

Point Defiance Bypass Project Technical Advisory Team – Meeting Notes

Date: September 23, 2010

Attendees: Jeff Gonzalez, City of Lakewood
Dan Penrose, City of Lakewood
David Bugher, City of Lakewood
Chris Larson, City of Tacoma
Peter Zahn, City of DuPont
Jodi Mitchell, Sound Transit
Jason Suzaka, Sound Transit
Mike Galizio, Pierce County
Delphie Nielsen, Clover Park School District
Steve Kim, WSDOT Olympic Region
WSDOT Project Team: Larry Mattson, Scott Witt, Melanie Coon, Kevin Jeffers, Elizabeth Phinney, Dianna Lahmann

Welcome

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

Project Overview – Past, Present, Future

Mattson gave a brief overview of mitigation idea brainstorming from the last meeting on Aug. 26. This meeting was a continuation of the brainstorming. The team will go over an operating plan to be signed by team members, and review the Discipline Report Inventory with the understanding that even now it is being revised.

Mattson recapped the project team's presentation to the Lakewood City council on Sep. 20. At the council meeting, Mattson and Program Director Ron Pate explained what the advisory groups are doing, talked about funding, discipline reports, and the environmental process. They told the council the traffic, socio-economic, and noise/vibration studies will be out in the spring. Pate talked about outreach opportunities for the project within the communities and how the project team will be proceeding with outreach. One of the ideas was for the project team to hold a temporary project office in an affected community for one day per month or so, where anyone can drop in and ask project questions or give ideas. WSDOT is working to gain stakeholder ideas for this project, but will be ramping up public engagement efforts.

Brainstorming Exercise (mitigation ideas)

Review of prior ideas.

Other ideas were refined and added to matrix. See the outcome online:

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Rail/PNWRC_PtDefiance/AdvTeamMaterials.htm

Tech Group Operating Plan

Mattson quoted, “The best predictor of project success is how well the project manager manages stakeholder expectations.” One tool is an Operating Plan. It outlines expectations for the advisory team, for WSDOT, and provides guidance on a conflict resolution process. The operating plan includes the team charge presented at prior meetings. Mattson asked the team to review the plan and submit revisions within the next week, so that it can be signed at the next meeting.

Discipline Report Inventory

The purpose of the Discipline Report Inventory is to determine which studies need to be updated from prior work. Mattson explained the types and levels of updates required:

- Level 1: New/revised discipline report
- Level 2: An addendum to a previous report
- Level 3: Letter to file (no action needed); meaning WSDOT will contact the previous report preparer to let them know what work is being done, they may do a database search, then a brief letter will go on file stating the report will not be changed.

There were questions about the content of the inventory and why some sections were less comprehensive than others. In some cases, the information wasn’t available to the person preparing the inventory. In the case of the Grade Separation Report, WSDOT is still determining how to handle that information – whether grade separation impacts should be considered in all the other reports, or prepared as a stand-alone report. At this time it appears it will be a stand-alone report.

The project team will be reviewing air quality information within the discipline reports because it was noted that the air quality status in the area may have changed since the reports were initially prepared.

Future Meetings

- The team may add an hour and go 9-12 next time, at Pierce Transit;
- Point Defiance Shoreline Route Technical Memo should be ready for review soon;
- Next meeting - grade separation workshop;
- The meeting on the 18th of November may be canceled due to the holidays, but the group was asked to keep the placeholder on their calendars.

Next Meeting

October 21 at 10a.m., Pierce Transit’s Rainier Conference Room