

Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Speakers Bureau

Group/Organization: Magnolia Community Club & Chamber
Date: February 13, 2003
Location: Blaine School Cafeteria
Team Members: Kirk Jones, Teresa Platt, Marybeth Turner, Lee Holloway, Richard Butler, Brad Hoff, Sarah Brandt

Overview

Kirk presented a brief slide show on the four final alignments and described the decision to complete an EIS. Richard Butler described the EIS process, and then opened the floor for questions and comments. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting, and there was a rather vocal group present that opposed Alternative B (there were, however, supporters of the surface route present).

Notes

Questions were raised during the Q&A period on the following:

- ◆ What are the differences between SEPA/NEPA in terms of EIS requirements?
- ◆ Have you considered upgrading the existing bridge to comply with seismic requirements, and would that be more cost-efficient?
- ◆ How do current fiscal concerns relate to the funding that you must find (have circumstances changed that make the more expensive alternatives less attractive?)
- ◆ Which alternative is driving the need to do an EIS? If you dropped one, would you eliminate the need to do an EIS?
- ◆ Will the EIS consider future development (like the monorail, Interbay, etc.)?
- ◆ In terms of the criteria you've developed so far, I would recommend these additions:
 - Future earthquake potential
 - Building on existing railroad crossing to save costs
 - Consider house takings associated with Alternative B
 - Consider route gradation (and impacts of snow, ice, etc.)
- ◆ What will the EIS cost?
- ◆ Which alternative will be most environmentally problematic?
- ◆ Have you considered water quality? Fish impacts, sediment, drainage, etc.
- ◆ Skepticism expressed about finding suitable fill materials
- ◆ Confusion about Alternative B being off, and then on the table again. How does the settlement agreement play a part in this decision?
- ◆ If Alternative A were chosen, would the existing bridge stay open during construction?
- ◆ How does liquefaction potential factor into the evaluation of Alternative A?

- ◆ Safety/Low crime rates could be compromised if additional access points are created (i.e., 4 instead of 3 as under Alternative H)
- ◆ Concern over impacts to Smith Cove Park under Alternatives A and B
 - Protect shoreline and habitat
 - The “Treaty of Magnolia” created an underwater park and restricted building west of the Marina
 - Respect parks!
- ◆ Many don’t understand the relation/comparison between Alternatives A and B. Rerouting traffic as you would on B would not disperse traffic very well.
- ◆ Traffic congestion at the Village would be huge if Alternative B were selected.
- ◆ Have you considered a phased process for Alternative H, such as building the northern bridge first and then evaluating the need for the southern bridge? Would that eliminate the need for an EIS?
- ◆ Who is on the DAG? How were they chosen?
- ◆ Who is responsible for the final decision?
- ◆ Will Magnolia get a Medic 1 of its own if emergency access is compromised by your selection?
- ◆ Mudslides have been a concern of the past. Will Alternative B be more exposed and vulnerable to mudslides? There are already retaining walls for the existing bridge.
- ◆ The Washington State Shorelines Act applies to a 200-foot buffer area. How does Alternative A fall into this category?
- ◆ Which alternatives create the most residential displacements, and which create the least?
- ◆ What are the differences between residential displacements on the eastern end of Alternative H and those along Alternative B?
- ◆ Do you know that 32nd Avenue (Alternative B) crosses Wolf Creek?
- ◆ Why is Queen Anne so involved in the process?
- ◆ “Improved access to the waterfront” under Alternative B is actually a negative consequence.
- ◆ Does the schedule that expects construction by 2007 include litigation over Alternative B?
- ◆ Encouragement for residents to walk down 32nd Avenue W to the water and appreciate its’ beauty.
- ◆ Isn’t it illegal to build a retaining wall in a greenbelt? The City has been prohibiting that until now, but seems to want to consider it for this project.
- ◆ How many proponents of Alternative B are losing their homes?
- ◆ If you just evaluated Alternative A, would you need to do an EIS? What would the timeframe be under that scenario?
- ◆ The claim that Alternative B creates a convenient route to the Village is not true. Other routes are or could be better.

Action Items

None.

Briefing Materials

- ◆ Frequently asked questions sheet
- ◆ Fact sheet about the four final alignments
- ◆ Comment form