



## Design Advisory Group Meeting Summary

March 16, 2006 5:30 – 8:00 pm

St. Luke's Church, Bellevue

### Welcome and Introductions

Suanne Pelley welcomed everyone to the second Design Advisory Group (DAG). She introduced herself and noted that she would be facilitating the workshop. Suanne went through the agenda and explained that the first breakout session would be with the same group as the first DAG meeting, while the second session would be split up by Eastside and Seattle members. Suanne introduced Julie Meredith.

Julie thanked everyone for coming to the second DAG meeting and for taking the time to participate. She commented that the first DAG meeting was about generating ideas while tonight's meeting would be about exploring those ideas more in depth. She reminded everyone that the purpose of the DAG is to focus on the aesthetic design regardless of which alternative is selected. Julie emphasized that the group will not address alternatives, but instead will work on design ideas that can be applied to any of the alternatives.

Julie noted that tonight's meeting would focus on images. She commented that the images were collected by the DAG members and the team since the last meeting and were meant to inspire and create ideas for the group's work. Julie emphasized that the images are meant to help the group explore broader based themes – not specific answers to be applied. She noted that some of the images would not even be feasible. Julie commented that as the group gets into more detailed discussions one discussion will have to be which opportunities have the most application to the SR 520 project. She emphasized that the group will also have to look at the constraints of some of the design visions, whether they are physical, environmental, or financial and that it will have to discuss possible trade-offs and benefits.

Julie commented that there were new attendees and asked the group to introduce themselves and remind everyone of the community they represent. DAG members in attendance included:

- Alana McIalwain, Madison Park
- Ann Preston, Portage Bay/Roanoke
- Bruce Dodds, Clyde Hill
- Dave Martin, Medina
- George Martin, Clyde Hill
- Joe Herrin, Laurelhurst
- Joel Wessenberg, North Capitol Hill
- Kathy Feek, Kirkland
- Lyle Bicknell, Montlake
- Mike Anderson, Madison Park
- Paul Demitriades, Medina
- Rick Huxley, Yarrow Point
- Rob Wilkinson, Montlake
- Ronnie McGlenn, Wetherill Nature Preserve
- Ted Lane, Portage Bay/Roanoke Park
- Vicky Cooper, Yarrow Point

Project team members in attendance included:

- Daniel Babuca, Project Engineer
- Darby Watson, Urban Planning & Design
- Julie Meredith, Project Engineering Manager
- Lindsay Yamane, Project Engineer
- Mark Maurer, Roadside & Site Development Manager
- Patrick Clarke, WSDOT Bridge Design
- Paul Kinderman, WSDOT Lead Architect



## SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

- Susan Wessman, Urban Planning & Design
- Anna St. Martin, WSDOT Urban Design
- Bryan Jarr, Outreach Coordinator
- Chelsea Tennyson, Outreach Coordinator
- Clair Leighton, Outreach Coordinator
- Suanne Pelley, Communications and Outreach Manager

Six members of the public were also in attendance.

Julie introduced Susan Wessman.

### **What we've heard/you've heard since the last meeting**

Susan Wessman thanked everyone again for coming and briefly reviewed the agenda. She said that before the breakout sessions there would be two presentations based on questions the project team had received since the first meeting, including LEED certification and bridge elevation. Susan introduced Darby Watson to talk about LEED and Lindsay Yamane to talk about the bridge.

I. Darby Watson presented information on LEED standards and certification:

- LEED stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design.
  - Formed by US Green Building Council to develop a system to define and measure "green building"
  - Standardizes "green building"
- LEED is currently designed to rate buildings, not engineering projects, although several principles that are the basis of LEED are related to roadway projects
- LEED is not about aesthetics or architecture
- LEED concepts related to the project include:
  - Erosion and sedimentation control
  - Alternative transportation
  - Reduced site disturbance
  - Stormwater management
  - Light pollution reduction
  - Water efficient landscaping
  - Renewable energy
  - Recycled content
  - Regional materials
  - Construction waste management
- Most LEED concepts are covered by:
  - State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
  - WSDOT standards and specifications
  - American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- Engineering projects are held to different standards than buildings
- WSDOT is incorporating innovative green design on many projects including:
  - Stormwater treatment on bridge columns
  - Environmental Procedures Manual – best practices including waste management
  - Native plantings
  - Integrated vegetation management
  - Use of recycled materials in asphalt and concrete including cold-in-place asphalt recycling
  - WSDOT Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
  - Water quality sampling during and after construction



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- Safe routes to school program
- Certification in Erosion Control Procedures
- Habitat protection and enhancement

### Questions/Comments

Lyle Bicknell commented that a new LEED certification, LEED-ND, was presented at the US Green Building Conference last year. He wondered if it could apply to this project.

*Darby said that LEED-ND stands for LEED for Neighborhood Development. LEED-ND is a pilot project that will not be available until 2010.*

Paul Demetriades said that the March 2006 edition of Fortune Magazine has an article on the future of LEED for anyone that is interested in reading more about it.

II. Lindsay Yamane said that during the first DAG meeting the project team realized that it would be important to explain the profile for the proposed floating bridge. Lindsay presented two boards displaying visual simulations of the bridge from the east and west of both the 4-Lane and 6-Lane alternatives. He commented that the current bridge is built low through Foster Island and Madison Park, rises near the s-curves, and is built low at the floating bridge. When designing the profile for the 4-Lane and 6-Lane options, the SR 520 Project Team considered the following:

- Stormwater – how to route, capture and treat
- Foster Island – environmental effects from the bridge
- Visual issues
- Storms – how waves during heavy winds impact the bridge
- Maintenance – Is there a better way to do maintenance work without impacting traffic?

Lindsay noted that the new bridge profile includes:

- A raised roadbed so that traffic on the road deck would not be affected by wave action
- An elevated roadbed on columns approximately 20' to 25' above the water.
- Allowing maintenance access below the road (so that traffic will not be affected during routine maintenance)
- Removing the draw span – The draw span is currently a major maintenance issue and is also susceptible to storm damage.
- 70' of navigation clearance for large boat navigation under the east high rise (matching the I-90 east channel bridge)
- Meets the existing profile at landfall at Evergreen Point Road in Medina, so that it will not be any higher than it is today.
- 25' of clearance at the western high rise
- Highest western point is over Foster Island for: drainage, wetlands, parks, and the Foster Island Loop Trail
- 1% grade between Foster Island and the floating bridge
- 2% grade between Foster Island and MOHAI
- Ramps and a cross street over the mainline (Pacific Street Interchange option only)
- HOV over the mainline and WB off-ramp under the mainline (6-Lane Alternative only)

### Questions/Comments

David Martin asked how far out the pilings would go to support the eastern high rise.



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For 70 ft vertical clearance there would have to be 300 ft width and 30 ft draft. There will be a row of columns on the beach just above high water and a single row of columns 300' off shore in the water. There will only be two rows of columns total.

### **Corridor Unity – Recap First Meeting**

I. Susan Wessman reminded the group that at the first meeting they were asked to develop words and themes that showed their vision for the SR 520 corridor. She noted that the packet of tonight's materials included a summary of the themes that each group developed. She commented that while the last meeting was about words, tonight's meeting would be about images. She noted that future DAG meetings would return to corridor themes and thematic zones. Susan introduced a slideshow of images that were collected from DAG participants, WSDOT, and the project team.

Susan explained that the images are meant to illustrate and clarify the themes that the groups identified at the last meeting. She reviewed the themes that each group identified:

- Blue Group:
  - Graceful – Sleek
  - Sophisticated
  
- Red Group:
  - Sweeping Vistas
  - Natural Beauty
  - Three distinct zones
  
- Green Group:
  - Natural – Harmonious
  - Connections/ Reconnections
  - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification

She noted that participants could find a summary of these themes in their materials packet.

II. Darby presented images of the theme *industrial* based on what it meant to her. She used images and graphics to help clarify how she defined *industrial*.

Darby showed images that portrayed the following themes:

- Big, functional, strong
- People as a part of industry
- Industry meets people's needs
- Range of textures
- Range of industry
- Materials
- Industrial landscapes

### **Breakout Session #1 Report Out**

Susan Wessman asked everyone to break into the same three groups as the first meeting: red, blue, or green. She reviewed the activities for the first breakout session:

- Each group had a facilitator and a note taker.
- Each group was asked to briefly review the words and themes it identified at the last meeting.



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- Each group was then asked to choose one theme with some descriptor words and a set of images that best reflects that theme (images should come from those found on each table).

Each group then reported back to the larger group with the theme they chose and as well as some visual examples.

Bryan Jarr stated that once each group decided on a set of images, he would create a PowerPoint for each group to report back with.

### **Breakout Session #1 Report Out**

Below is a list of themes/descriptions each group connected to the images they identified:

#### **Red Group**

- Added beauty
- “Disappear vs. show-up”
- Nature
- Detailed and rich materials (noise walls)
- Vistas – Montlake Cut
- Gateway
- Images: Calatrava Pedestrian Bridge (California), St. Charles Bridge

#### **Green Group**

- Natural
- Harmonious
- Connections
- LEED – Wetland/Stormwater
- Sustainability
- Images: Mt. Rainier, Montlake Cut

#### **Blue Group**

- Importance of lighting – adds beauty/ iconic
- Making a statement vs. function
- Dynamic movement – transitions/ sequence
- Clean lines
- Integration of natural w/manmade
- Contemporary
- Images: Amgen Pedestrian Bridge (Seattle)

Susan noted that at Meeting # 5 of the Design Advisory Group they would return to these images in hopes of developing a unified theme and set of images.

### **Thematic Zones**

Susan introduced thematic zones as a slow-paced, intimate experience and as opportunities to incorporate more detailed design. The project team divided the corridor into various zones or thematic zones. Susan noted that the thematic zones should differ from corridor unity because they are the areas where the individual community feel can be developed, noticed and felt by users of the corridor. She emphasized that the thematic zones should convey the local feel and flavor of the community. Susan explained that the thematic zones could be understood as an easy/intuitive step down from the big picture of the overall bridge. Susan commented that one group in the last session had identified 3 parts to the bridge which are similar to the thematic zones identified by the project team:

- “Suburban” – Eastside
- “Sky/Water” – Bridge span
- “Urban” – Seattle

Susan noted that the thematic zones identified by the project team were distinguished by:

- Water/land
- Topography and vegetation
- Built environment
- Activities

Susan introduced Darby Watson, Paul Kinderman and Mark Maurer as the other group facilitators. She noted that there would also be a note taker for every group.

Susan reviewed the activities for the second breakout group:

- The DAG broke into 2 groups: an Eastside group and a Seattle group.
- The groups delineated the zones they believed existed by sketching on trace over aerial maps.
- The groups brainstormed briefly on the features (such as trails or connections) that were important places or activities in their area.
- The groups reported back to the full DAG on their discussion and preliminary findings.

## **Breakout Session #2 Report Out**

The Eastside and Seattle groups were asked to report back on their discussions.

Bruce Dodds, Clyde Hill, presented on the Eastside discussion:

- Want to reconnect as one community – residential/ semi-rural
- Residential vs. Business – as the main distinction between zones on the Eastside
- Don't recognize city boundaries
- Points Loop Trail
- Parks – Medina, Wetherill Nature Preserve, Yarrow Point Wetland, Natural green space
- Wildlife – wildlife crossings
- Streams/Lakes
- Have a consistent theme
- Lids to connect existing communities – “One Community”
- Should have the same character
- Issues:
  - Parks along north side of the highway
  - Green space
  - Community trail, preserve its character
  - Two major streams
  - Park & Rides/ Flyer stops
  - Bellevue Christian grade school – safety and accessibility
  - Safety – current seismic standards

Lyle Bicknell, Montlake, presented the Seattle side discussion:

- Want to create a tapestry of themes
- Park space and wetlands (i.e. Arboretum)
  - Habitat
  - Wildlife
  - Peaceful
  - Green
  - Water/land interface
  - Historical
- How the design of the wetlands could help restore what was decimated by the original bridge design
- Preserve the Olmsted legacy
- Design should overlap with UW campus
  - Collegiate/gothic style
- Use the Rainier vista
- Acknowledge the dense urban neighborhoods



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- Compact scale
- Walkable
- Functional and Aesthetic
  - Making the bike/pedestrian trail comfortable for users
- Issues:
  - Bike/pedestrians are currently separated through the corridor
  - Monitoring where the path of the bridge goes
  - Fix the Foster Island Trail
  - Restoring wetlands – repairing historical damage
  - Creating access to the waterfront

Darby commented that she was impressed with the ideas developed by the two groups and that they went together so nicely. She thanked everyone for working together to come up with such great ideas.

Susan thanked everyone for their ideas and their energy during the exercise. She said that the next workshops would continue the discussion of thematic zones. Susan reviewed the schedule for the next workshops:

- The April meetings will be split by Eastside and Seattle, in order to give each group time to focus on their communities and thematic zones.
- The themes developed tonight will be used to develop drawings or collect images to express the ideas for review at the next meetings.
- At the May 4 meeting, the full DAG will be back together to review the findings of each group and give each other feedback. There will also be time to discuss whether there are themes that can apply in more than one zone.

### **Next Steps**

Suanne noted that an email would be sent to DAG participants with the themes developed at tonight's meeting.

Suanne reviewed the homework for the meeting:

- The goal of the exercise is to identify and prioritize opportunities/design elements within the thematic zone you live in.
- Develop a list of ideas or things that are part of your community on a regular basis. For example:
  - Look at elements within your neighborhood/thematic zone and think about why the elements are the way they are
  - Photograph or sketch a place or landscape in your neighborhood that you really like and explain why you like it.
  - Photograph or sketch a place or landscape in your neighborhood that you really DON'T like and explain why you don't like it.
  - Think about how your likes/dislikes might apply to the thematic zone in which you live.
- Prioritize the list of opportunities/elements that you identified.

Suanne thanked everyone for participating in this week's meeting. She reminded everyone of the next meetings:



## SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project

### **Seattle Group**

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

St. Demetrios Church

### **Eastside Group**

Thursday, April 6, 2006

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Church