

SUBJECT Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting No. 1
PROJECT Feasibility Study for Arlington Avenue Bridges Replacement
LOCATION Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
First Floor Conference Room | 1105 Terminal Way, Reno
DATE/TIME Thursday, February 6, 2020, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
MODERATOR RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

INVITATION

- email/calendar update from RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

PREPARATION

- SWG information and project overview presentation
- outline/prepopulate presentations of environmental criteria and constraints and engineering criteria and constraints to be modified during breakout session
- printed handouts
 - agenda
 - 11" x 17" printouts of overview map and breakout session presentations

ATTENDANCE

- 26 attended (4 sign-in sheets and one call-in)
 - 3 area residents
 - 8 representing the City of Reno
 - 2 representing community organizations
 - 1 representing the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
 - 1 representing the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy
 - 2 representing Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT)
 - 1 representing the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - 1 representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - 6 representing RTC (project management) and design and outreach subcontractors

MINUTES

Taken by court reporter Brandi Smith, Litigation Services, and provided as a pdf. (See "Minutes" pdf attachment.)

WELCOME - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

- thanked stakeholders for participating
- introduced the project team
 - from Jacobs Engineering: Ken Greene, Project Manager, Matt Negrete, Structural Engineer and Jim Clark, Environmental Specialist (by phone)
 - from SJ Marketing: Lynn Finnigan, outreach team
- introduced Brandi Smith, court reporter from Litigation Services
- provided an overview of her own background (See court reporter minutes pdf.)
 - highlighted her “5-year-plan” goal for the Arlington Avenue Bridges project
- asked the stakeholders to introduce themselves (See court reporter minutes pdf.)

PROJECT AND PROCESS PRESENTATION - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

PROJECT SCOPE

- complete a feasibility study to define the scope of future phases (NEPA design processes to start 2021, construction in 2026)
- goal: to reduce the range of possible bridge types and aesthetic themes to be carried forward
- Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process to document decisions
 - based on purpose and need, present multiple concepts to the general public for comments (kickoff meeting December 2019)
 - SWG and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) develop/refine alternatives based on public comments
 - alternatives narrowed down to a couple that will work, meeting the purpose and need, and be taken to NEPA for further design and analysis

PLANS FOR ADVISORY MEETINGS

- three SWG meetings
 - members represent major permitting agencies, groups and organizations that make up a larger component downtown, immediately adjacent property owners
 - meeting one (today) to identify environmental and engineering criteria and constraints
 - meeting two November 5, focusing on bridge concepts
 - meeting three December 15, focusing on aesthetic themes
- two Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings
 - better understanding of restrictions related to permitting
 - meeting one July 15 with USACE , dealing with permitting and regulatory requirements
 - meeting two August 31, detailing bridge and roadway elements
- working together, with some amount of compromise, to reach a consensus: a mutually acceptable design that meets all relevant stakeholder interests

PROJECT AND PROCESS PRESENTATION continued - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

OTHER MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

- second presentation (first were made in 2020) to the RTC Board and the City of Reno Council, respectively
 - presenting all recommendations and information from advisory meetings
- second public meeting
 - presenting feasibility study results and collecting comments
- third presentation to the RTC Board and the City of Reno Council
 - to present public comments and get final Board and Council input in order to finalize feasibility study

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

- current iteration
 - address structurally deficient bridges
 - provide safe and ADA-compliant multimodal improvements
 - address hydraulic capacity needs
 - respond to regional and community plans
- to be reviewed/edited at the end of SWG-1 meeting

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Kickoff Public Meeting, December 2019 | Identify and analyze Bridge Concepts, Now Public Meeting to present Feasibility Study, December 2020 | Finalize Feasibility Study, December 2020 | Environmental NEPA and design permitting, 2021-2025 | Start construction 2026
- Six-year plan (almost Ms. Tortelli's five-year plan goal)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2009, the City of Reno completed the TRAction Visioning Project (study)
 - included Booth, Arlington, Sierra, Virginia, Center and Lake bridges
 - resulted from the 1997 and 2005 flood events
 - initial focus: finding the best solutions for improved flood protection in downtown
 - based on public outreach and stakeholder input, transitioned to balancing an acceptable flood protection level with the bridges' appearance
 - results: better alternative for flood protection was bridge replacement not rehabilitation; nonviable flood protection alternatives included upstream detention, diversion channels, dredging, river widening and debris fields

PROJECT BACKGROUND continued - Jacobs Project Manager Ken Greene

FIVE ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS IN 2019

- PEL checklist used (also to be used in the feasibility study and included in the report)

FIVE ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS IN 2019 continued - Jacobs Project Manager Ken Greene

- March 6 - Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA), stakeholder related to hydraulics. Will support the project through modeling to help guide the alternatives design. Discussed:
 - downtown elements of the Flood Project Programmatic Agreement (PA) that were dropped in 2011. Do we need a separate PA for the Arlington Bridges Project now?
 - 100-year water surface elevation was 4502 feet above sea level per flood model analysis
 - importance of debris removal beneath the bridges
- March 25 - Discussed:
 - previous NDOT inspection reports that suggest bridges are not historic
 - whether PA is needed and could it be signed by NDOT or Federal Highways Administration (FHWA)
- USACE, stakeholder related to compliance with the Clean Water Act. Discussed:
 - relationship between sections 404 and 408
 - processes for compliance (Arlington Bridges Project will alter a civil works project)
 - Arlington Bridges Project team potential participation in USACE monthly meetings
 - requesting wetland biological resource investigations or aquatic resource determinations/verifications
 - Corps to consult with Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (NVSHPO) about cultural resources eligibility
- November 13 - City of Reno Council, partner in project. Discussed:
 - scope and general schedule
 - bridge replacement project included in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
 - public participation process. Council agreed with the process and the composition of the SWG with proposed team members added
- December 12 - Public Meeting (kickoff)
 - project overview presentation, comments collected

FIRST PUBLIC MEETING SAMPLE COMMENTS - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

GREAT FEEDBACK

- 24 made comments of 45 who attended
- comments to be reviewed again to initiate discussion at future SWG meetings
- sample comments in suggested categories
 - bridge type: "I particularly love the gracefulness of tiered-arch concept."
 - aesthetics: "Something more visually pleasing. Not cookie-cutter."
 - other needs or challenges: "Additional access to the river." "Better pedestrian connectivity." "Wingfield Park should be one park, not divided by a bridge."
 - other general: "Concerned about location for contractor staging and parking." "OK with the existing bridges. Who is paying for this?"

PUBLIC PROCESS - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

FOUR INTERNAL, RTC-REQUIRED STEPS

- organize and look to SWG to identify alternative-specific criteria and constraints, refine bridge design concepts and determine aesthetic themes
- seek public comment on available bridge design alternatives and aesthetic themes
- prepare and finalize the feasibility study
- set the groundwork for preparing and/or finalizing the PA (should one be necessary)

PUBLIC AGENCY ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AGREEMENTS - Jacobs Project Manager Ken Greene

FEDERAL AGENCIES (depends on whether or not there is federal funding)

- FHWA or USACE could be lead agency, supporting federal funding source review and analysis

NVSHPO and USACE

- to determine/confirm whether the bridges are historic
- to determine/consider project effects, direct and indirect, on historic properties

FHWA OR NDOT

- sign the PEL checklist to document decisions
- work with NVSHPO to set groundwork for the PA if needed

BREAKOUT SESSION

INTRODUCTION - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

- input from all of the SWG members matters
- building upon pre-populated spreadsheets, based on where we are in the feasibility study process and comments received so far, to help focus the alternatives analysis.
- criteria and constraints, divided into two sections, will be living elements of the project going forward

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CRITERIA AND CONSTRAINTS DISCUSSION - led by Jacobs Project Manager Ken Greene

- see breakout session pdf attachment, pages 1-3, with discussion notes in red. Also court reporter minutes pdf, pages 31-57
- discussion related to:
 - permitting
 - potential effects on historic structures
 - section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Act and section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
 - hazardous materials assessment
 - biological/natural resources

ENGINEERING DESIGN CRITERIA AND CONSTRAINTS DISCUSSION - led by Jacobs
Structural Engineer Matt Negrete

- see breakout session pdf attachment, pages 4-7, with discussion notes in red. Also court reporter minutes pdf, pages 58-97
- discussion related to:
 - bridge/roadway
 - right-of-way/access
 - bike/pedestrian use
 - land use
 - traffic
 - utilities

CONCLUSION - RTC Project Manager Judy Tortelli

TOPICS TO BE CONSIDERED IN SWG-2 MEETING (BRIDGE TYPES)

- including different bridge concepts
- for a two-bridge replacement concept, including the area in between and surrounding

NEXT STEPS

- determining TAC membership, scheduling meetings (not yet scheduled due to COVID-19)
- SWG meetings
 - email invitations to come
 - SWG-2 planned (tentatively) for April 30 (being rescheduled due to COVID-19)
 - SWG-3 planned (tentatively) for July 2
- other meetings/presentations
 - City of Reno Council and RTC Board in July
 - Public meeting in August
 - City of Reno Council and RTC Board in October
- complete Feasibility Study in December
- design and construction 2021 to 2026

ACTION ITEMS

- determine ordinary high water mark
- define lead agency
- confirm historic register status

PROJECT WEB PAGE

- frequent updates to information and materials at <https://www.rtcwashoe.com/engineering-project/arlington-avenue-bridges-project/>

THANKS FOR ATTENDING (and reviewing this recap)