



MEETING NOTES

To: Jeanette Janiczek
City of Charlottesville

From: Sal Musarra
Kimley-Horn

Date/Time: February 22, 2017 / 9:30-11:00

Subject: Belmont Bridge Replacement Project (VDOT Project #0020-104-101/UPC #75878)
Downtown Business Association

Attendees

Kirby Hutto	Charlottesville Pavilion
Tom Hubbard	Inova Solutions Inc.
Jason Ness	City of Charlottesville
Jeanette Janiczek	NDS - UCI Program Manager
Tony Edwards	NDS - Development Services Manager
Alexander Ikefuna	NDS - Director of NDS
Brian McPeters	Kimley-Horn
Sal Musarra	Kimley-Horn
Stephen Stansbery	Kimley-Horn
Jonathan Whitehurst	Kimley-Horn

PURPOSE

At the first meeting of the PLACE Design Task Force meeting, participants discussed previous design efforts and learned more about their role in the current effort. The task force also learned about project constraints and discussed the importance of various design considerations.

A similar meeting process will occur with each of the five stakeholder groups.

AGENDA

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| 9:30 to 10:00 | <i>Presentation</i> | Introduction and Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our team/our approach• Project process and schedule• Role of the Steering Committee (and how others will be involved)• Understanding project constraints |
| 10:00 to 10:30 | <i>Facilitated Activities</i> | Previous Design Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What went well?• What did not go well?• What can we learn? Design Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance of the proposed bridge program endorsed by City Council design and relative importance of the various considerations. |
| 10:30 to 10:40 | <i>Presentation</i> | Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MetroQuest Survey• March 11th Mobility Fair |
| 10:40 to 11:00 | <i>Public Comment</i> | |

SUMMARY

This was the first in the series of meetings between the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) and the project team for the Belmont Bridge replacement project. Members of the BAR, City staff, consultant team, and public were present for the discussion. Below is a brief description of the items discussed.

Summary of Discussion

Introduction and Overview

Jeanette Janiczek, project manager for the City, read elements from the RFP to the group, which laid out the general expectations for the project. The RFP included details of the enhanced bridge concept as approved by City Council which is the starting point for the design effort. Following brief introductions, Sal Musarra (Kimley-Horn) gave a background presentation, which included the following:

- Target design timeline of 15 months
- Multiple public engagement meetings and stakeholder interaction for the first 6 months of the timeline includes
- A list of stakeholders including the Downtown Business Association, PLACE Design Task Force, BAR, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Tree Commission. Members of the Planning Commission and the ADA Advisory Committee also were invited to attend one of the five small stakeholder groups
- In addition to the stakeholders, the City has formed a Steering Committee to guide the overall process and a Technical Committee, which is comprised of City staff from across many departments
- Meetings and discussions with the stakeholders as well as the public and Steering Committee will serve as a guide for the design process where the goal of the project team is to obtain informed decisions, rather than consensus. Every step will build upon the previous step of the process through the selection of the preferred concept
- Initial project constraints include vertical clearance over the railroad, clearance over Avon and Water Street, project budget, bridge piers and supports, and intersection touch points
- A project website will be established and will be located at www.BelmontBridge.org. Meeting materials, notes, and notices will be posted to the website
- Downtown Business Association members introduced themselves and noted the specific groups they represent

Following the introduction and overview, there was an open dialogue between the members and the project team. Meeting attendees agreed that a continued discussion was more useful than participating in the facilitated activities and design consideration exercise.

Questions/Comments (from Downtown Business Association)

- Let the basic function of the bridge be the basis on how the bridge should be designed
- The current bridge is in poor condition. The focus should be on implementing a plan prior to the existing bridge falling further into disrepair
- The Downtown Business Association members will support the design outcomes
- The National Tour Artists' (Pavilion) priorities include the following:
 - Security regarding pedestrian traffic on the bridge and path south of the Pavilion. Currently, pedestrians stand on the bridge to view ticketed events for no fee, which presents a security hazard

- Access for loading and unloading
- Parking for tour buses and staff
- The area directly surrounding the pavilion is secured during ticketed events only
- Ticketed events occur roughly 15-20 times per year, and the general admission capacity is approximately 4,000
- Parking during events is a concern. Currently, the pavilion holds vouchers for up to 400 spaces in the Water Street parking garage
- The pavilion has 19 years remaining on their lease and plans to remain in this location. The overall goal is to do no harm and improve conditions where possible
- Security under the bridge is an issue and should be addressed through design
- The Belmont Bridge should be viewed as a connector, rather than a gateway
- The final bridge design should integrate with the surrounding context
- Following the discussion, the project team toured the pavilion site to view the area as a potential event venue for the Mobility Summit

Next Steps

The community engagement process will include 12 total committee meetings (six steering/six technical), 15 stakeholder meetings (three meetings with five different stakeholder groups), and three community events. Additionally, an on-line survey will be available. The BAR was encouraged to bring up any pertinent information they may not already know. This includes other potential projects, existing studies, or anything that could potentially affect decisions regarding the bridge.

Several upcoming events were featured:

- Mobility Summit: Saturday, March 11th, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Online Survey: March 11th – April 16th
- Design Charrette: April 17th – 19th
- Website Launch: www.BelmontBridge.org (includes digital comment form)