

Point Defiance Bypass Project Technical Advisory Team – Meeting Notes

Date: August 26, 2010

Attendees: Jeff Gonzalez, City of Lakewood
Dan Penrose, City of Lakewood
Chris Larson, City of Tacoma
Minh Vo, Camp Murray
Dean Moberg - FHWA
Jodi Mitchell, Sound Transit
Jason Suzaka, Sound Transit
Larry Mickel, Joint Base Lewis-McChord
Jesse Hamashima, Pierce County
John Nisbet, WSDOT Olympic Region
Steve Kim, WSDOT Olympic Region
WSDOT Project Team: David Smelser, Larry Mattson, 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 and future

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

- Update of the project's Purpose and Need Statement.
- Changes include making the project limits clearer and placed the project objectives into bulleted form:
 - Enhanced frequency
 - Improved reliability
 - Enhanced efficiency
 - Improved safety

Weighting Workshop: Part Two

The project's Program Delivery Manager David Smelser reviewed the work done at the last meeting, where the team agreed on a set of values that will be used to shape the weighting process. Smelser introduced a flow chart showing a simple process for considering mitigation ideas and increasing the level of involvement in the EA process. WSDOT has been soliciting ideas for several weeks now and is ready to start incorporating, prioritizing and analyzing the ideas.

Question: Does this process have a veto component?

David Smelser responded saying the process does not have a step for veto, but this process helps us evaluate each idea and flush out fatal flaws. He said that this team's goal should be to negotiate a solution that is financially realistic, but meets our needs. It aims to land on a solution that is constructible, reasonable and affordable.

Question: How does this weighting process get folded into the EA?

Smelser responded that everything gathered through this weighting process gets summarized, analyzed and assessed against the values of the team. That information will become part of the public involvement part of the EA process.

Comment: Lakewood's Dan Penrose commented that the "small M" mitigation seems premature and he pointed out challenges with the process, asking that the team take a more linear approach. He said it runs the risk of getting too far into the process without answering the hard questions up front.

WSDOT's Environmental Manager Larry Mattson pointed out that WSDOT takes the NEPA process very seriously, but tries to build some flexibility into the process where you can revisit a certain component if regulatory statutes change or new information comes to light.

The Advisory team spent the next 30 minutes discussing the overall process and transitioned into discussing the upcoming technical memo currently being worked on by WSDOT environmental staff.

Mattson suggested that the team work a public outreach emphasis into the process in October when the technical memo gets issued. WSDOT's team will brief the Lakewood City Council on September 20 and will include highlights from the technical memo.

The rest of the meeting was spent fine tuning and defining mitigation ideas. Ideas were solicited from the participating advisory team members and captured on a flip chart. The ideas were then inputted into the evaluation matrix. More discussion of the ideas will occur at the next Technical Advisory group meeting on September 23.

Next steps:

The next meeting is September 23 and this is where more design options or mitigation measures idea will get added to the evaluation matrix for discussion. Possible topics at the next meeting:

- Discipline Report inventory
- Point Defiance Shoreline Technical Memo
- Review/discuss operating plan

The evaluation matrix and materials from our discussion are posted on our [web site](#). We encourage team members to review the matrix and submit other ideas.

NOTE: The next Technical Committee meeting is **Thursday, September 23 from 10 a.m. to noon**. Please note the location change. The meeting will be at the Lakewood City Hall Room 3A (3rd Floor).