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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

October 6, 2011

Convened 8:30am
Adjourned 3:30pm

Projects Reviewed

Alaskan Way Viaduct – South End and Portals
DPD Planning Division Update
Fire Station 20 West Queen Anne/Interbay
SR520 I5 to Medina

Commissioners Present

Julie Bassuk, Chair
Laurel Kunkler (excused from 8:30 to 10:15am)
Tom Nelson (excused from 12:00 to 3:30pm)
Osama Quotah
Julie Parrett
Norie Sato
Donald Vehige
Debbie Wick-Harris

Commissioners Excused

Malika Kirkling

Incoming Commissioners Present

Mary Fialko (excused from 3:00 to 3:30pm)

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast
Tom Iurino



October 6, 2011	Project:	SR520 I5 to Medina
	Phase:	Design Update
	Last Reviewed:	Sep 1, 2011; Jan 20, 2011; Aug 16, 2007; May 18, 2006; Aug 18, 2005; Jun 2, 2005; Jul 15, 2004
	Presenters:	John White, WSDOT Alan Hart, VIA Architecture
	Attendees:	Bill Adams, KGM Bruce McKean, Helix Design Group John White, WSDOT Stacey Howery, WSDOT Suanne Pelley, WSDOT Mark Nelson, Medina Council

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm

Disclosures

Commissioner Bassuk's firm is working on a project for an affected property owner.

Commissioner Parrett works at the University of Washington, which is affected by project.

Presentation

The design team presented its plans for the SR520 floating bridge and landings. The team explained the elements of the bridge that are set, reviewed the design principles and the bridge's design, and presented the sustainability aspects of the project. The challenge for the design builder is to develop a functional design that addresses the aesthetics yet meets the load criteria of the pontoons. The bridge's design resembles a ribbon, so one can see through it from afar. The sentinel elements are the gateway to the bridge, bookending major and minor elements to establish a rhythm and hierarchy. The sentinels are lit and architecturally detailed. The bridge features belvederes cantilevered out on the north side at each sentinel and at three additional points; the team is figuring out the lighting and the materials. The team is coordinating with the west side project team and hired a bridge architect to bring continuity to the design of the whole corridor. The team is reducing the materials it uses and reducing the environmental impact to Lake Washington; half of the labor and construction will take place off-site.

SUMMARY

The Design Commission would like to thank the design team for its presentation of the floating bridge portion of the SR520 I5 to Medina project. The commission made the following comments:

- **Investigate further the design of the sentinels and major elements, including the architectural details, cladding, historical reference, and language. Study the design of both the bridge side and water side. Push the sentinel design to be the right scale and to be either pedestrian or monumental; it is neither.**
- **Consider the views from the belvederes when designing them. Consider lowering the railing at the belvedere to a height more appropriate for a pedestrian. Encourage design that would allow the pedestrian to get around the sentinel to avoid the "cropped" panoramic view on either side.**
- **Study other railing designs besides picket.**
- **Hire a lighting designer to develop a lighting plan. Consider how lighting could change and reflect themes.**
- **Set sustainability benchmarks during construction and over the lifetime of project.**

- **Educate the public about the project's sustainability accomplishments possibly through permanent interpretive signage atop the bridge deck.**

The commission asked the team, at its future reviews, to bring additional renderings to demonstrate the design perspective from atop the bridge deck, especially of the elements at the pedestrian scale. Also, the commission asked the team to provide more detailed drawings of the architectural pieces for review at all future presentations.