



Open House
Blaine School, October 9, 2002
5:30 to 8:30 PM

Welcome and thank you for coming to this open house, a chance for you to learn more about the proposed Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project and to tell us what you think is important when designing (and possibly relocating) the new facility. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Kirk T. Jones, Seattle Department of Transportation Project Manager, at (206) 615-0862 or at kirkt.jones@seattle.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the Magnolia Bridge being replaced?

Seattle Department of Transportation commissioned this study after the 3,000 foot long Magnolia Bridge sustained damage in the 1997 landslide and the Nisqually earthquake of 2001. Although the bridge was retrofitted and is now safe for motorists to use, it would be at risk if another seismic event were to occur. In addition, the cost of ongoing retrofits and maintenance activities are estimated to exceed the cost of replacing the bridge with a new facility.

Who is on the project team?

The following consultants have been hired by the City of Seattle to complete technical and advisory work on the Magnolia Bridge Project.

- HNTB Corporation (Prime) – Engineering
- EnviroIssues – Public Involvement
- KPF – Engineering
- Mirai Associates – Transportation
- Shannon & Wilson – Geotechnical Analysis
- Shapiro – Environmental Analysis
- Weinstein Copeland – Architecture and Urban Design

Representatives of most of these firms are at the Open House tonight. Talk to any member of the project team about specific questions you have. They will help answer your question or direct you to the team member who can.

How is this project being funded?

Senator Patty Murray secured a \$9 million grant to complete a Type, Size, and Location Study to evaluate possible replacement alternatives and to ultimately select a preferred



alternative. This funding is also intended to cover the cost to design the replacement facility once a preferred alternative is selected. However, this funding will not cover any construction costs; the City of Seattle will begin looking for additional construction funding after the Type, Size, and Location Study is completed and approved.

Replacement of the Magnolia Bridge is a key element of Mayor Greg Nickels' commitment to: (1) getting back to basics, (2) making it easier to get around, and (3) shaping the future.

How long will the project take?

Completing the Type, Size, and Location Study should take approximately 10 to 12 months, with a final study projected to be available in July of 2003. The project schedule will depend upon the preferred alternative selected (which will affect the amount of time it could take to, for example, move through the environmental permitting process). If the design and permitting process proceeds smoothly, and funding is received in a timely manner, construction could begin in approximately three years.

Where will the new bridge be located?

We don't know yet, and that's why we're encouraging the public to tell us what they'd like in a new facility. The City of Seattle has not made any decisions about where the new facility will be or what it might look like. We've heard a variety of different solutions suggested by stakeholders, neighborhood leaders, and residents, and we will consider these (and others) carefully.

What is the process for selecting a preferred alternative for the Magnolia Bridge replacement?

Please see the attached "Magnolia Bridge Replacement Process" flowchart for additional information about the schedule and project process. The project team is currently gathering information about existing conditions, as well as talking with stakeholders in the project area (please see the attached list of stakeholders interviewed to date for the project). Seattle has also convened a Design Advisory Group, a group of ten stakeholders who represent various interests in the project area and who will provide input and act as project liaisons with the organizations they represent throughout the planning process.

In the near future, the project team will identify 6-8 potential alternatives based on information collected about existing project area conditions and on suggestions and input provided by the Design Advisory Group and the public. These alternatives will be presented during a second public open house tentatively scheduled in December. The project team is also in the process of developing specific criteria (e.g., environmental, urban design, engineering, and others) that will help screen preliminary alternatives. Based on further analysis and criteria developed, the project team will narrow down the list of options to three final alternatives. The final three alternatives will be presented



during a third open house, tentatively scheduled in February, and a preferred alternative will be selected.

If a preferred option falls within the same corridor as the existing bridge, then the team might conduct an Environmental Assessment, a less rigorous environmental documentation process. In this scenario, the team would complete the assessment, continue analyzing the leading alternative, finalize the Type, Size, and Location Report, and begin the design phase of the project.

If, however, the preferred alternative lies outside the existing corridor, the team will go through the demanding Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to determine the preferred alternative. Completing an EIS would add a year to the schedule, and thereafter the team would begin the design phase of the project.

Who is represented on the Design Advisory Group?

- Ballard Interbay Northend Manufacturing and Industrial Center (BINMIC)
- Bicycle Alliance of America
- Friday Group
- Friends of Queen Anne
- Magnolia Community Club
- Magnolia and Queen Anne Chambers
- Port of Seattle
- Queen Anne Magnolia/ District Council
- Seattle Marine Business Coalition
- Uptown Alliance
- Washington State Department of Transportation

How can I participate in this process and/or learn more about the work that's being done by the project team?

There are many ways that you can stay informed and involved during this project:

- **Attend future open houses:** We've tentatively scheduled open houses in December 2002 and February 2003 to coincide with key project decision points. You are encouraged to provide comments to members of the project team at these events, as well as fill out comment sheets that you can leave at the meeting or mail in later.
- **Fill out and return comment sheets:** A comment sheet is attached at the end of this packet. By completing and returning this comment sheet, your comments, questions, and suggestions will be entered into our project database and considered by the project team.



- **Add your name to our mailing list:** By signing up for our e-mail or regular mailing list, you will automatically receive project updates and information about upcoming open houses and opportunities for public involvement. You can sign up for the mailing list by indicating your interest on the open house sign-in sheet, or by logging on to the project website (see address below) and following the appropriate links.
- **Log on to the project website:** You can read about project progress and updates on the project website: www.seattle.gov/td/magreplace.asp. On the project website you can also learn about upcoming project events, sign up for the project mailing list, and submit a comment form electronically.
- **Contact the project manager:** Call or email Seattle's project manager, Kirk T. Jones, at (206) 615-0862 or at kirkt.jones@seattle.gov.

