

VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

From: Bennett Brooks [bennett@concurinc.net]
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2008 3:12 PM
To: Paananen, Ron
Subject: Fwd: SAC Observations

Ron,

For some reason this message I sent moment ago didn't get through to you. Here it is again.

Bennett

Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 18:08:48 -0500

To: DyeD@WSDOT.WA.GOV, Grace.Crunican@Seattle.Gov,
Harold.Taniguchi@kingcounty.gov, Robert Powers <Robert.Powers@Seattle.Gov>,
Ron.Posthuma@kingcounty.gov, PaananR@wsdot.wa.gov PaananR@wsdot.wa.gov
From: Bennett Brooks <bennett@concurinc.net>
Subject: SAC Observations
Cc: "Grotefendt, Amy (Consultant)" <GrotefA@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov>, Jim Parsons
<JParsons@parametrix.com>, scott@concurinc.net
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

All,

A few observations from yesterday's meeting:

1. The absence of support for an elevated solution was striking. No more than a handful of SAC members spoke in favor of an elevated structure and some of them (Freiboth comes to mind) only did so under duress (i.e., as a less-than-desired alternative to a S&T option).
2. It is our sense that there truly is a grand compromise to be had. It won't be easy. There are the very real cost considerations voiced by Dave, along with non-trivial nuances of bored tunnel timing considerations and certainty which, no doubt, may undermine some of the emerging consensus heard around the table last night. That said, we still feel there is a broad consensus view to be found, and we strongly recommend that Tri-Agency work in a coordinated fashion to explore this potential. Our experience shows that the potential for agreement in the public policy arena is strongly enhanced when there is a strong champion. We think Tri-Agency is in the best position to play that role. It is also our sense that a fairly intensive series of discussions over the next week will be helpful in identifying the stable center. Short of some type of brokered compromise, we think the probability of a stalemate is quite high.

3. At this critical juncture, we think it is important to repeat one of our earliest pieces of advice: Joint briefings are key. We strongly recommend that the three executives receive a consistent message regarding: (1) the SAC's perspectives around Tayloe's proposal; and (2) the evolving Tri-Agency deliberations. It is our strong recommendation that a joint briefing paper be prepared by Tri-Agency for discussion with each Executive. Given the compressed time and delicate discussions, inconsistent messages will be very destabilizing.

4. It seems key to follow on the bored tunnel cost discussion this coming week. Anything we can do to build a common understanding on these costs in the very near term are key.

5. On a longer term view, assuming we can devise a technically supported approach that gains the support of a majority of the SAC, we should give serious thought to how we can keep them engaged and supportive. It was clear from a number of comments around the table last night that there is interest in helping push a product through to completion. Perhaps this could be a focus for discussion at either next week's SAC meeting or the mid-January meeting (assuming that gets held.)

Finally, we were struck by the extent to which participants around the table were voicing movement away from fairly entrenched positions. This kind of movement is rare and affords an opportunity we should try hard to take advantage of.

Scott and Bennett