



North Spokane Corridor Executive Advisory Committee

February 21, 2018

Meeting Notes

Members Present

Kathryn Alexander, Bemiss Neighborhood
Sen. Mike Baumgartner
Richard Burris, Greater Hillyard Business Association
Matt Ewers, Inland Empire Distribution Systems
Mike Gribner, WSDOT
Larry Krauter, Spokane Airports
Grant Pfeifer, Department of Ecology
Scott Simmons, City of Spokane
Larry Stone, ESBA/SRTC
Luke Tolley, Hillyard Neighborhood
Joe Tortorelli, Washington State Transportation Commission
Amber Waldref, Northeast Community Center-The Zone

Committee Members Not Present but Represented by an Alternate

Susan Meyer represented by Mike Tresidder, Spokane Transit Authority

Guests Present

Barnetta Bendewald
Kerry Brooks, EWU
Cynthia Clausen
Al Gilson, WSDOT Public Information Officer
Bob Hilmes, WSDOT NSC Project Engineer, presenter
Charlene Kay, WSDOT Planning, presenter
Janet Lane, Shaw Middle School
Alex Mann, EWU, presenter
Louis Mueller, City of Spokane
John Sweat, Shaw Middle School, presenter

- Welcome – Mike Gribner welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Public Comments/Concerns – Mike Gribner asked if anyone from the public would like to make any comments or if there were any concerns. There were none.
- Potential effect of the NSC on the Wellesley/Market and Wellesley/Haven intersections: Project engineer Bob Hilmes briefed the group on the details on the current status of the NSC design and construction. He discussed the design of the Wellesley Interchange and noted WSDOT is working with the city of Spokane. He also indicated they are looking at the effects of traffic on intersections within about two miles. Hilmes also covered upcoming construction work from Freya Street south to Columbia Ave. and some of the components of the Wellesley interchange.

Senator Baumgartner asked about roundabouts, including how the public accepts and acclimates to them. Gribner replied that there is public resistance to those facilities prior to opening, but that changes after drivers see the results.

Sabrina Minshall asked about intersection level of service-C, D, or E. Hilmes noted that the pass/fail is D or better and based on how long that condition is present during the day.

Kathryn Alexander asked about pedestrian use at roundabouts. Hilmes noted that current pedestrian activity is very minimal. The roundabout discussion continued with the group looking at a roundabout design at the Wellesley/Market/Haven intersection that was proposed by Richard Burris. Alexander also asked about property acquisition for that roundabout and Hilmes advised that there was no budgeted dollars at this time.

Scott Simmons asked about the construction timeline around Wellesley and Hilmes indicated it would be about three years of construction.

- Current/Planned NSC Place Connections: Char Kay presented a status update on the Placemaking process. Kay and Gribner indicated it was something to explore.

Senator Baumgartner asked if it were possible to do a “fun run” on the Children of the Sun Trail. There was discussion by the group on possible events and sponsoring groups.

Richard Burris asked for clarification on the charrettes and whether aspects of the trail could be discussed at the neighborhood meetings. Char Kay noted that all neighborhoods were invited to the trail charrette but that topic could be discussed at the neighborhood meetings.

- Potential Synergies between “The Zone Project” and “NSC Place”: Amber Waldref presented an overview of The Zone Project, and how it can interface with NSC Placemaking and other activities in the northeast Spokane area.

Senator Baumgartner asked if District 81 (Spokane Public Schools) was involved in this effort. Waldref responded in the affirmative and added that there are many other partners in the Zone effort for educational, recreational, and nutritional programs. Waldref indicated that she will invite the Zone partners to the upcoming charrettes.

- Potential Synergies between Shaw Middle School redevelopment efforts and “NSC Place”: John Sweat, Principal of Shaw Middle School, addressed the group on the synergy between Shaw and the NSC Placemaking process. He mentioned the connectivity with the trail and the educational facilities in the area including Shaw, Regal, SCC and the Skills Center.
- Overview of the upcoming NSC Place Charrettes: Alex Mann, EWU NSC Project Manager, went over the plans for the upcoming charrettes. He detailed the charrette format and potential outcomes from these community discussions.

Richard Burris asked about funding availability for facility enhancement recommendation that come from the charrettes. Mike Gribner replied that we don’t yet know as this type of process has never been done before. There was significant discussion around the funding issue and the results of this public participation process amongst the group, with Gribner focusing on the resulting vision of the process and the future need to form partnerships to pursue funding opportunities. He stressed that the community conversation should not be restricted to discussing only strategies that have existing funding.

- Noise Impacts – Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting. *carry-over from last meeting* (Heleen Dewey)
- Design Build – Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting. *carry over from last meeting*
- Next Meeting:
 - Tuesday, July 24, 2018
 - 10 a.m.-Noon
 - WSDOT Eastern Region Office