



## Meeting Notes

### North Spokane Corridor Executive Advisory Committee

August 1, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

WSDOT, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA

#### Committee Members Present

Kathryn Alexander, Bemiss Neighborhood  
Richard Burris, Greater Hillyard Business Association  
Heleen Dewey, Spokane Regional Health District  
Matt Ewers, IEDS  
Colleen Gardner, Chief Garry Park Neighborhood  
Mike Gribner, WSDOT  
Representative Bob McCaslin  
Susan Meyer, Spokane Transit Authority  
Grant Pfeifer, Department of Ecology  
Representative Marcus Riccelli  
Representative Matt Shea  
Scott Simmons, City of Spokane  
Larry Stone, SCAFCO  
Karen Sutula, East Central Neighborhood  
Luke Tolley, Hillyard Neighborhood  
Joe Tortorelli, Transportation Commission  
Amber Waldref, Spokane City Council  
Kevin Wallace, Facilitator

#### Committee Members Not Present but Represented by an Alternate

Senator Michael Baumgartner, represented by Matt McCoy, Legislative Assistant

#### Guests Present

Louis Mueller, City of Spokane  
Dr Kerry Brooks, EWU  
Keith Metcalf, WSDOT  
Mike Frucci, WSDOT  
Darrel McCallum, WSDOT  
Charlene Kay, WSDOT  
Bob Hilmes, WSDOT  
Kathy Engle, WSDOT  
Gina Cadagan, WSDOT

The handouts and slides from this meeting are available at  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US395/NorthSpokaneCorridor/ExecAdvisoryCommittee.htm>

- **Welcome – Safety Briefing**

Mike Gribner gave the safety briefing.

Keith Metcalf welcomed the group, and said that, as a Department, we are trying to include the community more. We are pleased to see the involvement of the neighborhoods here.

- **Public and Committee Comment/Concerns**

Amber Waldref thanked all involved in the Placemaking kickoff last week. It was good to see all the engagement.

Luke Tolley said he is looking forward to communications with the smaller venues.

Karen Sutula said that a lot of people in East Central are not sure what the end part is going to look like. People are really concerned if they will be able to live near I-90 after the next few years. Need more communication about what exactly that will look like, how traffic will come down off the south hill, especially east of Thor-Freya is a big concern. Also what will happen with empty WSDOT lots on the north side of I-90 west of Altamont.

Matt Shea thanked Mike Gribner and Grant Pfeifer from Ecology and all who are helping make good progress.

Marcus Riccelli is hearing good things about what is going on and community involvement. The region is committed to working together.

Grant Pfeifer - Working on mutual and complementary goals and being sure the area is cleaned up. Technical team from Ecology is in Montana this week looking at cleanup technologies that are similar to what is needed for the Black Tank.

Colleen Gardner said the kickoff meeting went well. If you are new to the neighborhood process, it can be a bit overwhelming. We appreciate your including the neighborhoods and for acknowledging feedback from neighborhoods.

Susan Meyer said the Spokane Transit staff who attended the placemaking meeting had great take-aways.

Heleen Dewey heard the event went very well. Spokane Regional Health District has hired a new health officer, Dr Bob Lutz, who is very interested in looking at transportation as a part of our health.

Richard Burris is glad to have the agreement signed. Has concerns about the interchange.

Katherine Alexander said the meeting was very good.

Mike Gribner – good to know that we hit the mark for the community meeting. The help that we received working through the black tank through this committee was great. This kind of collaboration is what this committee was put together for.

- **Black Tank Agreement Status**

Mike Gribner - Agreement has bounced back and forth between attorneys. Ecology is not a part of this agreement; they have helped with the framework. The agreement is between WSDOT and BNSF. There are just a couple of things to work through but sure it will be agreed to. We are in the final stages of detail – hopefully signed in a month or so. Not sure who will be the WSDOT signator. Attorney General will sign agreement.

- **Place Making Update**

Charlene Kay said that over 16,000 cards were mailed to every resident and business in the five neighborhoods we interface with. Also fliers were distributed to libraries and other venues. Thank you to neighborhood groups who posted fliers. EWU, City of Spokane and WSDOT were instrumental in the Placemaking. Other transportation agencies were also invited, including bicycle/ped organizations and law enforcement.

Char gave a recap of the July 25 meeting.

EWU will compile the information gathered at the meeting.

We realize that “one size does NOT fit all” for the neighborhoods.

Next steps: We are meeting this week to develop an engagement tool for agencies to post and share information. Dr. Brooks said EWU students are compiling information now, and are also putting together a schedule. We are appreciative of the EWU students.

Dr. Kerry Brooks is working with Dr. Dick Winchell.

Neighborhoods realize not everyone can attend all the meetings, so they would like to see a

continuity of information on a website.

We want to share NSC Project Office information, but everyone must realize the project is under development and subject to change.

Dr. Brooks - Augmented reality with phone app – if you are on site, you can see what the design will look like from your vantage point. Trying to figure out how this can be used. This process is all about alternatives and then decide on a final.

Heleen Dewey – is there an opportunity to look at the public engagement?

Char Kay – our region is launching a huge community engagement plan for our projects. Contacts and other information is available region-wide by our project offices.

Representative Marcus Riccelli asked if there is an email project distribution list that people can sign up for.

Char – there are some people who do not want to share their emails and some who do. We receive a lot of feedback from people who received the mailer. We will engage by email to the list we have. The City of Spokane has a blog; WSDOT has NSCFreeway.com; we are looking at NSCPlace.

Karen Sutula said the City of Spokane posts a weekly update.

Colleen Gardner said that some people do not have email – mailers are extremely effective.

Kevin Wallace can envision two dual tracts – placemaking and project design. This is very different – how do we continue to bring this together over time and make positive changes?

- **Project Delivery Update**

Bob Hilmes, Project Engineer for NSC Design gave a project delivery update.

At the next NSC Executive Advisory Committee Meeting, he will give a planned closure presentation. The closure plan will be available soon on the website.

Amber Waldref – please brief Minnehaha Neighborhood of closure plan.

Approximately 4500 feet of rail redesign is needed. We have purchased property for this; will need agreements with rail before going to ad.

Richard Burris – if we build over the black tank area, is there flexibility in the agreement to still do cleanup.?

Grant Pfeiffer – Cannot specifically answer that question, but the fundamental of the black tank agreement is finding a way to make it work. Ecology has two parts in this: follow the law, and be good partners in the cleanup.

Amber Waldref – what is the time frame to decide on diamond interchange or partial cloverleaf at Wellesley Ave.

Bob Hilmes – to add in July 2020, so would want it decided upon by end of 2019.

Gribner – we favor the diamond but we need to be sensitive to the cleanup. We cannot make that decision until we understand more. Please be patient and let us have our discussions with Ecology. Realistically, we cannot jeopardize the entire framework agreement for this, but we will make it work if we can.

Kathryn Alexander - If we go with the loop, have we looked at a productive way to use the land inside the loop?

Gribner – We will include the neighborhoods in a decision if it comes to that.

Frucci – That loop would go over the railroad, so there is only about 3 acres of useable land that would be used for stormwater treatment. This would also not be accessible land.

Karen Sutula – what kind of research is being done on the social and health impacts of an elevated design?

Mike Gribner/Bob Hilmes – we will get out to talk with you and your neighborhood more about this. We want to do this with you – all part of placemaking.

Heleen Dewey – how is the placemaking going to impact the ultimate design? We know this kind of design can have a negative impact on neighborhoods?

Dr. Brooks – this is an aspect of placemaking.

Karen Sutula -We need you to come to us with the problems and impacts and what the design will be to help mitigate those . We as citizens aren't the experts on mitigation.

Gribner – this is our intent – to have a two-way dialogue about our concerns. We are willing to

share with you what we know.

Char Kay – There are two processes that will address your concerns. Technical and Placemaking. The technical includes the environmental evaluation process, which is defined by the Federal government. Our concerns about air quality, noise, etc. is through that process. This will be accomplished in a transparent manner. Placemaking includes conversations with City of Spokane and others about neighborhoods, boundaries, how to connect to other areas. Restoration and improvement. At this point we don't know what this will look like. We want you to be a part of this process.

Representative Riccelli – possible health impacts need to be addressed.

Gribner - Some of these are concerns that may or may not happen. Let's have more conversation.

Scott Simmons – Important to look at aesthetics, green spaces, economic vitality

Heleen Dewey – positive economic vitality is important to health.

Dr Winchell has looked at economic opportunities in green spaces.

Char Kay – real estate association has not yet been included, but we will.

Kevin Wallace – if no other questions or concerns, we will adjourn.

- **Next Meeting –November 6, 2017 from 10:00 am to noon**

WSDOT Eastern Region Office  
2714 N Mayfair Street  
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