



MEETING NOTES

To: Jeanette Janiczek
City of Charlottesville

From: Sal Musarra
Kimley-Horn

Date/Time: February 23, 2017 / 10:30-12:00

Subject: Belmont Bridge Replacement Project (VDOT Project #0020-104-101 / UPC #75878)
Tree Commission

Attendees	Maynard Sipe	Tree Commission
	Elizabeth Waters	Tree Commission
	Paul Josey	Tree Commission
	Brian Menard	Tree Commission
	Bill Downs	Tree Commission
	Ken Wertz	Tree Commission
	Jody Lahendro	Tree Commission/Planning Commission
	Sal Musarra	Kimley-Horn
	Stephen Stansbury	Kimley-Horn
	Jonathan Whitehurst	Kimley-Horn
	Keith Aimone	Kimley-Horn
	Jeanette Janiczek	NDS - UCI Program Manager
	Tony Edwards	NDS - Development Services Manager
	Alexander Ikefuna	NDS - Director of NDS

PURPOSE

At the first meeting of the Tree Commission participants discussed previous design efforts and learned more about their role in the current effort. The committee 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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|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 10:30 to 11:00 | <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 |
| 11:00 to 11:30 | <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. |
| 11:30 to 11:40 | <i>Presentation</i> | Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MetroQuest Survey• March 11th Mobility Fair |
| 11:40 to 12:00 | <i>Public Comment</i> | |

SUMMARY

This was the first in the series of meetings between the Tree Commission and the project team for the Belmont Bridge replacement project. Members of the Tree Commission, 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, Board of Architectural Review, 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
- Tree Commission members introduced themselves and noted the specific groups they represent

Facilitated Activities

Previous Design Processes

Three questions were asked to encourage discussion and inform the consultant team about the previous design process. Below are the three questions and typical responses to each.

- *What went well?*
 - People were passionate about getting and being involved
- *What did not go well?*
 - The previous process generated a large bridge, with a long footprint, and did not address connectivity issues
- *What can we learn?*
 - Form of the bridge should follow the function of the bridge
 - Trees should be focused in areas near the intersections
 - Accommodating for appropriate root structures will be important where trees are proposed

Design Considerations

With the understanding that project constraints (e.g., space, money, time, etc.) will require tradeoffs to occur, Tree Commission members were asked to weigh in on design priorities. Commission members were given a worksheet that organized the design considerations endorsed by City Council into 10 categories:

- Community Gateway
- Improved Approaches
- Innovative Design
- Landscaping
- Lighting
- Multimodal Design
- Scenic Viewsheds
- Spans, Piers, and Abutments
- Travel Speeds
- Other

Commission members were asked to rate the importance of each category on a scale of 1 to 5 (low to high). Then, they were asked to rank the considerations 1 to 9 (or 10 if they added an additional category). Each commission member was asked to discuss their top three selections. The most important categories identified by the committee were Improved Approaches, Landscaping, and Traffic/Speeds.

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 Tree Commission 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)

Questions/Comments (from BPAC)

- There isn't an expectation that trees will be planted directly on the bridge structure
- The commission would like to explore providing as much space on grade as possible to allow for both green space and vegetation
- The design should be integrated with the community
- "Gateway" shouldn't be the priority with the design, rather the connection and function of connecting neighborhoods
- The Magnolia tree at the southeast corner of Market and 9th is a signature tree that should be considered to remain. For the remainder of the corridor the commission is interested in adding more trees