

ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2022 at 5:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Shared Goals and Guiding Principles

- Reviewed shared goals and guiding principles
- Underlined additions made by the community
- Any questions on the goals/principles?
 - o Can we record the meeting to help us share timely/relevant information with the community? Not allowed. Recording in Microsoft Teams Policy is attached and referenced below.

Alt. Access Study – EIS Project Manager Hiring Update

- Welcomed Mark Hafs, the recently hired EIS Project Manager and his first official day will be 2/1/22. Mark introduced himself and some of his background
- The goal of the next two months is to get out the Request For Qualifications (RFQ)/Request For Proposals (RFP) for an EIS consultant.
- Reviewed EIS timeline and believe we are on track to meet our original schedule to complete the EIS.
- Sally Blake is interested in sharing the 35-year history of Allentown and the reroute with Mark.
- Mark is interested in meeting with Allentown to learn about the community.
- Kelle Symonds mentioned that she had sent in all the studies for the reroute options to City Council and would be happy to share those with Mark.
- Questions (mainly asked of and responded by Mark Hafs): Is the EIS all environmental things, or will the EIS affect the constructability, and if it is even possible?
 - o Answer: Yes feasibility is a very important part of the EIS because if it isn't feasible, then we don't want to pursue that option. We may have to consider all options throughout the process if the lead agencies require that of us.
- Question: How quickly can a site in the EIS be eliminated if it isn't feasible?
 - o Answer: Mark said he would have to get further into the project to provide an answer. We may have to consider all options throughout the process if the lead agencies require that of us.
- Question: We have a lot of money floating around through the infrastructure bill. How do we move forward so we aren't missing out on that funding for the truck reroute?
 - o Answer: The City has been looking at potential grant funding for this process. So far, the grants available are only eligible for projects with a defined location. Once done with the EIS, we can begin looking at these funding sources. We are still early in the process and will continue to look for funding so we don't miss out. Mark stated that he believed that other jurisdictions and their major projects were probably on a similar timeline.
- Question: Can we add the EIS/reroute, 42nd Ave S, and emergency route together for funding?
 - o Answer: City is using a holistic approach and taking into account all the known variables during the bridge replacement and truck reroute project.
- Question: Can you define holistic approach?

- The City is looking at reroute options, emergency options, and the community as a whole, that is our understanding of a holistic approach.
- Hannah Hendrick's Comment: I want to make sure the holistic approach includes all of Allentown, not just S 124th Street.
- Question: When you do your job (to Mark) for the EIS, how much do you communicate with an entity like BNSF?
 - Answer: That will depend, but BNSF are a stakeholder and will need to work with them. We are trying to get a win/win for everyone.
- Question: Does BNSF have power?
 - In terms of what we are doing, they are governed by national laws, not so much local laws.
- Comment: The City only cares about BNSF input.
 - Something the City is doing well is the EIS process. The EIS process requires input from the neighborhood/residents and potential impacts. This gives you the power.
- Question: When you say EIS consultant, does that mean you need to hire more people?
 - No, Mark is the project manager and will hire external consultants for the EIS. Mark is the manager and the consultants are the team.

42nd Ave S Bridge Impact Update

- Reviewed bridge impact and work that has happened to this point
- Question: Are we to assume the bridge will remain closed until this approval process is done?
 - Answer: Yes, the City has a few options we are looking at, but there are certain guidelines we have to follow, including submitting the reopening options to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval. It will likely be another 4-6 weeks until we get that approval from these agencies. There is chance that it could be earlier than that since during winter there are usually fewer bridges going through the rating and inspection process. Staff will share with the council and the community as the reports are available.
- Question: At the 1/18/22 Council meeting, Hari said there were three options to reopen the 42nd Ave S Bridge. What are those options?
 - Answer: David clarified that he stated that there were 3 options in the TIC meeting. The options are that the bridge will be 1) closed, 2) two-way with load restrictions, 3) one-way in the most general sense. All options require some form of restriction. The draft report came to the Public Works team on 1/18. Public Works reviewed it, asked for additional calculations, and have what they need to submit to the Federal Highway Administration. Only one of those three is going to come out. The options will be based on what the engineering community recommends, cost, etc.
- Question: Is WSDOT aware the 3,000 overweight trucks are going over the S. 129th Street bridge and will continue to do this until the 42nd Ave S bridge reopens?
 - Answer: The City contacted WSDOT and let them know that the trucks would be rerouted. WSDOT said trucks would have to adhere to the weight limit. There is no proof that overweight trucks are going on this bridge. The numbers referenced in the question are for single unit vehicles (i.e. dump trucks and concrete trucks with multiple axels). The total weight restrictions for a typical tractor trailer configuration is

35 tons (70,000 lbs). Please refer to the top sign for diagrams and associated weights.

- Question: Do you have a sufficiency rating for the S. 129th Street bridge?
 - o Answer: WSDOT's policy is that we will have to do a public records request to get the sufficiency rating, which we are in the process of doing. We will share once we have that information if allowed by the WSDOT. We all recognize that this bridge has deficiencies due to its structure and the past arson events, this is why there are current weight restrictions.
- Question: Concerns were shared about the safety of the S 129th Street bridge and the catastrophic situation that could happen from multiple trucks being on the bridge.
 - o Answer: The City reached out to WSDOT immediately after the 42nd Ave S Bridge impact, and had conversations with them before making S 129th Street the reroute. The City, WSDOT, and King County all got together to agree on this option.
- Question: Over the weekend, there was a truck jack-knifed on the bridge and four trucks were stuck on the bridge at that time. It concerns me that the state doesn't have visibility to the issue. How can we reinforce that to the state?
 - o Answer: The City is having continued conversations with WSDOT and residents can also reach out to WSDOT to give them feedback at <https://wsdot.wa.gov/about/contacts/send-us-your-feedback>.
- At this point someone from the Allentown audience used unprofessional language and PW Director reminded them not to use profanities and David Cline reminded them to have a civic discourse and respect others
- Question: Are there plans to contact WSDOT again about our concerns?
 - o Answer: Yes, City will continue to express those concerns as a City entity.

Meeting Minutes & Process for Future Meetings

- Reviewed proposed minutes process. Residents agreed with proposal
- Who would like to be the point of contact for minutes?
 - o Sally Blake offered to continue to be the main contact.

Follow up Answers to Questions Asked at 1/25 Meeting (answered via e-mail)

- Question: Can we have more details regarding the three re-opening options for the 42nd Ave S Bridge? What are the final options?

Answer: The final options will be determined from a thorough review of the bridge's safety based on factual engineering data and what is the ability of the repaired bridge to be reopened safely or not. Options to be considered are the three previously mentioned, including: keep is closed, two-way, or one way. Based on engineering data, it will be determined what additional weight restrictions, if any, would be required if reopening is an option.
- Question: Is the council presented with the options at a council meeting or privately?
- Answer: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), Council is provided information for their awareness and discussion in both public meetings (Council committees (TIS, CSS, etc.), regular business and Committee of the Whole Meetings), as well as in executive sessions consistent with RCW 42.30.110. The Open Public Meetings Act requires that decisions of the Council be made in meetings open to the public. The decision regarding when and how to safely re-open the 42nd Ave S Bridge will be made by City Administration based on the advice and recommendations of expert bridge engineers.
- Question: Does Council vote on the three re-opening options for the 42nd Ave S Bridge?

- Answer: No
- Question: Does the Council decide or does the City Manager and Public Works Director decide on the options?
 - Answer: The final decision rests with the Mayor, who relies on the advice and recommendation of the Public Works Director and a team of consultants that includes expert bridge engineers.
- Question: Multiple times you have stated that the reasons for these monthly meetings with the residents you serve is to NOT display a lack of transparency. When you don't answer these simple questions at the time asked it does not relay a feeling of trust. We await the answers to our questions before the decision is made and finalized.
 - Answer: As the questions are new, we do not always have an answer on the spot, but as promised and as seen in this reply, we would get back with a complete answer. We will also include these answers in the ongoing notes and follow-up during our upcoming February monthly meeting.
- Question: Will you please let us know by email what the final weight restrictions and rating of the bridge are after repair when you receive them.
 - Answer: Yes, we anticipate receiving this information in the next three weeks.
- Question: Can we record the meeting to help us share timely/relevant information with the community?
 - Answer: For 2022, the city implemented a new policy regarding Teams recordings due to the significant public records and data storage impacts discovered over the last couple of years of Teams use. The written policy is intended to be applied fairly across all types of meetings, including community meetings. The policy was developed in consultation with the City Attorney, City Clerk, and Chief Technology Officer, and prohibits using the recording feature in Teams (except for City Council meetings), instead encouraging the use of written summaries that are key word searchable.

All records associated with public business are subject to the State's Public Records Act, which has strict requirements around retention and disclosure, and with associated staffing and budget impacts. Teams recordings create a new record which then requires the need to search, review and disclose upon request. Teams recordings are not keyword searchable like other types of meeting records, so this presents a challenge. In addition, our technology team shared that the Teams recordings themselves are very large files that were causing a strain on our electronic storage capacity. Due to the nature of the Public Records Act, once records are created, they cannot be deleted until the appropriate retention period has been met. For the Allentown community meetings, written summaries are provided to community members for input to ensure all are in agreement with what is recorded.

Questions to be Answered at 2/22 Meeting

- Question: How do we bring BNSF to the table?
- Question: Can we request weight receipts from BNSF?
 - City sent letter to BNSF week of Feb 1 to request this information.
- Question: Doesn't federal law state that hazardous waste can't be transported through residential neighborhoods?
 - The City will review the hazardous waste regulations and provide a more detailed response at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: February 22, 2022 at 5:30pm, Location: Tukwila Community Center, Social Hall