



Hamline Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

Public Information Meeting #4 – Project Progress Report

Community Room - West District Police Station
389 North Hamline Avenue
6:30 to 7:30 pm
Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Agenda

1. Project objectives and brief overview
2. Design plans for bridge replacement and roadway
3. Update on public art
4. Project schedule / Next Steps
5. Answer your questions

Attendance: Approx. 20 persons

Meeting Summary

Consultant Public Information Coordinator Dan Cornejo welcomed the residents and business persons attending the meeting. He noted that this was the fourth of five planned meetings and thanked all who had provided input thus far. He noted that the focus of this meeting was a progress report on the integration of public art elements into the bridge design.

Presentation

Consultant Public Information Coordinator Dan Cornejo began his presentation with an introduction of the project team. He reviewed the project work to date, noting that the preliminary plan layout had been approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), including widening the bridge from 60' 6" to 68' 10", cross sections showing four moving traffic lanes, bike provisions on the shoulders, and sidewalks on each side of the bridge. He showed slides of the Saint Paul "Capital City" railing that has been selected for this bridge, possible treatment for retaining walls, and details of approach roadway improvements.

He and public artists Andrea Myklebust and Stan Sears presented and explained several slides illustrating the role of public art in infrastructure projects, design references (Capital City, concrete design in older bridges, textile pattern design, local/native trees and plants, and garden references), public art design challenges (emphasizing budget issues, the relationship between technical processes and timing issues, maintenance, and the need for “timeless” designs which also reflect contemporary life in the neighborhood). They presented several slides that demonstrated and illustrated art opportunities, including formliner patternwork for panels under pedestrian light fixtures, formliner patterns for the most visible ends of pier caps, and creation of a seating area adjacent to the bridge at the corner of the community garden.

Mr. Cornejo outlined the project schedule and highlighted the upcoming public input opportunities. He took questions and then initiated the open house portion of the meeting.

Public Comment and Feedback

The following comments were made and questions were asked

- Interest in having a landscape architect work with public artists for the garden entrance. Possible use of U of M landscape architecture student in a thesis project. The Community Garden Club has some ideas from a landscape architect they hired.
- Landscaping around a seating area with public art features should be part of the design exercise.
- Support for “entrance” or “gateway” idea for the garden
- Some concern about the glare from light elements on existing lights in neighborhood. Desire for bridge lighting to be not as intrusive. Others commented that new city lighting levels are acceptable.
- If there is glare into homes from bridge lighting, can shields be installed? *Response:* Probably not, due to the uniformity of the standards. Contact Paul St. Martin at the City (Traffic and Lighting Division) if further discussion is desired.
- How do the proposed bridge lights compare to those installed in adjacent neighborhoods? *Response:* They should be very similar.
- Desire to incorporate neo-classical design features in lighting bases and pier ends.
- Desire to look at different ideas for surface rustication of retaining walls.
- Could the proposed artwork formliners break up the size and look of the retaining walls? *Response:* Yes, the intent is to use a formliner to simulate block scoring. Also, the cantilever of the bridge (for sidewalks) will also reduce the look and perceived height of the retaining walls due to shadow lines.
- One resident commented that she likes the look of the concrete walls along 9-Mile Creek.
- Several residents commented that the scoring patterns for the retaining walls shown on the slide are not attractive and that the City and its consultants, including the public artists, should revisit this and come up with improved designs.
- A suggestion was made that the retaining walls could be decorated by neighborhood youth, e.g. multi-cultural murals. *Response:* This idea probably could not be implemented as part of the bridge construction due to the timeline of the project.

- Could a “wainscot” pattern be repeated on the retaining walls, to mimic the pattern on the railing/parapet wall? *Response:* Yes, something could be figured out that would replicate the same or similar design in a scoring pattern. We will look into this.

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Wrap up

Mr. Cornejo thanked everyone for their attendance and input. He reminded everyone that they could e-mail or call if they had further ideas and suggestions.

He also reminded everyone that the next public information meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, December 12**, again at the Western District Police Station community room, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

The public information meeting ended about 7:55 pm.

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Dan Cornejo
10-22-12

Contact Information:

Glenn Pagel – City Project Manager (City Bridge Engineer)
651-266-6187; glenn.pagel@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Jeff Johnson – Consultant Project Manager
651-490-2078; jjohnson@seninc.com

Dan Cornejo – Public Involvement
651-699-1927; dancornejo@comcast.net

Andrea Myklebust – Public Art
715-448-2074; myklebust.sears@gmail.com