



SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

Design Advisory Group Meeting Summary

May 4th, 2006 5:30 – 8:00 pm
St. Demetrios Church, Seattle

Welcome and Introductions

Julie Meredith welcomed the group to the 5th Design Advisory Group meeting. She noted that this meeting would begin the process of rolling out how the project team has interpreted the group's ideas to be presented in the Corridor Aesthetics Handbook. She emphasized that as the design handbook comes together the group will play an important role in the review process. Julie asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Design Advisory Group members in attendance included:

- George Martin, Clyde Hill
- Alana McIlwain, Madison Park
- Michael Anderson, Madison Park
- Rob Wilkinson, Montlake
- Lyle Bicknell, Montlake
- Kathy Feek, Kirkland
- Paul Demetriades, Medina
- Tom Iverson, Wetherill Nature Preserve
- Ronni McGlenn, Wetherill Nature Preserve
- Vicky Cooper, Yarrow Point

Project Team members in attendance included:

- Daniel Babuca, Project Engineer
- Julie Meredith, Project Manager
- John Milton, Project Director
- David Peterson, WSDOT NW Region Landscape Architect
- Paul Kinderman, WSDOT Lead Architect
- Mark Maurer, WSDOT Roadside & Site Development Manager
- Darby Watson, Urban Planning and Design
- Susan Wessman, Urban Planner/Landscape Architect
- Suanne Pelley, Outreach Manager
- Chelsea Tennyson, Outreach Coordinator
- Bryan Jarr, Outreach Coordinator
- Clair Leighton, Outreach Coordinator

Updates/Preview of Agenda

Julie reviewed the evening's agenda, which included:

- Review of the Design Aesthetics Handbook
- Thematic zones break out session
- Eastside/Seattle groups convene to share ideas
- Corridor unity
- Next steps

Overview of Handbook

Susan reviewed the draft table of contents for the handbook.

- Preface
- Purpose of Handbook
- Handbook – Workshop Process
- Intro to Corridor Unity and Thematic Zones
- Corridor Unity
- Thematic Zones – Westside
- Thematic Zones – Eastside
- Public Comments from Open Houses



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- Concluding Comments
- Appendix: Glossary of Elements

Thematic Zones Breakout

Susan asked the Eastside and Seattle groups to review their respective chapter during this breakout session, focusing on finalizing the thematic zone palette. She emphasized that this would not be their final opportunity to make comments.

Darby Watson introduced additional ways for the group to think about thematic zone palettes. She noted that the group's ideas fell into the following three organizing principles and suggested them as a potential structure for the handbook:

- Pieces – specific structures or manmade elements that need special attention
- Places – those particular areas of interest that have significance to the community
- Habitats – environmentally precious areas that need to be sustained, protected and enhanced

Susan reviewed the process for the breakout session:

- Review palette and decide if this can apply to the whole East/West side
- If yes...select a photo or two for each bullet or create a sketch that expresses the idea
- Write down a bullet list of what it is about that photo that expresses the palette concept

Eastside Group Report Back

Vicki Cooper presented the following ideas and concepts from the Eastside group:

- No water lilies
- Docks are important
- Calatrava design is favorable, specifically the Sundial Bridge in Redding, CA
- Water flowing through the project area
- Color palette should be natural
- Don't compete with nature, support it
- Native vegetation is preferred
- One community – undistinguishable
- Parks – natural
- Wetherill Preserve should be distinguished from other parks
- Lids
 - Views
 - Some kind of gateway
 - Reconnect neighborhoods
 - Theme should be similar
- Water should be linear – runs down with lids

Seattle Group Report Back

Lyle Bicknell presented the following terms and ideas that the Seattle group discussed:

- Focus on human scale; attention to detail
- Current facility does not reflect its context
- Return to Olmsted legacy – Olmsted system used to be a bike trail system
- Emphasize craft
- Appropriate scale – experience of the driver verses the experience of bicyclists
- Appeal to bicyclists and bicycle needs; recreational biking verses commuting by bicycle
- Incorporate art along the facility
- Very contemporary bold design could be considered where appropriate



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- Make things interesting
- Use the maple tree image for natural design inspiration

Corridor Unity

Susan explained that when the project team reviewed the Design Advisory Group's feedback on corridor unity, two general themes emerged for both the Eastside and Seattle groups:

- Natural
- Contemporary

She presented four display boards portraying common principles and palettes:

- Corridor Theme – Natural: Goals and Aesthetic Design Principles
- Corridor Theme – Natural: Palette
- Corridor Theme – Contemporary: Goals and Aesthetic Design Principles
- Corridor Theme – Contemporary: Palette

Suanne Pelley asked the group to vote on three principles or palettes presented on the four boards.

The following goals and concepts received a majority of the votes (number of votes):

- Materials: Pacific Northwest stone, wood, concrete, tile, trees, and shrubs (7)
- Goal: A coherent and graceful facility that is integrated with the natural world (6)
- Design the walls, lids, bridges, and portals to flow seamlessly into one another in a thematic way and to blend smoothly with the surrounding terrain (5)
- Use lighting where appropriate to add beauty and make a structure iconic (3)
- Avoid overdone Pacific Northwest stereotypes (3)
- Goal: Harmonious relationship with surrounding landscape, structures, and other elements of the corridor (3)

Overall, the group felt the corridor themes of “natural” and “contemporary” were not mutually exclusive, but rather compatible and quite complimentary. The project team suggested incorporating both the natural and contemporary themes into a single corridor unity theme for the DAG to review in the draft handbook.

Next Steps

Julie reviewed the schedule for reviewing the handbook:

- May 25th – Draft handbook mailed to the group on
- June 6th – DAG members send their comments to the project team by
- Late June – DAG Materials and Process displayed at the SR 520 Project Open House
- June 22nd – 6th and final
- June 29th – DAG members submit final comments on handbook

Julie invited the group to attend the annual bridge closure event on June 17th. She noted that DAG members will be receiving a formal invitation by email in the next few weeks.

Julie noted that the SR 520 Project is presenting to the Seattle Design Commission and that the corridor aesthetics design process, including comments from the Design Advisory Group will be included in that presentation.

Julie thanked everyone for coming.