



Meeting Notes

North Spokane Corridor Executive Advisory Committee

November 6, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.

WSDOT, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA

Committee Members Present

Kathryn Alexander, Bemiss Neighborhood
Kerry Brooks, EWU
Richard Burris, GHBA
Heleen Dewey, Spokane Regional Health District
Matt Ewers, IEDS
Colleen Gardner, Chief Garry Park Neighborhood
Mike Gribner, WSDOT
Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley
Representative Jeff Holy
Lawrence Krauter, Spokane International Airport
Representative Bob McCaslin
Susan Meyer, STA
Sabrina Minshall, SRTC
Grant Pfeifer, Dept of Ecology
Representative Marcus Riccelli
Jason Scully, EWU
Scott Simmons, City of Spokane
Lawrence Stone, ESBA/SRTC
Luke Tolley, Hillyard Neighborhood
Joe Tortorelli, Transportation Commission/Good Roads
Kevin Wallace, Facilitator
Dick Winchell, EWU

Committee Members Not Present but Represented by an Alternate

Kate Burke for Senator Andy Billig

Guests Present

Louis Mueller, Planning, City of Spokane
Gina Cadagan, WSDOT
Mike Frucci, WSDOT
Al Gilson, WSDOT
Bonnie Gow, WSDOT

Bob Hilmes, WSDOT
Charlene Kay, WSDOT
Darrel McCallum, 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.

- **Public and Committee Comments/Concerns**

Mike Gribner and Grant Pfeifer: The Black Tank Agreement is with BNSF. They are comparing it with a preliminary draft clean-up action plan prepared by Department of Ecology. Consistent with framework agreement - clean up contamination in an aggressive manner. Also a contingent remedy. Ecology is confident that this plan will get the aquifer cleaned up. We do not yet have a signed agreement but we are all operating as if the framework agreement is in place. It is not holding us up.

- **NSC Project Status Update – Bob Hilmes**

Presentation posted to Internet.

Wellesley Interchange Plan/Profile – have been able to reduce the steepness of Wellesley as it approaches Market from the east. Pushed roundabout to the east to improve the vertical clearance for the rail structure across Wellesley.

Between the Spokane River vicinity and I90, we continue to refine the design of the NSC, striving to minimize the right of way impact. Electeds may hear from constituents with some concerns that we are not able to tell them definitively if they are in the final right of way footprint or not. At this point, our message is that the original right of way needs have not been reduced and we are endeavoring to keep everyone as informed as we can.

We have taken the Children of the Sun Trail off our displays so as to not influence the ideas coming out of the community engagement/placemaking efforts – some of the locations are geometrically constrained but others might be flexible.

We are anticipating a connection to the Millwood Trail.

Dick Winchell said that EWU had a meeting last week about the trails.

Amber Waldref said we want to make sure the trail connects with the Central City Line and other STA and pedestrian access. Also could have connections to the Ben Burr Trail.

WSDOT/SCC standing monthly meetings include representatives from the City of Spokane and STA.

The neighborhood groups would like to see the trail on the maps. Dick Winchell said we might be able to put them as dotted lines or shaded areas on the maps so they show as potential.

Right of way need reduction by SCC. Not sure where the trail will go by SCC.

Dick Winchell – placemaking has taken off on what will take place under the freeway. Looking at a number of east-west connections that will connect with Children of the Sun – another route would be to go near the transit stops, and possibly a station to repair bicycles.

Progress since last meeting – completed Cost Estimation Validation Process (CEVP). The construction delivery method (design/bid/build or design/build) has not been determined for the remaining projects. A brief discussion followed on the general differences between these delivery methods.

FHWA approval of the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) amendment. This update was necessary to document and receive approval of the proposed changes to access points on I90 between the Sprague I/C and the Liberty Park I/C.

Larry Stone – have collector distributors been eliminated? High-speed access controlled collector – distributor roadways are not part of the current plan but Second and Third will still exist.

Cleanup of the Oxarc site contaminated ground was recently completed.

Grant Pfeifer – thank you for the extra efforts. Ecology’s technical team said WSDOT did a great job.

Department of Ecology will continue to be involved in all cleanup efforts.

Representative Jeff Holy – number of lanes? Per Bob Hilmes – The design provides for the expected traffic volumes in 2040 per the SRTC Regional Traffic Model. The single lane ramp connections to I90 result in a four-lane section south of Trent (SR290). At the Trent I/C, one lane is added each direction resulting in six total lanes on the NSC. The six-lane section carries up through Francis to connect with the existing six-lane section.

WSDOT strives to be good stewards of the public funds. Connecting Washington funding legislation contains an expectation that all projects will find some savings from Practical Design. Legislature works hard to protect the money for the NSC.

WSDOT will continue the conversation with everyone. If we see an opportunity to free up funding, we will have a conversation with our legislators.

Concern from Joe Tortorelli that it will be difficult to add lanes later on the elevated portions of the NSC.

Lawrence Krauter – what has environmentally cleared in terms of scope? Mike Frucci – The originally proposed two lane ramp connections to I90 resulted in 4 lanes each direction which was extend northerly from Trent to Francis area. Connecting Washington funding is based on three lanes each direction in this area. This change was an outcome of the lower traffic volumes predicted by the current SRTC Regional Traffic Model as compared to the model that was used during the EIS related analysis.

Lawrence Krauter - We want to be sure we keep options open so when we go back we do not face problems with environmental clearing. We do not want strategic reductions now that could cause problems in the future.

Sabrina Minshall – growth projections right now are pretty low, but we may grow faster than the current numbers show. Representative Holy agrees with this. Has seen a significant traffic in some areas just in the last year. Reiterated the difficulty to add lanes later.

Scott Simmons – building to the size of the package provided. Do not know yet what the construction bidding climate will be in the next 10 years.

- **Place Making Update**
Presentation posted on Internet.

Kerry Brooks, Dick Winchell, Jason Scully – EWU.

Charrettes are under development.

Interactions between subject matter experts - partners, neighborhoods, staff and students.

Charrette Preparation Events: December 2017

Neighborhood Charrettes are scheduled to begin January/February 2018

Dick Winchell – 17 students in Transportation Planning class have broken into groups and are looking at the trail.

Community Development class – two students assigned to each of the three northern neighborhoods – safe walking to schools and trails, including over and/or under the NSC.

This project not only to move traffic through, but also economic and community development within the community.

Colleen Gardner - How can Chief Garry Park and East Central be connected? Chief Garry Park is in a terrible position because we are on the other side of the river. Feeling disconnected. Dick Winchell said they ask in the neighborhood meetings what can be done and want to engage everyone along the corridor.

There was interest by some neighborhoods, to show the concept alignment of the remaining Children of the Sun trail alignment. Consent was reached to show a “grayed” area to depict the original concept.

Char Kay and Bonnie Gow – we are developing an interactive platform to “NSC Place” story map webpage to receive input from neighborhoods. Should be up and running in a week or two. When this is deployed, it will contain everything except the “Neighborhoods” tab. Still developing that tab.

Joe Tortorelli – add a section for the industrial areas/economic development.

Marcus Riccelli – likes the idea of this interactive site.

When live, will notify all NSC Executive Advisory Committee members.

Luke Tolley - put a link to a webmaster for technical issues.

- **Perception of how we are doing**

Colleen Gardener – appreciate that Mike Gribner and Mike Frucci went out to the neighborhoods quite some time ago asking for input, and it has continued – appreciate WSDOT’s collaboration and continuing to keep neighborhoods involved.

Heleen Dewey – glad we are also looking at the health impact of the structure. It is one thing to travel through, another to live, work and play there.

Amber Waldref – involve schools in discussions.

Kathryn Alexander – pleased with WSDOT involvement; a fan of placemaking, although consistency of EWU students is a big piece, and we have not experienced that.
Can a health piece be added to the interactive website?

Heleen Dewey - wants to hear more from Bob Hilmes about reducing the footprint. Does that require a new EIS? Bob responded no, reduced impacts generally do not require new environmental documentation. Will use some of the extra right-of-way for placemaking and possibly stormwater work for City of Spokane. Noise impacts, too.

Marcus Riccelli – wants to continue to hang onto funding we have for NSC and am happy to do that.

Larry Krauter – stay on track.

Joe Tortorelli, Grant Pfeifer and Larry Stone– impressed with how we are working together.

Amber Waldref – understand all the health disparities information. There is compromised health in many of these neighborhoods. We want to see health improvements.

Sabrina Minshall – need to springboard, such as walkability.

- **Next Meeting – February 21, 2018 from 10:00 am to noon**

WSDOT Eastern Region Office
2714 N Mayfair Street
Spokane WA 99207