam responded that the texture and surface is not conducive to graffiti. He hasn't seen any gabion surfaces that have been graffitied; they are not a target. Robin added that it would be hard to spray because of the rock placement and mesh. Adam added that another response is to use the gray paint that is typically used to cover graffiti.

Charlotte asked about ownership and maintenance. Robin responded that this is ADT #2's first cut at a discussion among the entities who may own or maintain the elements.

Scott asked for clarification regarding *ripple benches* and Suzanne responded that they could be gabion or crystal filled rocks.

Eric referred to the place taking care of itself over time. Is that what the team envisions over time? Adam responded that the forms are of the earth and if things grow up against them, or something falls near it, that is okay. He added that it would also be okay if the elements were maintained.

Bob asked and Robin confirmed three *ripple benches* were proposed. She also confirmed that the *river railing* is near the pedestrian bridge, under the bridge and the viaduct.

Randy asked about the *ripple benches* and skateboarders. Suzanne responded that they are not good for sleeping. A metal framework holds them together and they could have a lip as a deterrent.

Scott asked about the quantity and potential impact of the *gabion ripples*. Adam said they are flexible and somewhat up in the air since it is not confirmed that the path will be constructed.

Randy asked about the interpretive areas. Don responded that they are still being discussed. Robin said that hopefully a lot of their elements have multiple opportunities for locations.

ADT #3

Tulsi outlined ADT #3's presentation order and elements. Tim explained the replacement font and sparseness of the graphics. He asked that the group focus on the theme. He talked about the three elements of people, place and time. He talked about the concept "from habit to habitation"—two pieces with a common theme. He explained the difference between truly inhabiting a place rather than simply occupying it. He talked about the team's Community Involvement and Longterm Ownership Strategy, referred to as *CILOS*.

Tulsi and Tim oriented the group to the site map. They mentioned that there had been a major redesign for the underpass, which went from *rubble garden* to *tree here now*. The focus changed from an inhospitable place to somewhere that is desirable. Bill described the plaza with its concrete pavers to pick up on the pixilation theme of the other ADTs. It is also symbolic of Eugene and Springfield. *Tree here now* includes a single tree and a concrete channel that gathers water off the bridges to water the tree. The area also includes bike racks and benches on south side of the path to create a place to enjoy the area and river.

Tim talked about the next idea, *cultivating the gap*. There is a gap between the bridges, between Eugene and Springfield. It had originally been discussed as a time element. Bill talked about the experience. He is focused on the temporal and described river rock that increases in intensity. There is also convergence and divergence in the path. Tim added that the rocks could include text such as convergence, divergence, etc.

Yotokko referenced the meadow west of the WRB bridge. Since the area is over a landfill, the team has focused on native forbs, which are a major benefit to pollinator species. He stated that less than half of one percent of native Willamette Valley prairie habitat remains today for a variety of reasons. Since the site is very close to the river and there is a multitude of users, he recommends a chemical-free approach. Upland prairie could be mulched and invasives could be "shaded" out. He said it takes about two years, in addition to selective weeding, for native species to establish themselves. The team also has a focus on community-based preservation. For example, could have middle school students take on service-based learning. This could be done with an adopt-a-plot program where the students monitor, maintain, etc. the site with field trips in fall and spring.

Tulsi added that the restoration has been well received. *Singing perches* was also received positively. She said these perches could be worked on by students and wrapped into the restoration plan.

Tulsi talked about the *solar ruin* at the southwest portion of site and the concerns about blackberries, etc. She said it also relates well to ADT #1's proposed experience. Tulsi also described the Kalapuya *life cycle calendar*. She talked about the *camas bas relief* and referred to the artist who would do the work, Barbara Gleason. She talked about the *living lesson basalt snake* sculpture and the requests to move it farther from the path. She talked about the *braided river railing* and recent additional information that impacts its extent and design. She talked about the *passage canoe sculpture*. She noted that responses were concerned with vandalism, etc. She talked about the importance of that area, which was originally designated as their long house area.

She talked about the two artists that work together on public art projects that include carvings.

Scott asked and Tim responded that yes, the area of the canoe was intended as the long house area. Tulsi explained that because of the railing, and no path, it shifted her impressions of the space. She added that for her, the canoe was a high priority. She also said there is the potential for art later. Tim said there is an alternate location for the canoe and other elements. Tulsi added that the budget reflects the priorities of the team.

John asked and Bill responded that the pavers are mortared in. John asked if the level of detail on the last page was envisioned and Tulsi confirmed that it was.

John asked for a clarification regarding the four-year window for the restoration planning. Tulsi said it would need to be worked out in more detail.

Charlotte asked if the team would consider looking into other plants in addition to the camas for the bas relief. Tulsi said the cost is in the tooling of the item. Vicky asked about the *camas bas relief* and Tulsi clarified there could be more added if desired.

Eric asked about the *tree here now*. He confirmed that it was a very level space but what about the slope paving nearby? Bill responded that cast in place concrete was more cost effective and would likely be used. Eric clarified that perhaps they could be considered together.

Tulsi said that she had neglected to mention that ADT #2's *dovetail boundary* and *invisible lines made visible* could be added to bundle 3.

Scott asked for confirmation that the dogwood would survive the summer. Tulsi said they will be sure it can live before specifying it. Justin added that it could have temporary irrigation to ensure survival. Larry added that there is a five-year mandate to ensure survival of the project landscaping.

Buster added that in the area between northbound and southbound I-5, in what he called the zone of life, there should be a strong connection between bundles 2 and 3.

Bundle "Zero"

Justin talked about the sound walls. Since February 2009, he has been working on both the highway and neighborhood side of the I-5 southbound sound wall. He stated that the final design is an undulating, pixilated representation of a sound wave as it passes between the foothills and valley floor, as well as being emblematic of local land forms such as Judkins Point. He said that there wasn't budget to do the same enhancements on both sides of the wall.

Justin reviewed the view analysis from the neighborhood and highway sides. On the neighborhood side, he has applied conceptual treatments to those areas most visible to the neighbors. On the highway side, he showed the pixilated design.

He talked about the materials, construction, maintenance and ownership. He explained that the materials will be two colors and two finishes of CMU block, and the contractor/owner will need to engage a specialty construction company called Victory Builders. Construction documents will come later as a guide and eventually a mock-up will be needed. He added that it is ODOT's wall in ODOT's right-of-way. If vandalism does occur, paint could be done in the pixilation pattern. Cost estimates show that proposed design is within budget

Vicky asked if there would be any vines. Justin responded that neighbors did not want them because they might look invasive.

Scott asked about "from paper to construction." Is the pattern such that we are not marrying builders to precise layout? Justin responded that the intent and what will be provided to the contractor will be station points to guide the construction. Stationing will be at the crests and troughs. There will also be guidance as to the approximate dimensions of the sound wall footings up to the crests as a guide. This also goes for the sculpted elements. The builder will be required to provide sample texture and colors.

Charlotte said her recollection was that the only agreement was for the neighborhood side. She asked if a cost estimate had been done for just the neighborhood side. Justin said he recalled there was interest in doing something on the highway side also, and both sides have been presented to the DEP, CAG-PDT, etc. Charlotte asked about the northbound sound wall. Justin responded that he wanted to be sure the neighbors have an opportunity to provide input. His understanding was that the focus would be on the highway side.

Eric confirmed the pattern would be the same on both sides of the sound wall. Buster added that they are basically getting two walls for the price of one with the design. Buster asked if there would be an opportunity to revisit the concepts with the neighbors again and if they don't want the fake rock, that could save money.

Randy asked how much the DEP could influence the sound wall. Don said it would be okay to go ahead and weigh in. Justin added that there are still endorsements that are to happen and it is okay to provide input.

Conclusion

With the presentations complete, Don said he will take the blue sheets, summarize the information, and share that information with the DEP. He said that deliberations will begin Monday at 5 pm.

Next DEP meeting time and place: February 1, 2010, LCOG, 5 p.m.

