

Point Defiance Bypass Project Technical Advisory Team – Meeting Notes

Date: June 16, 2011

Attendees: Michael Forsythe, Clover Park School District
Jeff Gonzalez, City of Lakewood
Steve Kim, WSDOT Olympic Region
Chris Larson, City of Tacoma
Jodi Mitchell, Sound Transit
Dean Moberg, FHWA
Shawn Phelps, Pierce County
Jason Suzaka, Sound Transit
Minh Vo, Camp Murray
Peter Zahn, City of DuPont
Carter Danne, Parametrix (WSDOT consultant)
WSDOT Project Team: Ron Pate, Kevin Jeffers, Larry Mattson, Myria Foisy, Melanie Coon, Dianna Lahmann

Program Update

Ron Pate began the meeting with an overview of all the projects in the Cascades High Speed Rail program.

Introductions

Traffic Study Overview

Project Engineer Kevin Jeffers reviewed all the different scenarios presented in the traffic memos made available to the teams on June 7, including: 2010 and 2030; AM, PM and mid-day peaks; build and no-build; with Cross Base Highway and without. He noted there were no unexpected findings and there were only minor differences in delay between build and no-build scenarios. Synchro and VISSIM models were used, noting that VISSIM is more detailed and not usually done at this level of environmental review.

Minh Vo asked, in light of the Camp Murray gate relocation moving forward, if WSDOT plans to include the relocation in the traffic study. Jeffers said no, because in January 2011 the Technical Advisory Committee agreed it would remain in its current location for this study. Lakewood advisory group member Jeff Gonzalez concurred with Jeffers agreeing that sufficient details were not known at that time about the status of the relocation to include it.

Jeffers pointed out to the group this traffic study is for the Environmental Assessment (EA), and all the traffic data will be updated during final design. Project Environmental Manager Larry Mattson noted that the gate relocation traffic study prepared by the Washington National Guard for Camp Murray can be adopted into this project's EA, in order to account for any changes in traffic movements from the studies WSDOT has prepared for the Point Defiance Bypass.

Jeffers reminded the group that WSDOT would like feedback on the memos by July 1.

Traffic Study Highlights

WSDOT chose four intersections from the traffic memos to highlight for the group:

- Barksdale Avenue in DuPont,
- Berkeley Street and Bridgeport Way in Lakewood
- S. 56th Street in Tacoma.

Jeffers discussed build and no-build for 2010 and 2030 – the average seconds of delay, levels of service and maximum queue length for those scenarios.

Peter Zahn noted he thought the current level of service at Barksdale Avenue was lower than presented at the meeting. Kevin Jeffers responded that the lower LOS could be for a different scenario or as projected in 2030. WSDOT will review all the level of service data for accuracy.

Steve Kim asked about the maximum backup, or how long it takes an intersection to get back to the normal queue scenario after the train clears. Jeffers said two light cycles. Dean Moberg said that even with a two minute pre-emption and three light cycles to return to a normal queue, he believes WSDOT's estimate of 10 minutes to recover won't take that long. Kim asked for this information to be clarified in the final memos. Larry Mattson mentioned that the effects of traffic backups on local drivers resulting from *Cascades* trains will be clearly communicated both in future neighborhood outreach meetings and within the EA.

Schedule Review

Larry Mattson concluded the meeting with a brief schedule overview. Facilitated reviews of discipline reports (Transportation; Noise and Vibration; and Social Elements) will be conducted in October and November. Participation is critical. Meetings will be more in-depth and likely longer.

Data from the traffic study will be incorporated into the Transportation Discipline Report. Some mitigation is planned into the project design (e.g., median barriers, traffic signal synchronization, and wayside horns). Additional mitigation, if necessary, will be identified from the Traffic Study and the Transportation Discipline Report, in cooperation with local jurisdictions.

Adjourn

Next meeting: July 21 in Pierce Transit's Olympic Conference Room