



City of Shoreline

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Meeting summary: January 24, 2007

Aurora Business and Community Team (ABC Team)
Aurora Corridor Project (N 165th Street to N 205th Street)
Shoreline Fire Department – 17525 Aurora Avenue N (6:30-9:30 p.m.)

ABC Team: Rick Stephens, Larry Heesacker, Dale Wright, Art Ellis, Bill Vincent, Rocky Piro, Kevin Reeve, Joanne Hargrave, Mark Deutsch, Tom Nasky, Greg Olson, Don Ding, Jim Doherty, Gretchen Atkinson, Michael Broili, Robin McClelland, Shari Winstead-Tracy, Lamar Scott, Zach Gray, Paulette Gust, Carolyn Mayer, Rebecca Partman

Staff: Bob Olander, Kirk McKinley, Kris Overleese, Alicia Sherman, John Norris, Joe Tovar, Jennifer Barnes (Jones and Stokes), Tom von Schrader (SvR Design), Amalia Leighton (SvR Design)

Meeting Summary

Meeting started at 6:30 am.

1. Welcome/Introductions Kirk

Kirk McKinley welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the Aurora Corridor Project Manager. Members of the ABC Team introduced themselves and explained their interest in the Aurora project and the ABC Team. Staff and the project consultants introduced themselves. Kirk described the different roles of staff for the project, including City of Shoreline staff Kris Overleese, Alicia Sherman and John Norris. Kirk explained that the City has several consultants working on this project to assist the City in preparing the required environmental documents. Kirk introduced Jennifer Barnes from Jones and Stokes. Jennifer is the environmental process project manager for Jones and Stokes. Kirk also introduced Tom von Schrader and Amalia Leighton of SvR Design. SvR Design will be performing the stormwater analysis portion of the environmental review. Other consultants include Greg Easton of Property Counselors, who will be performing the Economics analysis of the environmental review; CH2MHill, who will develop the traffic analysis and base map; Thomas W. Holz who will assist with stormwater concept development; and Western Shore Heritage, who will be performing the Historic and Cultural Resources analysis.

2. Goals of the ABC Team and Staff Roles Bob

Bob Olander, City Manager, introduced himself to the ABC Team. He explained that he is excited about the diversity and expertise of the group and thanked them for their participation. He explained that this is

a new group, whose goal is to help bring a great deal of transparency to the City's environmental process. This group is here to represent individual special interests, those of the community and become environmental experts. It is hoped that this group will help disseminate this information to the community, through conversations with friends, neighbors, service organization, and colleagues. Through the discipline report process, this group will help ensure that all of the major points of the project have been addressed. Bob explained that the environmental process is not a decision making process, it is a disclosure process and that the information derived from this process can be used to make a decision about the next two miles of Aurora. Bob stated that it is his hope that at the end of the process, it is felt that all of the impacts have been disclosed, regardless of the alternative selection. Bob concluded by stating that Jones and Stokes will be developing reports and gathering data. The City has no role to change their data, only to challenge it and ensure its accuracy.

3. Housekeeping/Ground Rules

Kris

Kris explained that every ABC Team member should have a blue binder with name placards and that handouts for this meeting are available for each member. The binders and name placards should be brought to each meeting and information from each meeting should be kept in the binders. Handouts for tonight's meeting include an agenda, a map identifying the residences or places of business of ABC Team members, draft ground rules, the Aurora Corridor Project (N 165th to N 205th Street) environmental review schedule, a list of future meeting topics and dates and a copy of the Power Point presentation by Jennifer Barnes. The presentation notes from tonight's meeting, along with packets and meeting summaries, will be posted on the City's website in the future, however, the ABC Team website is not up yet. Kris explained that the ABC Team is scheduled to have six meetings through April, covering a list of topics included with tonight's meeting packet. Staff is open to the idea of adding new meetings if it is deemed necessary. The ABC Team discussed the possibility of adding additional meetings to discuss the topics of Traffic and Economics at separate meetings, as these are currently shown with additional topics on their respective nights. There was concern that these topics would require an entire meeting each, due to the fact that these are issues with significant concerns. Kris explained that the ABC Team needed to complete its work by late April/early May and if an additional meeting was needed, it should be scheduled for early May. The ABC Team confirmed that there was no interest in three hour meetings. Kris confirmed that staff would schedule an additional meeting for early May.

Kris described the draft ground rules to the ABC Team. She requested that team members provide staff with feedback on these rules. The ABC Team discussed the option of allowing members to submit written comments in advance of meetings that they may not be able to attend. It was agreed that that would be acceptable and that written comments would be distributed to all members of the team for review.

In response to an inquiry, staff confirmed that the ABC Team would have the opportunity to review the scoping comments and scoping report prepared by Jones and Stokes.

4. Three Alternatives

Kris

Kris described the cross-sections and the alternative alignments. She explained that the boards and presentation with descriptions of the alternatives from the scoping meeting are available on the City's website and encouraged members to review this information if they were unable to attend the scoping

meetings. She described that all alternatives have business access-transit (BAT) lanes, two general purpose lanes, underground utilities, sidewalks, upgraded light poles and access management. Alternative A, which is 98 feet wide (back of sidewalk to back of sidewalk), has no amenity zone for landscaping, the median has low growing vegetation, and utilities are located behind the sidewalk. Staff confirmed that if utilities are behind the sidewalk, land will need to be purchased to accommodate them. It is unknown where these utilities will be right now. Concern was expressed that property owners would lose more useable area on their property in this circumstance. Alternatives B and C have the same cross-section of 110 feet. This is the same as what is under construction in the first mile and includes an amenity zone behind the curb. Alternative B shifts east and Alternative C shifts west. In some areas of the project, the proposed cross-section will fit into the existing right-of-way and in some areas land will need to be purchased. The narrowest sections of the corridor are 90 feet wide from about North 170th Street to North 175th Street and then from approximately North 196th Street to North 200th Street.

5. Environmental Process

Jennifer

Jennifer presented a Power Point slideshow outlining the environmental process the City must undergo in conjunction with the requirements of NEPA and SEPA. She described the purpose of the environmental process, provided an overview of NEPA and SEPA, the levels of environmental documentation for both processes and the ways the two processes can be integrated. Jennifer outlined the different resource areas examined in the environmental process and the types of environmental effects studied. She clarified that beneficial impacts are not considered when making a decision, only adverse impacts. She also emphasized that the level of documentation is determined through implementation of an established process, rather than the process being determined by first establishing a level of documentation.

6. Break

ABC Team/Staff

The ABC Team adjourned for a 10 minute break.

7. Stormwater/Group Discussion

Tom described the firm of SvR to the ABC Team. Amalia and Tom presented a Power Point slideshow outlining conventional and natural stormwater systems, the goals of stormwater regulations and the various techniques available for stormwater treatment and conveyance through conventional and natural systems. They also outlined the methodology that will be used for the Aurora Corridor project. The ABC Team brainstormed a series of techniques that would be worth examining for the Aurora project including:

- Depressed, rather than raised, medians for stormwater collection
- Porous sidewalks, including sidewalks with traditional concrete in the center and porous edges
- Techniques not dependent upon soil conditions
- “Sea” Streets, such as those in Seattle from North 117th – North 120th Streets
- Rain gardens in the amenity zones
- Grassy swales
- Partnering with Sky Nursery for a demonstration project on their frontage area

- Porous concrete/asphalt for cross streets
- Federal funding for trial/test/demo programs
- Use of recycled materials
- Off-site improvements by private landowners
- Use of trees vs. small ground cover plants
- Use guidelines to help restore natural function
- Infiltration under sidewalks
- Special treatment at Echo Lake and the Metro Park and Ride at N 192nd Street

Other issues and questions that were raised regarding stormwater management include land mass needed for effective natural systems, visual differences between the first mile of Aurora and the next two miles, emergency vehicle access across and along the median, soil conditions, safety of rain gardens, durability of porous concrete, improvements to the stormwater system that will result from the improvements to Aurora, methodologies to implement systems and impacts to Boeing Creek.

8. Next Steps

Kris

Kris reminded the team that a meeting summary will be prepared and an agenda for the next meeting distributed. She reminded members that if they would like to review the proposed alignments, please contact her to set up a meeting time. Finally, she reminded members to visit the Fremont Trail between North 160th and North 163rd Streets to view an example of porous pavement.

9. Adjourn

Kris

Meeting ended at approximately 9:30 pm.