

Point Defiance Bypass Project Technical Advisory Team – Meeting Notes

Date: August 12, 2010

Attendees: Jeff Gonzalez, City of Lakewood
Minh Vo, Camp Murray
Peter Zahn, City of DuPont
Dean Moberg - FHWA
Jodi Mitchell, Sound Transit
Jason Suzaka, Sound Transit
Larry Mickel, Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Michael Forsythe, Clover Park School District
Mike Galizio, Pierce County
WSDOT Project Team: David Smelser, Larry Mattson, Melanie Coon, Chris Dunster, Kevin Jeffers, Dianna Lahmann

Welcome

Environmental Manager Larry Mattson opened the meeting by introducing people in the room and on the phone.

Project Overview - Past, present and future

Past - Environmental Manager Larry Mattson gave a brief overview of work that has been going on in the last two weeks.

- Both the city of Lakewood and Camp Murray have provided detailed information about current projects in the nearby area.
- Mattson reviewed formal versus informal options for public outreach.
 - Formal – scoping, discipline reports, EA.
 - Informal opportunities – getting out to city councils, chambers of commerce, neighborhoods, etc.
- Brief discussion about the schedule, three discipline reports will be released in the spring:
 - Transportation/traffic report – February 2011
 - Socio-economic report – March 2010
 - Noise/vibration report – April 2011

Present – today’s weighting workshop

Future work

Build on the work of the weighting workshop, creating structure around the mitigation ideas. Mattson announced a study session on the topic of grade separations, their issues and costs. We’re working towards the technical memo.

Weighting Workshop

Mattson differentiated between Design options and mitigation measures.

- Design options are integral features of a project’s proposed improvements (e.g., wayside horns, median barriers);

- Mitigation measures reduce or eliminate negative effects of a project (e.g., noise walls, public information campaigns).

Mattson introduced the program's project delivery manager, David Smelser as the facilitator of the weighting workshop discussion.

WSDOT has been soliciting ideas for several weeks now and is ready to start incorporating, prioritizing and analyzing the ideas.

The first step is to choose the Performances Attributes we want to use and agree on a clear definition for each. The Performance Attribute [handout](#) shows the most common ones WSDOT uses:

- Improve Mainline Operations
- Improve Local Operations
- Improve Maintainability
- Reduce Construction Impacts
- Reduce Environmental impacts
- Shorten project schedule
- Reduce risk

Supplemental attributes:

- Forward compatibility
- Land-use compatibility
- Cultural Impacts
- Ecological impacts
- Hydrological impacts

Some we don't use:

- Public acceptance
- Constructability
- Right of way impacts

Most of the Performance Attribute definitions have come about because of highway projects. Some of the definitions we need to use may not fit into the cookie-cutter definitions we're starting with.

Smelser asked participants to take a look at this list and see what else we can add to measure our ideas. He pointed out there are two that are core to WSDOT's mission – Improve safety and improve main line operations.

The group discussed and prioritized the list. We've defined criteria and the WSDOT team will polish the definitions. We've ranked criteria against each other. We'll send the polished list and definitions to both Advisory Teams, and finalize them at the next tech team meeting (August 26). We'll do regular check-ins.

Sound Transit's Jodi Mitchell asked Smelser why we are not talking about cost?

Smelser explained that at this early stage, we don't want to throw out good ideas up front just because of cost. There may be things we can do, so the ideas need to be fully vetted.

Next steps:

- The next meeting is August 26 and this is where each design option or mitigation measure idea will get discussed thoroughly.
- The scoping letter responses from each jurisdiction are posted on our [web site](#). We are working from the ideas submitted in these letters, but encourage members to submit other ideas.
- The WSDOT team will send out the final list for review by the committee before the August 26 meeting.

NOTE: The next Technical Committee meeting is **Thursday, August 26 from 9 to noon**. Please note the time change. The meeting will be at the Pierce Transit's Rainier Conference room at 3720 96th Street SW in South Tacoma.