



North Spokane Corridor Executive Advisory Committee

August 15, 2019

10:00 a.m. – noon

WSDOT, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA

Meeting Notes

- Welcome – Safety Briefing – Bob Hilmes
- Mike Gribner said we are about to start a significantly more robust spending plan delivering the Connecting Washington work. We are entering the phase of the project that represents the final push to completion. With most of the known risks behind us, our focus is on deliver.
- Public Comments/Concerns - none
- Bob Hilmes gave the presentation for himself and for Char Kay. The PowerPoint is available at <https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US395/NorthSpokaneCorridor/Committee>

WSDOT/BNSF Agreement and Black Tank cleanup – Jeremy Schmidt from Ecology said the consent decree was filed in court on July 19, 2019. He said that the deep contamination cleanup would start once the railroad is realigned and once earthwork for NSC is completed.

Joe Tortorelli asked for more information to the public since they see not much progress. Gribner replied that as part of the railway alignment contract, variable message signs are required to provide information to the public and a robust communication will also take place.

- NSC Placemaking / Children of the Sun Trail
 - Collaboration North of Spokane River update
 - Update on public /private effort?
Collaboratively creating Great Places in and around the NSC “Placemaking” – there has been, and continues to be, extensive community outreach.

Collaboratively maintaining Great Places in and around the NSC - “Placekeeping” – we are exploring development of the remaining right of way and may enter into some long-term leases, as well as mixed

use/affordable housing. Currently, Volunteers of America is working with Spokane Community College regarding transitional housing.

- Charrettes south of the Spokane River update
Have had Chief Garry and East Central Neighborhood, and Children of the Sun Trail charrettes, along with numerous other NSC Listening Posts. Many options have come out of these meetings. Also will be holding more NSC Listening Posts to get public opinions. Almost everyone wants a plaza entrance connection to their neighborhood.

- Looking Ahead

Engaged people south of the river early this spring. Will have a workshop with the collaboration teams, which will be comprised of citizen volunteers who build upon the charrette brainstorm ideas. The goal is to create a list of public priorities they would like to have. It is shared with these groups that certain types of funding limit what we can do.

Public/private partnership – Larry Stone works with the nonprofit Spokane Ponderosa. This spring, they planted 5000 ponderosa pines North of Francis, and are talking about planting 2000 more trees this fall. A Gonzaga University study states the trees will help reduce sound and reduce use of chemicals. They also will create a more pleasant experience for the Children of the Sun Trail. This effort may be expanded to I 90 Pines Road.

Gribner - We will engage in public/private partnerships when they make sense, such as the partnership we entered in to with the lands council and others to plant Ponderosa Pine trees.

Marcus Riccelli – what is the Connection between the U District Bridge and Children of the Sun Trail? Bob Hilmes said that is still up in the air, but we are making connections where we can, such as a connection to the Ben Burr Trail. Louis Mueller said they are working on connection. Larry Stone said it is going to connect, just looking at best way. Scott Simmons said the City of Spokane is getting community engagement about the trail. Connectivity is important. There are different opinions of what that should look like.

Collaboration teams are being establishing for south of the river. If you know people who are interested, please let Bob Hilmes know.

- NSC Progress
 - Columbia to Freya – near completion
 - BNSF 2nd Rail Realignment – Awarded to contract – work should start in September 2019.

One year from now there will be four active projects north of the River - – 2nd BNSF Rail Realignment, Wellesley Ave Improvements, Spokane River to Columbia, Children of the Sun Trail. We want to get the projects built that were promised to the public.

- Wellesley Ave – there will be a long term temporary closure of Wellesley Avenue between Market Street and Freya Street (approximately 3 years, beginning fall of 2019). Detour route will be in place. Once complete, NSC can be opened down to Wellesley Ave.
 - Mission Ave to Ermina (Advancement) – actually called Sprague Ave to Spokane River – Phase 1, beginning summer 2020.
 - Sprague Ave to Spokane River – Phase 2, beginning fall 2022
 - I-90 to Sprague Ave, beginning spring 2023
- Miscellaneous Discussions.

Some of these projects could be built faster but need to be stretched out due to how the cash flow is set up in Connecting Washington.

Sprague Ave to Spokane River – Phase 1 will be a two-season project, Sprague Ave to Spokane River – Phase 1 will be more than two seasons.

Page 20 of PowerPoint presentation - Larry Stone asked that the completion dates be listed so the public does not think the projects will be completed in the year listed. He thinks the public will be confused with the dates listed, and others agreed.

Marcus Riccelli said that he and the public needs to know what is drivable by what dates. He is concerned that the public is not able to use more of the facility as it is constructed. Gribner said we need to be careful about unloading a partially completed facility onto surface streets.

Gribner said we will work on marketing this a little differently. We want to explain what the activity is and that our progress is constrained by biennial cash flow.

Joe Tortorelli said that with the Alaskan Way Tunnel project, a drone was periodically flown over the project and shared on the internet. Possibly do that with the NSC to show the public.

Joe Tortorelli is concerned that the drainage ponds near the NSC will be used by the public. On south Francis, motorbikes and snowboards use the drainage ponds as recreation areas. We will need to address those activities.

Hilmes said a video of how Wellesley Ave. interchange will operate is available on You-Tube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iwue40Y_VrY

We are working with the public on shape of the bridge piers, concrete textures and colors, greenscape, lighting, safety, etc.

Joe Tortorelli asked if there will be covered student parking under the freeway at SCC. Hilmes said that SCC has a master plan for the campus. Their front entrance move so it faces Mission Avenue. They will move heavy equipment repair building and other industrial training facilities closer to the NSC. SCC is looking at building a parking garage. Their master plan is available online. STA has moved the campus bus terminal to the Mission Ave. side as part of the Central City Line project. Tuesday, September 17, 2019 a community workshop will be held at SCC.

Scott Simmons asked about Interchange access at Trent. There will be a half interchange – on northbound/off southbound.

Lots of information is available at: www.NSCPlace.com

Heleen Dewey shared that SRTC has an interactive construction map that is very helpful. You can click to see when a project is starting and its progress. She wondered if that could be done for the NSC.

The East Sprague Business association has asked for a connection from East Sprague northbound. We are looking at that. There has also been a request to 6-lane Altamont under I 90. As of last Friday, we looked at operations of I-90 from Division to Hamilton. We need to make sure the interstate does not operate worse when we connect the NSC to I-90. One option is to add a 4th lane to I-90, which could significantly improve I-90 operation.

Kylee Jones said regarding the Children of the Sun Trail, collaboration meetings will be held, and over a five-month period, the community will help us design the trail, connections and amenities. Bob Hilmes said that WSDOT has on boarded an Urban Design team to develop concepts in conjunction with the public engagement process.

Susan Meyer asked who the Urban Design professionals are. Bob Hilmes replied that it is Parametrix who also has a lighting sub-consultant working with them.

- Celebration of Progress – September 27, 2019 at 10:00 am. Intent is to let the public know there will be an extensive amount of work on the NSC over the next few years. More information about the Celebration of Progress will be sent out soon. If you would like to speak or have information about what you would like to see at the event, let Mike Gribner know.

Larry Stone – possibly have a band at the celebration.

- Next Meeting – not discussed.