

6th Street Viaduct Seismic Improvement Project Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #3 Meeting Minutes

Meeting: with CAC Members:

Meeting Date: 06/28/2007 6:00 p.m. –
8:00p.m.

Ken Bernstein, Department of City Planning Office of Historic Resources
Jim Bickley, Spilo World Wide
Michelle Mowery, Bicycle LADOT
Carol Armstrong, LA River Revitalization
Rosalie Gurrola, Member of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council
Joe Linton, Livable Spaces
Marcello Zavala, LA Conservancy
Leslie Kendall, Petersen Automotive Museum
Jesse Leon, Office of Council Member Jose Huizar
Joaquin Castellanos, Boyle Heights Resident
Kevin Break, Break Photography
Shelly Backlar, Friends of the LA River
Magnus Walker, Owner of Serious Clothing

Location: The Boyle Heights Youth
Technology Center
1600 E Fourth St.
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Attendance: Team:
Wally Stokes, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
Jim Wu, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
Tony Torres, DSO
Glenda Silva, DSO
Dick Chan, Moffatt & Nichol
Grace David, LABOE
Jeff Bingham, Parsons
Anne Kochoon, Parsons
Bearj Sarkis, LADOT

Introduction:

The third CAC meeting was held with 13 attendants of the 27 individuals who were invited to participate in developing the scope of the project. The meeting started with a quick introduction with the City's project development team (PDT) and invited CAC members. Participants stated their name and affiliation. All invited members were given a copy of the agenda and CAC#2 meeting minutes to review. Jeff Bingham of Parsons facilitated the meeting. All members were encouraged to ask questions at all times during the meeting. All CAC members were given a biography form prior to the meeting asking them for consent to be included on the 6th St Viaduct Improvement Project Public website and were asked to complete the form out at the meeting. CAC #3 was held to explain the purpose and need of the project and explain the Public Notice of Preparation Hearings that will take place on August 14 and August 16, 2007. The meeting ended with a questions and discussion session during the report back session.

Meeting Summary::

Group Procedures:

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Jeff Bingham. Mr. Bingham introduced the team members and asked new invited CAC members to introduce themselves. Mr. Bingham then proceeded to explain the goals for the night. Mr. Tony Torres asked CAC members to review the meeting minutes of the second CAC meeting that took place on May 10th at the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center. Mr. Bingham then proceeded to show the Purpose and Need power point presentation for the night. The presentation provided the definition and background on the purpose

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and need statement. The CAC members were asked to comment and ask questions throughout the presentation.

The CAC members were informed that the goal for the next CAC meeting was to talk about the design alternatives of the project. The date for CAC #4 is scheduled for Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center. (Note that, due to the required preparation for the Public scoping meetings by the project team members in August, CAC #4 has been rescheduled to Thursday August 23, 2007 at the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center.

Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Purpose and Need Presentation Comments by CAC members:

Project Needs, Issues and Opportunities were stated by CAC members during a brainstorming session following the power point presentation. The following points were raised:

- Economic impacts on businesses should be minimized
- Would like a design or construction that would avoid right of-way locations
- How can right of-way be avoided
- Employees will be affected by the right of-way
- Need to create a chronological plan that will detail the progression of when right of-way will take place.
- Need to minimize disruption to businesses, residents, and employees during and after construction and this will be accomplished by preserving the bridge to its original design.
- Safety Issues
- Help the transition process for all those who will be affected.
- The visionary plan for design should be one that minimizes disruption and minimizes the (realignment) vision of project.
- Widening the bridge is unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists; do not widen the road.
- It's a bad place to start with the presumption that bridge will be replaced.
- How many of the opportunities (CAC #2 Brainstorm) are possible with a retrofit.
- Reassess the cost- effectiveness of retrofit options and keep the original design.
- Will the new design be a standalone design or resemble current historic bridges
- Leave the historic bridge
- Need to recognize that new bridge design does not impede future with zoning, businesses and the Master River Plan.
- An Urban Tapestry
- Provide safe corridor that balances environmental impacts and business impacts.
- Provide access to the river /green space.
- How many people walk over the bridge daily?
- Overlay of information for next meeting.
- As a business how do we continue to have a livelihood during and after construction?
- You need to lay out the long and short term needs for businesses and impacts to regular business.
- How far is your radius list?
- How long will be from now that businesses will be relocated?

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- How long after will they be allowed to return back into their locations of business?
- When will the notifications be sent to businesses regarding their relocations?
- City of Los Angeles has an emotional attachment to the historical bridges
- Will it be replaced or will it be retrofitted?
- Didn't the City tell Caltrans that it must be replaced?
- Review of cost and viability
- Preserve historical scale and design to not disrupt businesses, residents
- The project FOLAR- For preserving the bridge.

Purpose and objectives were then brainstormed as follows:

- Need to be careful with design deficiencies/scale inappropriate for area
- Concept of superimposing a new design/bridge is not good for the community.
- Traffic has increased tremendously over the past three years because of the recent loft developments like the 6th St. lofts, bridge construction will make this worse.
- Explicitly show the impacts to businesses throughout the whole project process.
- What is the time frame for project?
- When will the transportation / detour plan be released when bridge closes for construction?
- Will the EIR contain full details on zoning of the area both industrial and residential?
- Boyle Heights is a major transportation location and the bridge is vital.
- Needs are absolute/ opportunities are the icing on the cake.
- This project is perfect for great opportunities to utilize space like in London and Paris that have retail, restaurants, green space under their bridges.
- Beautification is key.
- Start consumer opportunities.
- Millennium Bridge in London- would like to see a similar 2 story bridge that is pedestrian friendly.
- Detail bike detour during construction.
- Add recreation to design.
- By widening the bridge speeds will increase.
- Keeping current design with rising traffic means bikes will not have a safe space on the lanes.
- When was the last head-on collision on the 6th St Bridge?
- Where is the traffic study?
- There is no shoulder lane to stop during an accident, need emergency lanes.
- Need to evaluate the retrofit option.
- Area in and around the bridge is changing and we need to realize that the current lanes on the bridge are not safe for bikes or pedestrians especially because there is no speed limit posted.
- Need to change for the future.
- Traffic on the 4th St and 7th St bridges will probably get worse than on the 6th St Bridge because the 6th St. Bridge is currently the one that has the least traffic.

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- How do we get other people involved in project?
- When will the individual business meetings start?

Comments for Future Ideas:

- Mr. Magnus Walker asked project development team to make a presentation to the Arts District BID association.
- Present to Downtown artists group at 8 p.m.
- Set up booth at the Day of the Dead celebration in November. Arrange a field trip for the CAC members/ community to walk over the bridge to get a sense of what really needs to be done.
- The Cultural Heritage Commission has questions regarding the project. They will have a meeting on August 2nd 10am at City Hall. All CAC members are invited to attend. Bureau of Engineering will be presenting to commission.
- Post Heritage Commission meeting information on Public Website.
- Mr. Kevin Break from Break Photography stated that Project development team can use his bridge photos on the public website so long as we credit his work.

Next CAC Meeting:

Next CAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 9, 2007 at the Boyle Heights Youth Technology Center at 6:00 p.m.

Action Items:

- Send out meeting minutes