

Wendell Ave. Bridge Public Meeting

10/29/13, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Public Comments Log

by Subject

- **Bridge Aesthetics**
 - What kind of lighting have you decided to use?
 - Bridge railing: what were the other two designs? I like to be able to see the water while I'm driving. I would like to be able to do that on the new bridge.
 - **Artwork**
 - In other states there is nice art in the bridge design. Could you put an artistic relief on the inside of the cement part of the railing? As in, 1.5" reliefs that relate to indigenous cultures.
 - Could another department work with the DOT on art features?
 - Regarding artwork: who designs it? Does the DOT? Or is there some other entity who makes those decisions?
 - ❖ Do you contract out artwork?
 - Do you have a budget for art?
 - ❖ Can you put it in the budget right now?
 - ❖ Where and when is the last place in the design process where you can decide to add art?
 - At what point is it too late to add artwork? When is a good time?
 - ❖ Does the 1% for art apply to this project?
 - ❖ How should we continue to advocate for aesthetic improvements?
 - ❖ I am not interested in sculptures, but instead making the concrete prettier—murals, mosaics, ceramic tile.
 - When you have art, murals, or something else done by the community, there will be less graffiti.
 - Have you asked the Tanana Chiefs, where they make soup and do Bingo, their input on artwork?
 - **Complete Streets**
 - Does Fairbanks Complete Streets incorporate trees?
 - On Illinois Street, the DOT decided not to incorporate Complete Streets.
 - Donna Gardino elaborated on what Complete Streets is: colors, birch trees, planter buckets, curved lamps, two lanes, wider sidewalks, bike lanes. But this project is outside that zone.
- **Pedestrians Paths**
 - Have you given thought to benches on the Graehl Park side, or anywhere where people can stop to look at the river?
 - On the downstream side as you come across on the south side, can you put a pathway from the bike trail to the parking lot near Wendell Street?
 - There is a missing link between the Steese Bridge and Wendell Bridge right now for pedestrians.
 - Is the sidewalk going to be about twice as wide as it is now?
 - There is a pretty decent curve between the driveway and the sidewalk? Is that going to be on the new bridge as well?

- **Informal Paths**
 - Are you going to put in a barrier to stop a pedestrian from taking a short-cut up the hill, causing erosion? People do that now as you can see on the map on the south side of the bridge.
 - There are paths that people create themselves, informal paths like those you can see in the picture. Have you thought about addressing that?
 - North side: east landing—there won't be any access to the bridge except on the west side? Have you considered the inconvenience, or that people will walk through the neighborhood or straight up the embankment instead?
 - What is the line on the drawing on the east side of the bridge there? People are just going to walk up that bank or climb it anyway.
 - There is an informal path into the Morris Thompson parking lot right now. Are you going to build something or block the path?
- **Stairs**
 - Can you put stairs on both sides? Can you put a ramp on one side and stairs on the other? So instead you're going to create an unfairly long traverse for everybody?
 - Lots of disgruntled people about not having stairs and having to traverse the long route under the bridge and around.
 - "I live near those stairs, and I'm happy to see them go away." He wants stairs on the west side. If you keep it like the design is now, there is a complete path to the rest of the city.
 - Right after you cross the bridge to the right on the steep embankment, would you be willing to put in stairs?
- **Flooding**
 - The bike path flooded under the Barnette Bridge this year. Will there be flooding on these paths?
 - ❖ The Chena River path floods and gets icy sometimes. I'm concerned about flooding because I use those paths frequently.
 - The informal path from the Steese stairs towards the Wendell Bridge floods all the time.
- **Special Events**
 - Are there going to be flags on this bridge?
 - Are there going to be special considerations for the rubber ducky race or the dog races?
 - Will you have outlets on the bridge? That could be helpful during special events.
 - Regarding special events, that is a big concern about not having access on the upside of the bridge. If people have to go underneath the bridge to get to the ramp side, they might not want to go that far, and they might want to be on the sidewalk on the east side of the bridge.
- **Communication Between Agencies & Projects**
 - How does this project coordinate with the Minnie Street to Steese Corridor project/widening of Third Street? There will be demolition of buildings, so how will this mesh with that project?
 - Timeline: which project comes first?
 - Information about who is the project manager for the Third Street Project?

- About the Graehl Park area: last year the city paved First Street, but there was a little spot the borough owned, and so it was not paved. Now that the state is going to be working on the street, are there going to be other weird things where the different jurisdictions don't communicate? If there is not an effort to communicate, it causes problems.
- **Safety Concerns**
 - Will you have a shoulder on the road that is a safety feature that the current pedestrian barrier currently serves?
 - Hall Street/Clay/Wendell: there is a sharp corner that is dangerous in the winter. Are you going to make it safer?
- **Chena River Concerns**
 - The Chena River is a problem for sediment—putting grass there to filter sediment is a good idea. Are there any other ideas for storm treatments? It's one of the things FMATS will be introducing in their long-range environmental plan to protect the river.
 - On the Barnette Street Bridge there are center pilings. Those attract a bunch of debris. Will this bridge also have those? Have you considered the debris flow?
 - Will it be a smaller diameter bridge support than currently? Will the navigational openings be wider?
 - Have you received complaints about boats under the Barnette Bridge? What about during spring high water? Will boats be able to get under this bridge during high water?
- **Questions about the Map**
 - Is the curve on the map (curved bike path on the north side) by Play It Again Sports?
 - What are the rocky forms on the drawing on either side of the bridge on the north side? Is it similar to the Steese embankment?
- **Miscellaneous Comments**
 - Are you going to go through the design timeline?
 - Maybe we should be able to drop off comment sheets at the Tanana Chiefs Building.
 - It's helpful to talk about the benefits of each proposal.

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Chronological Order

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