

Meeting Minutes

DATE OF MEETING: July 20, 2016 **PROJECT:** Ash Creek Bridge Pedestrian Bridge and Trail
TIME: 6:00 PM Improvements
Burroughs Community Center

SUBJECT: Public Informational Meeting #1 Design Kick-Off

PREPARED BY: Dominick Celtruda **BL PROJECT #:** 15C5687
PREPARED ON: July 21, 2016

The purpose of this meeting was to kick-off the conceptual design phase of the project and to obtain initial public input.

Attendance: See Attached Sheet -Note: Individuals were not required to sign in -private comment was allowed

The following items were discussed (note: these items are in no particular order):

Presentation:

- Introductions were made and acknowledged.
- Representatives from the State Legislature, City of Bridgeport, and the Black Rock NRZ made opening statements
- BL Companies made a brief presentation and went through the scope of the project services they are obligated to perform for the City of Bridgeport.
- The meeting was opened up to questions from all in attendance.

Verbal Input/Feedback/Comments from attendees:

- Erosion along Ash creek is sever. Flooding occurs on Fox Street. There is a need for an Ash Creek mitigation plan.
- Erosion extensive at Davidson and Moorehouse no area for a trail.
- Are there currently walkers and bikers in the area.
- Has there been any study of the amount of walkers and bikers.
- Is there a feasibility that has been performed and if so can it be obtained?
- Will the proposed bridge have a bike lane as part of the design?
- The design should educate people in the water issues of the area. Use of responsible materials, solar lighting, sidewalk material selection, impervious paving.
- There should be an educational aspect to the plantings – use of natives, bank stabilization.
- The sidewalk on Fox street should not be just concrete. Pavers would be a nice aesthetic review the areas on the Fairfield side of Ash Creek.
- What is the project schedule and or completion date?
- How will the Bridge be maintained and by who?
- How does the project work with the Fairfield Metro Master Plan?
- When will the design charrette be held.
- Root the design in place making -possibly incorporate actual black rock or stones into the design.
- Bridge is a long span of +/- 300 feet should consider adding places along the bridge for plaques, benches, fishing, views. Break up the space to add more interest.
- Frame views along the bridge like the highline in New York. It can be subtle attractions.
- Use the bridge to tell a story, accent the journey along it.
- Lighting will be critical to the design safety, security, aesthetic.
- Accent the points of interest, the natural waterway, the ecosystems, history.
- Fix the erosion issues.
- This is a natural creek system and we need to mitigate it.

- There are opportunities for moments of reflection but there is a need to focus on erosion.
- There is an issue with the connection point in Fairfield there needs to be a dedicated pedestrian sidewalk or link that currently does not exist thru the metro center parking lot.
- Look at the Fairfield metro area for incorporation of a transit sharing zone or stop with bus lines.
- Can the bridge be covered?
- There could be a need for emergency phones for safety.
- What happens at the trail terminus at Davidson?

Notes/Feedback/Comments from attendees: (comment cards -see attached)

- I FYI: Canfield St. floods in heavy rains at bottom of Bennett, significant flooding.
- Highline for design cues
- Subtle – Don't overwhelm the site with materials/construction
- Please no Bradford Pear trees
- Wildlife Habitats – Smart, not cutesy
- Please no ropes & piers, or other "Disney-esque" elements.
- The hill at the bottom of Fox Street is fairly steep...is it ADA compliant?
- It is wise to have bicycles on the same bridge as pedestrians w/ strollers, luggage or wheelchairs?
- Have you tried rendering any of your images at low tide? Have you considered the smell at low tide?
- Have you considered making Fox Street one way?
- If this project is built, all landscaping should be natural growth – no maintenance.
- No grass/lawn – only tidal and weedy growth.
- LISTEN HARD to the man on Fox Street who endured Metro Construction!
- Lighting for safety will be so important. As a past victim of attempted rape, I may be more sensitive than most to this issue, but ensuring that bright lights cover the entire span and the trails will increase my comfort level. Solar lighting would be great too.
- I walk to train daily. I would love to see the bridge by 2017. Can a timeline be published?
- The picture of the bridge on tonight's handout is (in my opinion) ugly. Could we craft the, um, sticks that line the span to be cool/interesting, like something akin to sails?
- I would like the trails to make sense for rail commuters. Straight shot off the bridge to the station, without "pretty" curves in the path or giant planters in the way. Plus, I know it is outside your mandate, but it would be great to have the train parking lot be routed so the pedestrians are safe.
- Please make the bridge wide enough that 2 people can walk abreast and there is also a bike path. Otherwise...accident city!
- Can the project focus on controlling erosion sufficiently so that the opportunity to redeem this creek ecologically be incorporated or at least prepared for? Certainly a footbridge walk would attract more use, if the stream underneath was naturally vegetated (and occupied by wildlife). A bridge over a creek with a black mayo bottom (1970's experience) has somewhat less appeal – opportunity missed.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed, issues to be addressed, parties responsible (if indicated) for said issues and conclusions reached. Should any attendees disagree with the content or items indicated above, please advise me in writing no more than seven (7) calendar days following the date of this record of the meeting.



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