Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House

June 3, 2014

Event Summary

Prepared by:

S&A COMMUNICATIONS
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OVERVIEW

Background

The Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge across Interstate 5 (I-5) in Seattle’s Northgate neighborhood will provide area residents and visitors with easier access to the businesses, transit facilities, schools, and community amenities on both sides of the freeway.

Currently, I-5 stands as a barrier separating communities on its east and west sides. The proposed bridge will be built in the vicinity of NE 100th and NE 103rd streets, will be up to 2,200 feet in length, and has been long desired by the Maple Leaf, Licton Springs and Bitter Lake communities as well as by nearby businesses and North Seattle College. This area is rapidly changing into a walk, bike and transit community as the city, King County, and Sound Transit make investments there.

Prior to final decisions on design, SDOT hosted an open house on June 3, 2014, for the public to learn about the project, meet the project team, ask questions, and provide comments.

Objectives

Objectives of the open house were to:

- Raise public understanding about the project’s purpose, need, and benefits
- Provide an update on the program’s elements and schedule
- Introduce the project team
- Emphasize commitment to working with stakeholders and the broader community
- Provide opportunities for the public to comment on possible routes and bridge types and to get questions answered

EVENT INFORMATION

Event: Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Open House

Host: Seattle Department of Transportation

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 3, 2014
5:30 – 7:30 pm

Presentation: 6:00 pm

Location: Olympic View Elementary School Auditorium
504 NE 95th Street
Seattle, WA 98115
EVENT NOTIFICATION

SDOT conducted outreach in the weeks leading up to the open house to notify stakeholders and the general public of the open house. The table below provides a summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Tool</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailer</td>
<td>Over 23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email notification</td>
<td>26 individually sent stakeholder emails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community calendars</td>
<td>Posted on 10 online calendars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These outreach efforts are discussed in greater detail on the following pages.
The mailer publicizing the open house was an 8.5” x 5.5” postcard. It was sent to 23,690 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

An announcement of the open house was emailed to nearby organizations and stakeholders. Recipients included community councils, social service and other non-profit organizations, schools, churches, and businesses. Bicycling and pedestrian advocacy organizations were also included in the notification.

WEBSITE

The project website (http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatepedbridge.htm) went live in February 2014. Leading up to the open house, it included background materials such as a King County feasibility study and a Seattle Department of Planning and Development report on focus group findings, a project area map, project presentations to the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board and the Seattle Bike Advisory Board, a project fact sheet, bridge proposals, a timeline, an open house invitation, and contact information. Following the open house, the website was updated with the open house presentation and all supporting materials (i.e., display boards and project folio).

COMMUNITY CALENDARS

Notice of the open house was posted in 10 online event calendars leading up to the event, reaching the audiences of a variety of neighborhood blogs and interest groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haller Lake Community Club</td>
<td>Neighborhood Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hallerlake.info/community/commuity-happenings/">www.hallerlake.info/community/commuity-happenings/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinehurst</td>
<td>Community Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pinehurstseattle.org/category/northgate/northgate-pedestrian-bridge">www.pinehurstseattle.org/category/northgate/northgate-pedestrian-bridge</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Creek Alliance</td>
<td>Community Calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.thornton-creek-alliance.org/?page_id=4">www.thornton-creek-alliance.org/?page_id=4</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northgate Community Center</td>
<td>Facebook post</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/63872737623/photos/a.385271412623.170342.63872737623/10152053625222624/?type=1&amp;theater">www.facebook.com/63872737623/photos/a.385271412623.170342.63872737623/10152053625222624/?type=1&amp;theater</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet First</td>
<td>Website Calendar</td>
<td><a href="http://www.feetfirst.org/events/northgate-pedestrian-bridge-open-house">www.feetfirst.org/events/northgate-pedestrian-bridge-open-house</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Bike Blog</td>
<td>Interest Group Blog</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattlebikeblog.com/ai1ec_event/northgate-pedestrian-bridge-meeting/">www.seattlebikeblog.com/ai1ec_event/northgate-pedestrian-bridge-meeting/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Neighborhood Greenways</td>
<td>Events Calendar</td>
<td>seattlegreenways.org/events/calendar/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Leaf Community Council</td>
<td>Facebook post</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/MapleLeafCC">www.facebook.com/MapleLeafCC</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood Community Council</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.greenwoodcommunitycouncil.org/">www.greenwoodcommunitycouncil.org/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The open house drew more than 70 area residents and business people, as well as representatives of neighborhood organizations and bike and pedestrian advocacy groups.

Fourteen display boards arranged around the perimeter of the room welcomed attendees to the event, surveyed where people lived in relation to the project area, and provided information about pedestrian bridge options, selection criteria, the project timeline, and how to contact the project with questions and comments. A presentation was given, followed by a brief question and answer period.

The presentation began with an overview by Barbara Lee, SDOT’s Project Manager, of SDOT’s goals, missions and values, and previewed the purpose and need for the project. Next, Stephen Van Dyck, an architect on the project, reviewed the various walk times, bridge types and approaches that are under consideration. David McMullen, an engineer on the project, presented how the various approaches and spans would be analyzed and screened. Finally, Art Brochet reviewed the outreach process to date and next steps. Art opened the floor to questions and there were questions on a wide range of topics, but many focused on pedestrian and bicycle connections off the bridge and safety concerns.

Comment forms, and a box for collecting them, were set up at the sign-in table. A project brochure was also available. In addition, three models of the potential bridge design offered attendees an exciting opportunity to engage with the project.

**PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES**

- Art Brochet, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Carl Gao, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Sandy Gurkewitz, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Michael James, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Barbara Lee, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Nick Shrope, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Fred Young, ALTA
- Sharese Graham, ESA
- Jason Lee, KPFF
- David McMullen, KPFF
- Scott Crawford, LMN Architects
- Brianna Holman, LMN Architects
- Stephen Van Dyck, LMN Architects
- Bob Derry, Stepherson & Associates
- Emily Mannetti, Stepherson & Associates
- Lauren Wheeler, Stepherson & Associates
MATERIALS

Attendees were handed the project brochure and a survey/comment form as they signed in for the open house.

Following the open house, the display boards, presentation and project brochure were posted on the project website alongside previous outreach materials and resources.

COMMENT FORMS

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

Comment form:

Comment Form
Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge
(Comments may also be sent by email to art.brochet@seattle.gov)

1. Do you have comments on the project screening criteria? Are there criteria we may have missed?

2. Do you have any other comments about the project?

________________________________________

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ONLINE MEDIA COVERAGE

Coverage regarding the open house appeared in local online newspapers and blogs in the days leading up to and following the event:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/4/14</td>
<td>The Urbanist</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theurbanist.org/2014/06/04/northgate-pedestrian-bridge-open-house">www.theurbanist.org/2014/06/04/northgate-pedestrian-bridge-open-house</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/5/14</td>
<td>Seattle Transit Blog</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattletransitblog.com/2014/06/05/54624">www.seattletransitblog.com/2014/06/05/54624</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/6/14</td>
<td>Seattle Bike Blog</td>
<td><a href="http://www.seattlebikeblog.com/2014/06/06/the-northgate-bikewalk-bridge-designs-are-stunning-could-be-a-neighborhood-icon">www.seattlebikeblog.com/2014/06/06/the-northgate-bikewalk-bridge-designs-are-stunning-could-be-a-neighborhood-icon</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In total, 25 comment forms were received at the open house, and 13 emails were received after the meeting with comments pertaining to the project. There was generally very positive support of the project, with some concerns and questions among the comments received. Key themes included:

- **Safety for bridge users**
  - Many comments were received pertaining to lighting, suicide prevention, and deterring homeless encampments.
  - Additionally many comments were received indicating a need for clear separation of bicyclists and pedestrians for safety and comfort of use for all.

- **Bridge type and connection preferences**
  - Support for the various bridge types was varied among responders, but the tube/truss and cable stay bridge types seemed to garner the most interest.
  - Connection location and preferences were fairly mixed, with good connectivity to North Seattle College and Sound Transit light rail station cited as the most important.
  - To those who commented on bridge type, it was important to make an iconic or aesthetically interesting bridge was important.

- **Interest in bicycle amenities and connections off the bridge**
  - The Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge is one of many bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects in the area. Attendees were very excited about the other projects, and had some questions about connections from those amenities to the bridge.

- **Funding for the bridge**
  - As previously stated, many in attendance were in strong favor of building the bridge and want to ensure it gets built. There were some comments encouraging support of using Sound Transit or other agency money to support the construction of the bridge.
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JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE!
Northgate Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge
June 3, 2014
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Presentation at 6 PM
Olympic View Elementary School
506 NE 95th Street
Seattle, WA 98115

NORTHGATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE
Project Description
A pedestrian and bicycle overpass will be designed and constructed across
Interstate 5 (I-5) to connect the communities east and west of the freeway.

Project Benefits
The project benefits Northgate neighborhoods, businesses and schools by:
• Providing important access for bicyclists and pedestrians in the
  Northgate vicinity
• Providing an easier connection for students to and from North
  Seattle College
• Creating connections to other planned pedestrian and bike
  improvements in the area
• Increasing ridership at the Transit Center and future Light Rail Station

Learn More!
Come to the open house on June 3 to learn more about possible
alignments, bridge types and other area transportation improvements.
Project staff will be on hand to review project details and hear
your comments.

Project Information & Contact
www.seattle.gov/transportation/northgatePedBridge.htm
Art Brochet, Communications Lead: art.brochet@seattle.gov; 206-684-0765
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Display boards (7 – 11 of 14)

**TIED ARCH**
- Vertical loads of the structure and pedestrians on the deck are carried through vertical suspension tendons to the arch.
- A tied arch transfers vertical horizontal forces at the base of the arch into a bottom tension chord.

**TUBE/TRUSS**
- Utilizes economical members such as triangles, squares, and rectangles as the structural system.
- Creates a more enclosed experience, as the structure encloses the area on all sides.

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