

Point Defiance Bypass Project Technical Advisory Team – Meeting Notes

Date: July 7, 2011
Time: 1 to 2 p.m.
Location: City of DuPont City Hall Conference Room
Attendees: David Bugher, City of Lakewood
Brian Ziegler, Pierce County
Chris Larson, City of Tacoma
Kevin Dayton, WSDOT (Olympic Region)
WSDOT Team: Ron Pate, Dave Smelser, Larry Mattson, Kevin Jeffers, Melanie Coon

Program Update

- FRA and WSDOT have signed agreements for \$735 million in federal high-speed rail funds.

Traffic Memos

The team provided an overview of Traffic Memos. More than 200 separate 2010 and 2030 movements were analyzed.

- No unexpected findings
- Minor differences in average delay between build and no-build

The memos were provided to the Technical Advisory Group on June 7 and we asked for feedback from the team by July 1. Thus far, we have received comments from six TAG team members. (Lakewood, Tacoma, Camp Murray, FHWA, Pierce County, Clover Park School District). At the time of the meeting, we had not received official word from DuPont, Sound Transit and JBLM. *Editor's Note: JBLM has since provided its comments.*

All comments will receive a response and will be incorporated into the Traffic and Transportation Discipline Report

Comment highlights:

- Questions and clarification of study components
- Concerns about queue length and available storage
- Confirmation of freight and passenger train service schedules

Facilitated Review

The Technical Advisory group will have a half-day workshop Tuesday, October 18 to review potential project impacts and evaluate mitigation ideas. Members of the Exec team will receive invitations to this workshop. **Please encourage your technical staff to attend this workshop.**

There will be no Executive Advisory meetings in August, September and October. WSDOT Environmental Manager Larry Mattson made a point to thank the Executive Team members for allowing their staff to participate in the Technical Advisory Group. Input from the team has been instrumental in assuring that

WSDOT is approaching the EA process with a clear and accurate sense of how this project uniquely affects each jurisdiction.

Communications Manager Melanie Coon notified the team of the upcoming council presentation dates:

- Lakewood City Council: Monday, August 15
- Pierce County Council: Tuesday, August 16
- DuPont City Council: Tuesday, Aug. 23
- Tacoma City Council: Tuesday, Sept 20

Questions from Exec Team

- Pierce County Public Works Director Brian Ziegler asked which intersections in Tacoma were analyzed specifically.
 - Ron Pate explained that the intersections at 56th Street and 74th Street were included in the traffic study.
- Ziegler asked how WSDOT was documenting questions and comments from the Technical Advisory team and also how WSDOT is documenting its responses to each comment/question.
 - Project Lead Kevin Jeffers responded by showing Ziegler WSDOT's Comment Review Tracking Form, a spread sheet cataloging comments and responses.
 - WSDOT's Environmental Manager Larry Mattson explained that this form merges the questions and comments and will become a part of the project record.
 - Mattson added that the team has more opportunities to submit comments, this fall, early spring 2012 and during the comment period after the EA gets published in fall 2012.
- Lakewood Deputy Administrator Dave Bugher offered that an update to the visuals produced by Transpo that show modeling at Berkeley Street.
 - The modeling was done for Lakewood's Camp Murray gate relocation project. Bugher noted that Lakewood wants everyone have access to the most updated version.
 - The gate relocation project will be presenting to the city council on July 19, followed by the city's Planning Advisory Board and a public meeting to announce Lakewood's plans for the gate location.
- Bugher also asked about the status of WSDOT's work on relocating the Amtrak station to Freighthouse Square.
 - Pate explained that our teams are meeting the week of July 11 to discuss the specific changes that need to be made in order for the Freighthouse Square to accommodate the Cascades passenger needs.
- Bugher gave the team a "heads up" about a citizens' petition that is being circulated by David Anderson to call for an advisory vote by Lakewood residents to weigh in on the Point Defiance Bypass project. Bugher provided information on the city's perspective and process.

Next Meeting – 1:00 p.m. Nov. 3 at DuPont City Hall