

EASTSIDE RAIL CORRIDOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

August 27, 2014 – 2:00 PM
King Street Center
Eighth Floor Conference Center

Advisory Council Members Present: County Council Vice Chair Jane Hague (Co-Chair); Craig Larsen, Redmond Parks and Recreation Director (representing Redmond Mayor John Marchione); David Namura, Puget Sound Energy Manager of Local Government Affairs & Public Policy; County Councilmember Kathy Lambert; Christie True, Director of King County Natural Resources and Parks (representing County Executive Dow Constantine, Co-Chair); and City of Kirkland City Councilmember Jay Arnold (representing Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland).

Excused: King County Councilmember Larry Phillips, Sound Transit CEO Joni Earl or designee

Staff presenters: Michael Williams, Sound Transit; Lorrie McKay, City of Kirkland; and Linda Sullivan, Genesee Adkins, and Leah Zoppi, King County.

Facilitator: John Howell (Cedar River Group)

Welcome and Introductions

Jane Hague, Advisory Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance and asked the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) members to introduce themselves.

John Howell provided a review of the agenda and noted that the legislative agenda item would follow the brownbag recap. He referenced the “work plan” put together by the staff team based on member recommendations and noted that the items highlighted in yellow have been identified as being behind schedule. He commented that the staff team will continue to work on this document and will bring a revised work plan to the next meeting showing status updates or recommendations for where adjustments might be made. It was noted that the CKC Master Plan update was incorrectly highlighted.

Brownbag Recap

Co-Chair Hague provided an overview of the July 18, 2014, owners' group brownbag meeting. Discussion at the meeting looked at where the group wants to go strategically and how to get there, a joint legislative agenda and connectivity. The next meeting will be in Redmond in December.

Legislative Agenda

Genesee Adkins and Lorrie McKay asked for the members' approval of their proposed recommendations in regard to a legislative agenda. It was noted that this would be a challenging year both at the state and federal levels.

Genesee commented that last week's ERC tour for public officials was well attended by ERC Owner representatives, local legislators and staff, and both local and DC staff from a number of Congressional offices. People were very engaged and had good questions. The Intergovernmental Work Group recommends organizing two more tours geared more at the state level are planned for September and October. Kudos were extended to the staff who worked so hard to pull together this initial tour.

Lorrie addressed the need to continue to look at ways to come together and work effectively as a group in regard to the legislative agenda. Their proposed recommendations for 2015 include the following:

At the Federal level:

- Engage federal officials and seek federal assistance to study optimum crossings and connections at I-405/I-90 interchange
- Educate federal officials about the need to re-establish the connection across I-405 at the former Wilburton tunnel crossing
- Educate federal lawmakers and their staff about the corridor and its long-range vision.

At the state level:

- Develop a plan for the reconnection of pedestrian and bicycle access across I-405 at the former Wilburton Tunnel Crossing.
- Education state lawmakers and their staff about the corridor and its long-range vision.

It was suggested that WSDOT's previous commitment to the Wilburton Tunnel be confirmed. The state has committed to reconnect pedestrian and bicycle access. A study to examine connection alternatives could help clarify the state's commitment. Discussion ensued regarding the study – what the scope is, who has ownership, etc.

Genesee clarified that their proposal includes holding two more tours for public officials, meeting with WSDOT in September to discuss the Wilburton connection, ensuring that the RAC has clear proposals to present, coming up with an outreach strategy for congressional offices this fall, working to incorporate legislative agenda language that speaks to both state and federal agendas, and holding an ERC day in Olympia along with a brown bag lunch.

The members agreed by consensus with the recommendations for the 2015 legislative agenda as proposed and offered their support in achieving the objectives of the agenda.

Sound Transit OMSF Preferred Alternative

Michael Williams reviewed the areas that have been established for prioritization and incorporation into the operations and maintenance satellite facility (OMSF) development process. Sound Transit and Bellevue staff will meet on September 5, 2014, to prepare for two stakeholder meetings. King County Parks and its trail master planning consultant, Parametrix, have also been invited to participate. The first stakeholder meeting will be in September at the International Paper site, the second meeting will be in October. Michael reviewed maps showing recommendations from the Urban Land Institute about how the OMSF site could be best integrated with the surrounding neighborhood.

He reviewed the anticipated project timeline, which forecasts an operations date of 2020. He noted that the East Link base is the one that will accommodate the Lynnwood Link. Discussion ensued regarding proximity to the transit-oriented envelope and connectivity with the 120th station at the Kirkland Park & Ride. Co-Chair Hague noted that the owners' group feels strongly about having unimpeded flow for all of the uses.

King County Trail Master Plan Project Briefing

Linda Sullivan reported that of the six firms that were evaluated to oversee the King County trail master planning work, Parametrix was selected. This work is funded by the King County Parks levy and is related to trail development. During 2014 work will involve gathering information such as detailed corridor information, wetlands, ownership patterns, land uses, etc. At the same time, trail connection feasibility studies are being conducted to look at potential obstacles and constraints, and the consultant has been working to identify potential alignments with existing trails. The hope is to have recommended trail development guidelines by the end of next year and a master plan by fall 2016.

Linda reviewed possible connections to trail systems and transportation corridors the team is evaluating within each area of the County's ownership.

Owners' Updates

Co-Chair Hague, reported that a presentation regarding the corridor will be made to the Growth Management Planning Council on September 24, 2014.

RAC Meeting Protocols and Operating Practices

Leah Zoppi presented the PST's proposed RAC operating procedures. The procedures address various aspects related to agendas and RAC meetings, resolution of issues that come up in between meetings, and a memo template for agenda and major issues items. The members approved the operating procedures by consensus.

Public Comment

Two attendees offered public comment:

- Lisa McConnell proposed using the corridor as site for stabilization and slide prevention. Noting that stormwater mitigation and slope stabilization could be incorporated into the development without being visible. She also noted that this is an opportunity to work with local schools to provide educational opportunities for students, to provide local employment opportunities, possible professional recertification opportunities, etc.
- John Kropf addressed economics and the cost per mile of transportation. He encouraged the members to look at the economics.

Wrap Up

John Howell noted that topics for the next meeting include: Check in regarding the legislative agenda, review of the revised work plan, update on discussions with WSDOT regarding the Wilburton connection, and a zoning toolkit to enable communities to treat the corridor as the front door rather than back door.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.