

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Project: CDOT Region 3 – SH 82 Grand Avenue Bridge

Purpose: Combined Meeting PLT #4 and PWG #2

Date Held: November 16, 2011

Location: Glenwood Springs Community Center

Attendees:

CDOT:	Josh Cullen, Joe Elsen, Sean Yeates, Gary Spinuzzi (by phone)
City of Glenwood Springs:	Dave Betley
Colorado Bridge Enterprise:	Charlie Trujillo
FHWA:	Eva LaDow
Pitkin County:	Brian Pettet
Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Assoc.	Doug Harr
Downtown Development Authority:	Leslie Bethel
Eagle County:	Eva Wilson
Historic Preservation Commission:	Gretchen Ricehill
Jacobs:	Craig Gaskill, Jim Clarke, Mary Speck
TSH:	George Tsiouvaras, Jeff Simmons, Dave Woolfall
AMEC:	Don Connors
Pat Noyes and Associates:	Pat Noyes
Newland Project Resources:	Tom Newland

Copies: PLT Members, PWG Members, Other Meeting Attendees, File

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

PURPOSE OF MEETING

To share what was heard at the Public Scoping meeting on November 15, hear about and give input to Visioning Workshop agenda and invitees, and have NEPA 101 overview.

INTRODUCTION

Josh Cullen kicked off the meeting with a brief overview of the Public Scoping meeting held the night before.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES MATRIX

1. Craig distributed the final Roles and Responsibilities Matrix and reviewed it with the group. This was to provide an understanding of each of the project groups' roles and how they relate to each other.
 - PLT is primarily responsible for public discussion and process
 - PWG handles issues and technical challenges
 - Other groups
 - Resource Agency - meeting held November 15. These are the regulatory agencies
 - Task Forces - groups created as needed. Right now, there is a Visioning Workshop Planning group.
 - Elected Officials - The study team has presented to the City Council. There have been requests for a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and the Transportation Commission.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DEBRIEF

1. Craig commented that the Public Scoping meeting's purpose was to listen to and gather the public's concerns, issues, and ideas about the project that might affect the scope, as well as to answer questions about the project. The study team members attending the meeting were instructed to communicate that we do not have answers yet. The attendees at the meeting were very engaged, and there were several productive discussions on several topics. The study team noted conversation topics on "snow cards" (blank note cards).
2. There were 25 Comment Sheets filled in and left by attendees. Some people took the Comment Sheets with them and were asked to send them back to the study team.
3. About three-quarters of the comment sheets ranked the transportation issues listed on the sheet. When items were ranked, they were either ranked "Extremely Important" or "Important." Craig summarized the rankings as follows:

Connectivity	Most important
Congestion & Access	Tied for second
Safety	
Reliability	
Mode choices	

4. Craig read through all of the written comments that were submitted by the study team members and on the Comment Sheets. There was one consolidated statement signed by representatives from the Downtown Development Authority and the City Council with

recommendations and drawings. All of the comments on the Comment Sheets are recorded as part of the documentation for this meeting.

5. Next, the people in the PLT/PWG meeting who had attended the Public Scoping meeting summarized the comments they had heard.

Comments received at the Public Scoping Meeting

Project Scope/Purpose

- Don't tell me this is another study
- Why is this different from previous attempts
- No open opposition to project
- Alternate route discussions
- Support expressed for bypass options
- Peer to peer communications is important

Bridge

- There was an historic bridge at Pitkin (a nice, flat bridge)
- Bridge should be iconic – positive statement
- Pothole on the bridge – repair it
- Story of accident on bridge – losing a mirror
- Need a “narrow bridge” sign where it can be seen
- Start the approach to the bridge at 9th Street
- Widen the bridge
- Aesthetics are important
- Success characterization – tourists taking photos in Glenwood Springs would include the bridge in the picture
- Explore potential for artwork from students
- Revised pier column between Colorado River and I-70. Could this allow lengthen of the on ramp? This would not be part of Bridge Enterprise funding.
- Solution needs to be consistent with character of Glenwood
- Bring bridge into the street
- Not a lot of discussion about rehabilitation vs. replacement
- Perception that rehab is just fixing the bridge in its exact configuration
- Double-decker had support

Bike/ped

- On the east side, need a bike rack – right now, people chain bikes to the bridge rail
- Bike access – there's limited space for a ramp
- Improve pedestrian access from under the bridge
- Pedestrian friendly
- Add pedestrian access to west side
- Create a vibrant space

- Space under the bridge – plaza
- Bike/ped separation is good because of splashback, noise, aesthetics
- Traffic exhaust affects the restaurants in the pedestrian mall on the west side.
- Treat the pedestrian plaza well
- Plaza concept – eliminate left turns at 8th Street
- Move restrooms further south
- Hot pot parties –north side of bridge

Safety

- Emergency access along Wing Street
- Sight distance is important to Fire Department

Utilities/Infrastructure

- Primary gas line can't be shut down in winter
- Future infrastructure – incorporate into bridge now, broadband, water – want to be able to expand in the future

Construction/Mobility

- SH 82 Corridor Optimization Plan – frustrations around implementation – mobility issues
- Construction traffic a concern
- Can't do anything on this bridge without shutting the city down
- Construction – can we at least have two lanes?
- Closing of Wing Street

Funding

- If there is \$50 million available for the project, there is not enough for a bypass
- How far does Bridge Enterprise funding go?
- How far will funding go?
- Great economic development opportunity for Glenwood
- We hear there is no money

Economic

- Can businesses be compensated for loss of business during construction?
- Don't impede the current momentum of the downtown businesses
- Impact to downtown businesses
- Maintain appeal of southwest corner
- Community is now cohesive – different from the past

Environmental

- City Council and River Commission have been looking at bank improvements, such as mini whitewater facility, fishing area, improving the visual as one looks across the river at 7th Street. There may be an opportunity for a grant and/or partner with CDOT to implement improvements as part of the Grand Avenue Bridge project.

AGENCY SCOPING MEETING DEBRIEF

1. Jim Clarke summarized the Agency Scoping meeting that was held November 15 with the local, state, and federal regulatory and resource agencies. Representatives from mostly the agencies based in Glenwood Springs attended the meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes of the Agency Scoping meeting for details on everything covered. Some of the issues and concerns brought up included:
 - Aquatic species
 - RFTA's operation of both local and regional bus service and concern with use of Wing Street
 - City's plans for 7th Street
 - River fishing guides can be a resource
 - Does the Colorado River have a Wild and Scenic River designation?
 - Desire for a 5th lane for emergency vehicles

EPB SCOPING DEBRIEF

1. Jim Clarke mentioned that the ute ladies tresses orchid that is located in the project vicinity is a listed species.

USES OF SCOPING PROCESS INPUT

1. Craig went over how the input received during the scoping process would be used. He emphasized the importance of each member of the PLT and PWG communicating to the greater group what they hear about the project so we are on the same page going forward.
2. Input from the scoping process will be used for:
 - Finalizing the Context Statement and the Purpose and Need
 - Developing the alternatives - they will be evaluated and screened based on what we've heard

Project solutions will be complementary and there will be trade-offs between solutions
The Visioning Workshop will also provide direction for the context of the project.
The goal is to arrive at "informed consent" for the solution

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

1. Each member of the PLT and PWG groups is to confirm that they have received invites to future meetings.
2. Where do we meet next? CDOT, City Hall, Community Center?
3. Next Public Open House is scheduled for April 4, 2012. Other opportunities to interact with public before then, as requested:
 - Webinars

- Individual presentations to groups
4. Suggestion was made to include a link to the CSS website from our project website and a link to the CDOT CSS Policy.

VISIONING WORKSHOP UPDATE

1. Pat Noyes gave an over view of the Visioning Workshop scheduled for December 7 and 8. The workshop will take place on the afternoon of December 7 and morning of December 8. It will focus on what the attendees see as the outcomes, vision, values, and principles the project should represent – it is not intended to be a scoping meeting and it is not issue focused. The afternoon sessions will review the historic context of the bridge and trends that will influence the project. The next morning discussions will center on the current project with work groups exploring the project vision related to its design, rehabilitation, and construction phasing.
2. The goal is to have about 40 people attend. The invitees are local individuals and organizations with a variety of backgrounds and interests and include businesses, boards and commissions, agencies, and residents.
3. Representatives from the media had requested to attend. The study team will consider inviting them to the last hour of the workshop when the results of the discussions are summarized.
4. There was a discussion about media involvement in general. The plan for informing the media will be included in the project's Public and Stakeholder Involvement Plan, which is in draft form. There was a suggestion to contact the local radio station (KMTS) and use their website and programming opportunities to communicate with the public. There is a public television station (Plum and a grassroots affiliate) who would be glad to host a discussion with possibly members of the PLT.

NEPA 101 PRESENTATION

1. Jim Clark went through a PowerPoint presentation on the basics of NEPA and project requirements for the NEPA process.
2. After discussions with FHWA and CDOT, the study team is proceeding with the assumption the NEPA document will be an Environmental Assessment. If a rehab is possible, the NEPA document prepared will be a Categorical Exclusion (CatEx); if it's a replacement, and Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared. The study team can use the documentation prepared for the EA for the CatEx, so proceeding as if the project will require an EA will not generate any lost work. The decision document for the EA is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); if it is determined that there are significant impacts, and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required. The ultimate determination for this will depend upon the context and intensity of the anticipated impacts.

ALTERNATIVES SCREENING PROCESS

1. Craig explained the alternatives screening process. Assuming there will be three levels of screening, they will be as follows:
 - Level 1
 - Level 2 Comparative screening – data collection will focus on collecting data that will show discernible differences between the identified alternatives
 - Level 3 Quantification of the discernible differences between the alternatives
2. Value engineering would likely take place between Level 2 and Level 3 screening.
Question – how do you make sure details don't get value-engineered out of the design?

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

1. Is the bike/ped bridge 4(f)? After discussions with FHWA, it was determined no.
2. Is the CSS process beyond what NEPA requires for public involvement? It was explained that CSS is not just public involvement. It ensures that additional contextual issues are considered and helps to develop a solution in conjunction with the NEPA process.
3. Who likes the murals on the bridge? Some liked the murals and some not so much. It was noted that the status of the bridge as historic may require other approvals.

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Agenda

Combined PLT #4 and PWG #2 Meeting

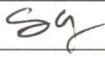
November 16, 2011
9:00 a.m. to Noon
Glenwood Springs Community Center
Glenwood Springs, CO

1. Public Scoping Meeting Debrief
2. Visioning Workshop Planning
3. NEPA 101

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SH 82
Grand Avenue Bridge

**Project Working Group #2 / Project Leadership Team #4
Combine Meeting
November 16, 2011
9:00 a.m. to Noon
Glenwood Springs: Community Center**

Present	Attendee
Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 3	
	Josh Cullen
<i>Gans by phone</i>	Tammie Smith / <i>Gans Spinuzzi</i>
	Joe Elsen
	Roland Wagner
	Zane Znamenacek
	Sean Yeates
	Behrooz Far
City of Glenwood Springs City Council	
	Bruce Christensen
	Shelley Kaup
City of Glenwood Springs	
	Dave Betley
CDOT Bridge Enterprise/ AECOM	
	Josh Laipply
	Charlie Trujillo

SH 82
Grand Avenue Bridge

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Present	Attendee
Garfield County	
	Jeff Nelson
FHWA	
✓	Eva LaDow
	Stephanie Gibson
	Matt Greer
Pitkin County	
	Brian Pettet
Glenwood Hot Springs	
	Kjell Mitchell
Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association	
✓	Doug Harr
Downtown Development Authority	
✓	Leslie Bethel
Historic Preservation Commission	
✓	Gretchen Ricehill

SH 82
Grand Avenue Bridge

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Present	Attendee
Eagle County	
✓	Eva Wilson
Jacobs	
✓	Craig Gaskill
✓	Jim Clarke
✓	Mary Speck
Tsiouvaras Simmons Holderness, Inc. (TSH)	
✓	George Tsiouvaras
✓	Jeff Simmons
	✓ David Woolfall
Other	
✓	Tom Newland
✓	Mary
✓	Don CONNORS (AMEC)
✓	Pat Noyes