

## **Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Speakers Bureau**

**Group/Organization:** Queen Anne Community Council – Transportation Committee  
**Date:** October 30, 2002, 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Queen Anne Community Center  
**Team Members:** Kirk Jones, Lee Holloway, Sarah Brandt

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### **Overview**

Kirk Jones began with an overview of the purpose and need for the project, describing the history of the bridge and the process developed to design a replacement facility. He highlighted common themes related to transportation, including improving transit connections, considering future development, potentially creating a fourth access point, and enhancing the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor traffic flow. Kirk described the project team's next steps, and answered questions from the group. Approximately 8 committee members attended the briefing.

### **Notes**

Members of the committee asked the following questions (responses are included in *italics*):

- Are the parcels to the east of the Port (National Guard, etc) developable? *Yes.*
- Would you have to use fill if you ran the alternative along the marina? *It's a possibility. We could also create a bridge-like structure in the water, or hug the slope (which would require slope stabilization work).*
- When will you limit the alternatives to three routes? *Scheduled for mid-December.*
- What would the cost be to replace the Magnolia Bridge exactly as it stands today? *An estimate in 1998 dollars predicted a cost of \$60 million. In today's dollars, we'd be approaching \$80 million.*
- Are seismic criteria high on your list of priorities? *Any replacement we choose will meet seismic standards. The question is one of cost (the more elevation built into the structure, the higher the cost to meet seismic standards).*
- Would rebuilding the bridge so close to the Galer flyover simply duplicate function? *There's no way that Galer could accommodate the amount of traffic*

*that the Magnolia Bridge currently supports. It's true that moving the bridge northward could reduce congestion near the flyover.*

- *Could Wheeler Street be developed as the fourth access point? Yes. Historically Wheeler was a trestle bridge, but it was destroyed in 1949 and never rebuilt (an earthquake in 1949 could have damaged the bridge).*
- *How much can you tell us about the Port planning process? Not much. We're working closely with the Port (meeting often). They are scheduled to begin their public involvement process in November, and will start the Master Planning process in Quarter 1 of 2003. Mark Griffin will be the MP project manager.*
- *Is there a dedicated street grid on the Port's land that you would use? No. When the Army bought the Port property, they removed all dedicated street grids.*
- *If the bridge wasn't there now, I think it's safe to say that a new bridge wouldn't be rebuilt there now (that's a strange place for a bridge, and was only built there in the first place because a resident with political clout lived on the southern bluff of Magnolia).*
- *Consider pedestrian access.*
- *It's clear that those on the southern end of Magnolia use the bridge. Please maintain access to southern Magnolia somehow! This is very important to northern Queen Anners. We've heard that from many stakeholders, and are aware of its importance.*
- *Freight mobility is very important in the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor.*
- *Clarify the creation of a north/south road on the Port's land that would parallel 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.*
- *You've hired Weinstein-Copeland to do urban design work. Are they creating development scenarios for the Port's land to help select the best project alternative? Yes.*
- *It's key that the Port's master planning process will be driven by the Magnolia Bridge Project decisions (and vice versa). The processes must be interlinked and sensitive to each other.*
- *The QACC Transportation Committee is tracking the waterfront trolley extension. The Magnolia Bridge Project should incorporate the potential for a trolley along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.*
- *I'm sure you're aware of the geotechnical problems that exist in the area? And the historic use of the area as a dump? Yes. That will be one of our challenges.*

### **Action Items**

None.

### **Briefing Materials**

- Open House I handouts
- Copies of display boards (Themes, Travel Patterns, Existing Traffic, Corridor Ideas We've Heard)
- Copy of "universe of alternatives"
- Aerial photograph.