



Design Advisory Group Meeting Summary

April 4th, 2006 5:30 – 8:00 pm

St. Demetrios Church, Seattle

****DRAFT – Outlined Summary****

Welcome and Introductions

Julie Meredith welcomed everyone to the third Design Advisory Group meeting. She emphasized that this meeting would be for the Seattle representatives to work through local ideas and reminded the group that a similar meeting will take place with the Eastside group on Thursday, April 6th. Julie commented that this is an exciting time for WSDOT as the project prepares for the upcoming DEIS release. She noted that while the DEIS is nearing completion, it is important that the project also keep moving forward with the Design Advisory Group work and the corridor aesthetics process. She reminded the group that tonight's meeting would be a time to focus on the Seattle side of Lake Washington and to apply some of the concepts they have been developing more specifically.

Design Advisory Group members in attendance included:

- Joel Wessenberg, North Capitol Hill
- Ann Preston, Portage Bay/Roanoke Park
- Joe Herrin, Laurelhurst
- Jonathan Dubman, Montlake
- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington
- Lyle Bicknell, Montlake
- Jean Amick, Laurelhurst
- Maurice Cooper, Madison Park
- Louis Hoffer, Madison Park

Project Team members in attendance included:

- Daniel Babuca, Project Engineer
- Julie Meredith, Project Manager
- John Milton, Project Director
- Lindsay Yamane, Project Engineer
- Anna St. Martin, WSDOT Design
- Darby Watson, Urban Planning & Design
- David Peterson, WSDOT NW Region Landscape Architect
- Mark Maurer, WSDOT Roadside & Site Development Manager
- Paul Kinderman, WSDOT Lead Architect
- Mark Hinshaw, Urban Planning and Design
- Susan Wessman, Urban Planner/Landscape Architect
- Chelsea Tennyson, Outreach Coordinator
- Bryan Jarr, Outreach Coordinator
- Mandy Putney, Outreach Coordinator
- Clair Leighton, Outreach Coordinator

Since there were some stand-in members in attendance, Julie reminded everyone that the purpose of the Design Advisory Group is to focus on the look and feel of the corridor rather than air pollution, noise or other issues that will be covered in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

Updates/Preview of Agenda

Chelsea noted that each member should have received a CD containing the image library that was presented at the second design advisory group meeting. She suggested that the images are meant to help the group develop ideas of their own.

Susan reviewed the evening's agenda:

- Review thematic zone ideas from DAG #2
- Explore thematic zone opportunities in detail
- Recap of tonight's ideas
- Next steps

Review DAG #2 Thematic Zone Ideas

Susan reviewed the Seattle group's work:

- Diagram map: A "tapestry"
 - The diagram seems like a tapestry of shapes, textures, colors, and movement.
- Goal is to restore function
- Character descriptions and ideas: each zone has a name and descriptors

Susan asked for clarification from the group regarding the following concepts:

- Montlake Cut
 - Access to waterfront
 - Olmsted
- Movement
 - High speed highway vs. low speed movement
- More locations that could serve as treatment places
- Gateways
 - Local and regional
- Threshold between locations
- Any holes that are missing from the corridor

Explore Thematic Zone Opportunities

Susan explained that the opportunities map displays both the opportunities identified by DAG members as well as additional opportunities from the potential alternatives.

Susan reminded the group that the goal of the working session is to:

- Revisit the zones and words that are displayed on the boards so that the Seattle group can make any tweaks or additions
- Review opportunities on the map and add others to the map as they come up
- Decide whether each element should be considered separately or if there are groups of opportunities that could be considered together
- Decide if some opportunities are more important than others or if they are all of equal importance

Design Advisory Group members discussed the following opportunities and ideas:

- Significant "collector" places:
 - Montlake Cut
 - UW formal
 - Olmsted
 - Views
 - Water Access
 - Boat Experience
 - Symbol for the area
 - Montlake Lid
 - 10th Avenue
 - Arboretum
- Lids

- Best if soft and garden-like
 - Pervious cover
- Act as an attraction
- Active “places,” not passageways
- Bridges
 - Less intrusive materials
 - High quality design
 - Experiencing of the underside of the bridge
- Connections/Transitions
 - Transitions at all on/off ramps that say “slow down”
 - Reflect the local area
 - Acknowledge gateways
 - History
 - Montlake houses at ¾ scale and date from 1920s – 1930s
 - N Capitol Hill houses at full scale and date from 1900s
 - Educate about the history of the area – tell a story of the changes
 - Recreation
 - Both active and passive
 - Active at the University of Washington
 - Passive at the Arboretum
 - Connections
 - 10th Avenue is complex – traffic and a “grand gateway”
- Wetlands
 - Traditionally no public access
 - Montlake wetlands are different from the Arboretum in function
- Bike/ Pedestrian paths
 - Make it interesting
 - Comfortable
 - Separate from vehicles and each other
 - Educational (at Arboretum and Foster Island Trail)
- Style
 - Gathering at the Montlake Cut
 - Tapestry concept and weaving neighborhoods together like a tapestry

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Susan noted that the ideas from tonight’s meeting would be summarized and sent to the group and that corrections would be made to the opportunities map reflecting tonight’s discussion.

Next Steps

Julie Meredith commented that there has been some public interest in the Design Advisory Group process. She noted that the project team would like to share the input that they have received from the DAG at the project’s open houses at the beginning of June.

Julie thanked the group for participating tonight and for continuing to generate great ideas. She noted that this work will be an important asset to the project as it continues.

Sketches

Joe Herrin provided the sketch below to depict his suggestion of a pedestrian path below the bridge.

