

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Project
Agency and Tribal Scoping Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2009

Attendees:

Allison Hanson
Angela Freudenstein
Bruce Bachen
Chris May
Chris O'Claire
David Mattern
Elaine Somers
Erik Peterson
Genevieve Rucki
Geri Poor
Joe Burcar
Joy Keniston-Longrie

Ken Juell
Kimberly Farley
Laura Arber
Lisa Parriott
Matthew Sterner
Mike Usen
Ned Conroy
Randy Everett
Rebecca Reyes-Alicea
Scott Williams
Stephanie Brown
Susan Everett

Angela Freudenstein - Introductions

Angela will be the primary contact for all agencies and tribes. She will be the WSDOT person to distribute project information, collect and collate comments on the draft environmental documents, and be the general point of contact for any questions or issues.

Kimberly Farley – Project History, SDEIS #2 approach

(power point) Kimberly walked through the project history starting in 2001 through present. Past project alternatives, Governor's recommendation, 2007 activities and central waterfront partnership process along with the guiding principles and scenarios were reviewed. She also walked through the three hybrid scenarios that they stakeholders advisory committee liked. In January 2009 a letter of agreement was signed recommending that the bored tunnel move forward as the eighth alternative.

(Handout) Kimberly briefly discussed the SDEIS #2 approach outlining what elements are part of the approved action or project and what elements will be evaluated as other program improvements.

? – Ned Conroy – Did the stake holder group recommend the tunnel collectively?

A – Yes. The guiding principle for this group was financial responsibility. Experts were asked to look at cost between scenarios. WSDOT will produce a report to document what happened during these meetings and how the recommendations were made. The goal is to have this document out this summer.

Susan Everett – Proposed bored tunnel alternative walkthrough

(Handout) Susan walked through the proposed bored tunnel alternative speaking to the handout showing the project and program elements. Susan briefly described the project at the south portal, the tunnel alignment, the north portal and associated project elements such as the decommissioning of the Battery Street Tunnel and the vacation of Broad Street.

? – Lisa Parriott – Can you discuss ways to get on and off the tunnel alignment and what the impacts will be to traffic?

A – Susan described how traffic might utilize the tunnel on and off ramps. There are no entrances or exits on City streets, the entrances and exits happen at the south and north ends of the tunnel at the portal locations.

? – Matt Sterner – Can you elaborate on the other roadway elements? Are they evaluated as cumulative impacts?

A – Yes, the other roadway elements will be considered as cumulative impacts in the SDEIS.

? – Mike Usen – Will the Seawall project be analyzed as cumulative impacts or directly related to the action?

A – Cumulative.

? – Jay Burcar – Can you elaborate on the venting structures at each end of the tunnel?

A – A venting structure will be at each end of the tunnel end in an operational building. Susan elaborated on the potential size and function of the structures.

Angela Freudenstein – Elements of the environmental document/milestones/agency tribal involvement

(power point) Angela shared the list of elements to be considered in the environmental document. She asked if there were any elements missing from the list.

?- What about construction effects?

A- They will be studied within each of the elements.

? – Where is ground water?

A – Ground water is in the Earth report.

A – New alternatives each will have a separate evaluation and cumulative impacts process. Look at all alternatives and compare the alternatives against the tunnel project.

Methodology reports will be wrapping up by July, comments and review should be finished by the close of scoping. Discipline reports will then be started and finished up by the end of the year.

Angela asked for suggestions on ways to share information? What's easiest for you and your agency?

A- FTP site for document exchange could work or E-mail is easier to us as well as CD's or hard copies.

Angela walked through the major milestones of the environmental process noting the aggressive schedule and the need to meet the 2015 opening of the tunnel. Comments on the schedule are welcome. Angela asked the group to give feedback on how we might all meet the deadlines collectively.

Angela walked through the agency involvement plan briefly highlighting the schedule of environmental deliverables and expectations of the agencies review. She asked that everyone review the document and provide input on it during the scoping period.

Agency Scoping Comments:

Historic and Cultural

- Trying to understand differences between H2K and this project at this point but no comments specific to historic or cultural resources.

Economics

- Cost over runs – who will bear the burden? Will the Seattle area resident and property owners bear that cost?
 - This issue will likely not be discussed in this report as the legislative guidance is vague and unclear.
 - The project will look at constructive expenditures in the document and how they relate to the local and regional economy
- Will tolling be analyzed for the project?
 - SDEIS will look at this doing this qualitatively.
 - Need to determine impacts and cost to legislature and if it's going to happen.

? – Should the project team use our previous agency scoping comments on these issues or write new letter?

A – We need new scoping letter – would like fresh communication on this new alternative.

Air

? – Why is green house gas analysis within Energy report and not air?

A – Energy analysis is greatest impact in relation to construction effects and energy consumption. Materials consumed will be a factor into green house gasses.

? – Looking at previous alternatives to reevaluate against new purpose and need – will AWV do this?

A – The team will look at the Bored Tunnel and bring it up to the same level of detail in regards to Air quality analysis and green house gas. We will also compare the previous 7 alternatives to the new purpose and need. The SDEIS will have a summary of all alternatives but will focus on the Bored Tunnel.

? – Will you evaluate TDM/TSM measures?

A – Not as of part of this project alternative.

? – Will the project address design for transit use in the tunnel? King County will provide comments on transit in their scoping letter.

A – The portals will handle all of the transit movements'.

? - What will happen to tunnel emissions and who will be receiving them at the portal locations? Perhaps the team will consider completing a health impact analysis.

Transit

?-comments included subjects such as:

- Will you be doing a systems wide impact analysis for transit?
- No bus route in tunnel at this time and none proposed as part of alternative?
- FTA – WSDOT needs to be clear that tunnel is discussing this impact.
- Ecology - Would like opportunity to weigh in on waterfront activities. Not entirely sure what their role is right now but hope to have better idea as project moves forward with regards to shoreline work.

- Over pass to ferry – what will happen to the pedestrian bridge for the ferry terminal?
A - It will be taken down for the viaduct removal and the same connection and type will be replaced.
- Holding lanes for Ferry under viaduct? Where will those go?
A - This will stay as it is – the offsite queuing lanes are part of H2K and have been analyzed as part of that project.

General

? – Will you be looking at risks associated with each of the alternatives such as fiscal impact risks with different alternatives? Cost overruns would be one example.

A – WSDOT uses CEVP process to assess risk but this is usually done later as the design progresses. CEVP will be briefly discussed on the SDEIS.

? – The last public document was published in 2006. How are you going to fill the time gap between the SDEIS and the second supplemental?

A – WSDOT is producing a document that will provide a project history of where the project has been and where it's going. The document will be available for the public, agencies and tribes to gain a better understanding of the project evolution leading up to the current approach and proposed alternative. No new analysis will be part of this report. This will be a stand alone document but elements of it will be folded into the SDEIS#2. We anticipate the document to hit the street in July or August. No new analysis with this report

Angela Freudenstein – Wrap up

Angela thanked all attendees for providing feedback to the team and encouraged agencies to provide scoping comments prior to the July 10th date. Angela will send out meeting minutes and copies of the scoping boards to all attendees. She also told the attendees to keep their eyes peeled for methodology reports coming their way for review within the next few days.