

Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Community Meeting

Group/Organization: Galer Area Neighborhood
Date: April 16, 2003
Location: Blaine School Cafeteria
Team Members: Kirk Jones, Marybeth Turner, Lee Holloway, Teresa Platt, Brad Hoff, Hadley Greene

Overview

Kirk presented the three alignments to be studied in the EIS, and described the decision to remove Alternative B from consideration. He described the EIS process and upcoming project milestones. After relating previous and upcoming community outreach efforts, he opened the floor for questions and comments. Approximately 110 people attended the meeting.

Notes

Questions were raised during the Q&A period on the following:

- ◆ What impact will Alternative H have on Thorndyke? Will traffic lights be added?
- ◆ Was a tunnel to Magnolia Village studied as one of the alternatives?
- ◆ What is in the tank farm now? What was in the tanks?
- ◆ Will this project widen Thorndyke to deal with the impact on the intersection of W. Galer and Thorndyke?
- ◆ How will traffic on the Elliott/15th corridor be reduced by the addition of a fourth bridge, such as in Alternative H?
- ◆ Why is the project concentrating on adding access to the south end of Magnolia when there is heavy traffic on Dravus and most of the new growth is concentrated in the north part of the neighborhood?
- ◆ How many lanes of traffic will there be for each alternative?
- ◆ Could the north bridge in Alternative H be combined with either Alternative A or D?
- ◆ Would Alternative B, or any surface alignment, be less costly than a raised bridge?
- ◆ Is it possible to prohibit turning right off W. Galer onto Thorndyke? This would reduce traffic through the residential area.
- ◆ In the traffic analysis for Alternative H, what percentage of the traffic would choose to use the southern route and go up W. Galer?
- ◆ Could Alternative H be considered two projects and funded separately?
- ◆ Who owns the tank farm? Will the Port assume responsibility for clean up?
- ◆ What percentage of traffic uses each existing route?
- ◆ What is the Port's preferred alternative? When will they announce their preference?
- ◆ Why is a "back-up" bridge necessary (Alternative H)?

- ◆ What combination of bridge and underpass will the north alignment of Alternative H consist of? How many lights will be added?
- ◆ Is there a commitment from this project to work in “lock step” with the Port and the monorail? Where does the Magnolia Bridge Project fall compared to plans for these projects?
- ◆ Will there be a monorail station at Dravus?
- ◆ Is it possible for the north alignment of Alternative H to tie-in with the north/south surface road through the Port property?
- ◆ Will private industry have input into the final decision if they offer to help fund the project?
- ◆ Are there plans for the armory to move out of Interbay?
- ◆ Has the Port laid out its master plan for the area?
- ◆ How high will the western connections for Alternatives D and H be?
- ◆ Will the Port build condos in Interbay?

During the Q&A, comments were made on the following issues:

- ◆ Right now Thorndyke is heavily impacted by the addition of multi-family homes to the area. This project needs to divert traffic away from Thorndyke and examine ways to distribute new growth in this area.
- ◆ The area around Thorndyke and Galer is not a freeway. A new design emphasize ways to slow traffic and minimize impacts on the residential neighborhood.
- ◆ Design a route that is not a straight shot into Magnolia. Slow traffic down on the bridge.
- ◆ Improve traffic management at intersections.
- ◆ Designate funds toward improving the other two existing access points (Dravus and Emerson).
- ◆ Combine Alternative A with the north portion of Alternative H; build them simultaneously.
- ◆ Alternative D will have a negative impact on residents and is in a slide-prone area.
- ◆ Look at the “bigger view” and examine the whole picture, including opportunities for improving Dravus and Emerson.
- ◆ Keep the existing entry point at W. Galer, but make the bridge sweep to the north.
- ◆ Conduct noise studies, especially in residential neighborhoods.

Action Items

None.

Briefing Materials

- ◆ Frequently Asked Questions sheet
- ◆ Fact sheet about the three final alignments
- ◆ Comment form
- ◆ Newsletter