

6th St Viaduct Seismic Improvement Project

Public Information Meeting Notes

Meeting: First Public Meeting West Side

Meeting Date: January 23, 2007

Attendance: Residents, Business Owners and Community Groups

Wally Stokes, LABOE

Jim Wu, LABOE

Jeff Bingham, Parsons

Anne Kochaon, Parsons

Tony Torres, DSO

Glenda Silva, DSO

Jorge Adame, DSO

Walt Quesada, Moffat and Nichol

Dick Chan, Moffat and Nichol

Grace David, LABOE

Introduction

A public meeting was held at Art Share Los Angeles to discuss the first phases of project scope with local residents and property owners of businesses close to the bridge.

The meeting began with an introduction of the team, followed by a power point presentation by Jeff Bingham on project history and reason for public involvement. The meeting ended with questions and answers.

Comments made by attendees

Historic aspect:

Questions:

- Is there the possibility of maintaining the historic design of the bridge as well as improving efficiency and use?
- Can the bridge be retrofitted and fixed piece by piece or replicated piece by piece?

Comments:

- Edgar Garcia, representative of the City Planning Department Office of Historic Resources, stated that there is a possibility that the bridge can be nominated and declared a historical monument. The monument designation will definitely change the process of the project and limit the choice of total replacement with a new bridge design.
- There is a sense that a decision has been made regarding the replacement of the bridge with a new design. No wants the bridge replaced by with a new design.
- Boyle Heights and the bridge have a historic connection and residents would like the new design to match the current bridge with new safety and green features -- not only keeping its historic value but also adding to its use and legacy. Consider elements such as pedestrian friendly sidewalks, adding a bike lane to making the bridge Boyle Heights and Downtown friendly.

- The bridge is the site for a major event in Boyle Heights called Festival de La Gente in which over 100 people attend and park on the bridge. It is hosted by Arte Calidad. Arte Calidad would like to keep the current historic design and include elements of bridge that acknowledge the cultural significance of the bridge to Boyle Heights and the Downtown Art District.
- The bridge has a very historic meaning to Boyle Heights and the City and it would be a shame to see such a beautiful bridge be replaced with a different state of the art design. The bridge identifies Los Angeles and there has to be a way to restore and keep original bridge. The design team has to look into saving the bridge and if there is no possible way to do that, then there has to be actual data and proof that there is no way that we can keep and restore the bridge. Spending more money on this bridge to keep original design is worth it to the Boyle Heights community and City of LA
- One resident fears that a new design could set precedence in the future, which will cause all bridges in Los Angeles to lose their historic aspect.

Concerns on Cost and funding:

Questions:

- Is there technology available to fix current bridge condition instead of replacement and how much does that cost?
- How much will it cost to keep up new bridge?
- Has cost benefit been considered in your study and is that available to view?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of retrofit, such as in cost and life expectancy of bridge versus the new bridge?
- Can the cost benefit be available online as well to be viewed?
- Is there another study being conducted or anybody outside of your group that is saying that the bridge can be fixed and for cheaper?
- What is the cost of total retrofit and keep original design?

Comments:

- \$ 200 million is not enough to build another attractive bridge.
- One resident fears that once project has undergone construction, funding will probably run out and leave the City with a simple looking bridge.
- There is concern about the \$200 million and how this is not enough money for this project. Money should not be an issue and more money should be spent on this bridge. The City needs to lobby for more funds to make this project successful.

Construction Concerns and Ideas:

Questions:

- Who made decision to replace bridge?
- What kinds of design concepts have been considered?

- Will other options be considered besides total removal?
- What are the elements that can be saved?
- Has the decision to replace the bridge been made?
- What are the ramifications of widening the bridge in regards to the businesses close to the bridge?
- Can the architectural team show a sample of another bridge going through the same reaction like this bridge in another part of the world?
- Can data be presented on the lifespan of the new bridge?
- What will be the process of picking the engineer if a new bridge is built?
- Who is the engineer who will be working on this project?
- Will the public be involved in the design process?
- Is there a possibility of decommission and getting rid of the bridge all together, with no new bridge?
- How will continuing seismic activity affect the final decision and public input on the bridge?
- Will continuous seismic activity eliminate certain opportunities to save the bridge?
- Do all bridges in Los Angeles need repair?

Comments:

- Consider the Festival De La Gente in the design process to continue the event once construction is completed.
- Please present life expectancies of both the new bridge and retrofit options.
- Discrepancies exist on the numbers in your study regarding bridge life expectancy of a new bridge versus retrofitting the old bridge.
- Have a concern with safety of a new bridge. Will new bridge be as safe as an old bridge? Old bridges last longer than new ones.
- DC Stages located at the very foot of the bridge has been a family owned business for over 100 years and this project will have great economic impact on this particular business. Will businesses be compensated for loss of business?

Green Project Ideas:

Questions:

- Can the new bridge be pedestrian friendly by reducing and limiting the number of motor vehicles to get rid of traffic?

Comments:

- It would be a good idea to preserve the bridge by implementing the idea of a green project by recycling the material from the old bridge. This is a good way to

preserve its historical spirit and providing a green environmentally friendly project.

Project Information Availability:

- Is it possible to place the power point slide presentation on the city department website?

Team Action Items:

- Create a website to display the power point presentation used for this meeting.