Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House

October 15, 2015

Sandy Lam
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview........................................................................................................................................................................... 3
Event Information .................................................................................................................................................................. 3
Event Notification ............................................................................................................................................................. 4
Mailer .................................................................................................................................................................................. 5
Email Notification ............................................................................................................................................................. 5
Project Website............................................................................................................................................................... 6
Community Calendars ....................................................................................................................................................... 6
Open House ...................................................................................................................................................................... 7
Project Representatives ...................................................................................................................................................... 8
Factsheet............................................................................................................................................................................. 9
Comment Form .................................................................................................................................................................. 11
Online Media Coverage ..................................................................................................................................................... 11
What We Heard .................................................................................................................................................................. 12
Display Boards................................................................................................................................................................. 13
OVERVIEW

Background
The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) plans to build a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-5 to improve connections within the Northgate community. This will include access to major regional transit facilities east of I-5: the King County Transit Center and the Sound Transit light rail station.

In June 2014, SDOT presented three possible alignment options and bridge types at a public open house for consideration. In November 2014, the project team selected a preferred alignment and tube/truss bridge type.

As part of the design process, SDOT hosted an open house on October 15, 2015 for the public to view the 30% design feature. At the event, project team members answered questions and the public provided feedback.

Objectives
Objectives of the open house were to:

- Raise public understanding about the project’s purpose, need, and benefits
- Provide an update on the project design and environmental process
- Provide opportunities for the public to comment on the proposed design features

EVENT INFORMATION

Event: Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House
Host: Seattle Department of Transportation
Date & Time: Thursday, October 15, 2015
5 – 7 PM
Presentation: 5:30 PM
Location: North Seattle College
College Center – Multipurpose Room
504 NE 95th Street
Seattle, WA 98115
SDOT conducted outreach in the weeks leading up to the open house to notify stakeholders and the general public of the event. The table below provides a summary of outreach methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Tool</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailer</td>
<td>24,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email notification</td>
<td>Distribution to project email list (67 recipients)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm">www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Release</td>
<td>Distributed October 12, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community calendars</td>
<td>Posted on 15 online calendars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These outreach efforts are discussed in greater detail on the following pages.
MAILER

The mailer publicizing the open house was an 8.5” x 5.5” postcard. It was sent to 24,142 residences and businesses in the area bounded by N 130th Street/NE 125th Street on the north, N/NE 85th Street on the south, Greenwood Avenue N on the west and Lake City Way NE on the east.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION

Prior to the open house, a dedicated project email list and hot line were created to support the project. This information was included on all open house and project materials.

An announcement of the open house was emailed to project stakeholders on the email list. Recipients included residents, community councils, social services, schools, churches, bicycling and pedestrian organizations, and businesses.
WEBSITE

The project website (http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm) has been updated periodically during the design process. The website includes previous open house materials, background materials, a project area map, project presentations to organizations such as the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board and the Seattle Design Commission, a project fact sheet, bridge proposals, a timeline, previous open house invitations, and contact information.

Following the open house, the website was updated with the event’s presentation, project factsheet, and display boards.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Through community calendars and contacting neighborhood organizations, 10 public postings were published announcing the open house. The table below details community calendars and other public announcements by neighborhood organizations and community stakeholders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bitter Lake Community Council</td>
<td>Community calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.broadviewseattle.org/upcoming-events/">http://www.broadviewseattle.org/upcoming-events/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet First</td>
<td>Events calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.feetfirst.org/event/design-open-house?instance_id=7125">http://www.feetfirst.org/event/design-open-house?instance_id=7125</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Seattle College</td>
<td>Events announcement</td>
<td><a href="https://news.northseattle.edu/northgate-ped-bridge-meeting">https://news.northseattle.edu/northgate-ped-bridge-meeting</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravenna Blog</td>
<td>Twitter post</td>
<td><a href="https://twitter.com/ravennablog/status/64652435392152576">https://twitter.com/ravennablog/status/64652435392152576</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Bike Blog</td>
<td>Events calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattlebikeblog.com/event/northgate-ped-bike-bridge-open-house/">http://www.seattlebikeblog.com/event/northgate-ped-bike-bridge-open-house/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Neighborhood Greenways</td>
<td>Events calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://seattlegreenways.org/events/calendar/">http://seattlegreenways.org/events/calendar/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Heights Blog</td>
<td>Events calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://victoryheights.org/">http://victoryheights.org/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedgewood Community Council</td>
<td>Neighborhood blog</td>
<td><a href="http://wedgwoodcc.org/the-northgate-pedestrian-bridge">http://wedgwoodcc.org/the-northgate-pedestrian-bridge</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The open house drew over 70 area residents, students, and faculty from North Seattle College, as well as representatives of neighborhood organizations and partner agencies.

Open house attendees were able to speak with key project team members and review seventeen display boards that covered the following topics:

- Project background
- Design process and timeline
- Funding
- Bridge alignment of type
- Approaches and landings
- User experience
- Environmental considerations
- Proposed Northgate area pedestrian and bicycle improvements
- Public art

In addition to the display boards, participants could view two at-scale models that showcased the bridge as a whole and from the inside. The models provided stakeholders with a physical visualization of what the bridge would look like and how it would function.
Art Brochet, SDOT Project Communications Lead, delivered a PowerPoint presentation that began with an overview of SDOT’s goals, missions and values, agency partners, project timeline and funding. Stephen Van Dyck, an architect on the project, continued the presentation by reviewing project requirements and elements of consideration during the design of the project. After the presentation, members of the public were encouraged to visit display boards for any further questions.

The sign-in table was staffed with comment forms and a comment box for feedback, in addition to a project factsheet. A race and social justice form was available for voluntary feedback.

Partner agencies, including King County Metro and Sound Transit staffed tables to share information on their projects related to the Northgate area. Sound Transit provided information about the future Northgate light rail station and King County Metro provided information about the future Northgate Transit Center.

### PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

- Art Brochet, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Barbara Lee, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Kyle Rowe, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Michael James, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Sandy Gurkewitz, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Jason Huff, Seattle Office of Arts and Culture
- Fred Young, ALTA
- David McMullen, KPFF
- Brianna Holman, LMN Architects
- Scott Crawford, LMN Architects
- Stephen Van Dyck, LMN Architects
- Anna O’Connell, Swift Company
- Barbara, Swift Company
- Charles Sowers, Project Artist
- Emily Mannetti, Stepherson & Associates Communications
- Lauren Wheeler, Stepherson & Associates Communications
- Sandy Lam, Stepherson & Associates Communications
MATERIALS

Attendees received the project factsheet and a comment form as they signed in.

FACTSHEET

NORTHGATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE PROJECT
Connecting communities on the west and east sides of I-5 in Northgate

PROJECT OVERVIEW
The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is building a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Interstate-5 (I-5) to improve connections within the Northgate community, including access to major regional transit facilities east of the freeway: the existing King County Transit Center and the Sound Transit Link light rail station (which opens in 2021).

The Northgate area is one of the Puget Sound region’s major residential and employment centers. The existing transit center currently serves over 6,000 passengers a day, and the future light rail station is expected to serve over 15,000 passengers per day. The new bridge would reduce walk times from North Seattle College to the light rail station by about 20 minutes.

PROJECT BENEFITS
- Create a new connection between east and west sides of I-5
- Provide a better connection for students and transit users to Northwest Seattle including Licton Springs, Maple Leaf and North Seattle College
- Provide important access for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Increase ridership at the King County Transit Center and future light rail station

The proposed bridge will be a truss/tube structure with the main span crossing I-5 and will use ADA-compliant approach ramps to touch down at North Seattle College near N 100th Street on the west side and at NE 100th Street on the east side. SDOT will provide a direct connection to the future Northgate light rail station mezzanine level over 1st Avenue NE from the east side approach ramp.
Event Summary
Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House
October 15, 2015
COMMENT FORMS

Open house attendees received a printed survey/comment form upon check-in. Eleven forms were completed and returned at the event.

Comment form:

ONLINE MEDIA COVERAGE

A press release was sent to the media prior to the open house; however any online coverage about the project became a part of articles focused on the Move Seattle Levy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

WHAT WE HEARD

Event Summary
Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House
October 15, 2015
In total, 11 comment forms were received at the open house. Generally people were supportive of the project. Participant feedback included the following themes:

**Environmental Impacts:**
- Appreciative that the city is following an environmental process
- Modifying existing drainage systems on the college to handle bridge runoff is important
- Not disturbing wildlife as much as possible during construction is important

**Project Costs:**
- The bridge will cost too much. SDOT should focus on building something more practical at a lower cost
- The city needs to find a way for other agencies to contribute more towards funding

**Bridge connections:**
- Providing direct access to the transit center at all hours is crucial to ensure full benefits from the bridge
- Stairs need to be built on the west approach in order to provide adequate connection to North Seattle College

**Channelization:**
- Providing delineated modes of traffic on the bridge would be important in ensuring traffic management success
Event Summary
Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House
October 15, 2015

NORTHGATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

WELCOME!
Bienvenidos
Kinh Chào Quý Khách

October 15, 2015
5:00 - 7:00 PM ......................Open House
5:30 PM ......................Presentation

The Seattle Department of Transportation plans to build a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-5 to improve connections within the Northgate community.

TRAVEL TIME COMPARISON

The two existing crossings of I-5 add nearly 20 minutes to the average walk time to the light rail station site, and one of those existing crossings is complicated by freeway entrances. People biking need to cross the bridge in about 3-4 minutes.

PROJECT FUNDING

Committed

$5M Sound Transit
$5M City of Seattle
$10M Washington State

Potential Additional Funding

$15M Federal TIGER Grant
($15 million designated in levy)
$10M Move Seattle Levy
($15 million designated in levy)

Planning-level project cost estimate: $26.3 million
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PROJECT ARTIST:
CHARLES SOWERS

Previous Work

Biography
Charles Sowers is an artist whose practice links art, science, and physical phenomena. An exhibit developer at the Exploratorium in San Francisco since 1996, he has created numerous works that directly engage the viewer. This has led to the creation of a kind of aesthetic/scientific instrumentation that reacts to a site and allows us insight into normally invisible or unnoted phenomena. Through such work he hopes to engage people in an unexpected dialogue with their locales and provoke a desire to take notice of the beauty and curiosity of the world around them.

This artwork project is commissioned with SDOT 1% for Art funds.

Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Project
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm

SDOT