
Wasena Bridge Replacement

DATE AND TIME	Thursday October 4, 2018 at 7:00pm
LOCATION	Wasena Park (outdoors)
SUBJECT	Focus Group Meeting #1 (Wasena Community)
ATTACHED	Agenda List of community attendants Meeting Notes completed during the meeting

The first of three public meetings was held on a warm clear night under the pavilion in Wasena Park. The project design meeting was part of a broader community meeting held regularly to discuss issues important to the community. The actual project meeting started around 7:25 and lasted for one hour.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting(s). The presentation was started by city staff, followed by Mattern & Craig, and finished by Volkert. The powerpoint presentation introduced the public to basic bridge design principles, concepts about visual design elements, and aesthetic qualities. The goal is to initiate a meaningful dialogue early in the design process. The presentation was well received followed by a discussion about concerns and design preferences.

The city has a public engagement campaign for this project. Ms. Whitney Slightham was in attendance and announced the current engagements with local businesses and residents who will be impacted by the project. A project website can be found at <https://planroanoke.org/wasena-bridge/>

The meeting notes taken that night are attached, and are summarized below:

- The community has concerns about traffic impacts during construction, especially if the bridge is closed for several years. Staff stressed that the earliest traffic impacts related to the bridge would be around 2022. A traffic impact study will be part of the project.
- Speeding towards the toe of the bridge, at Winona Avenue SW, is a big concern. This includes safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. Besides the steep slope as the bridge descends on to Winona Ave SW, the local street parallel to the bridge (listed as Main Street SW) also presents a problem for vehicular traffic. During and after baseball games,

traffic and parking increases creating dangerous conditions especially when cars turn onto or off the bridge sharply. A discussion after the presentation included possibly closing the local street, but providing access to the alley to/from Winchester Ave SW. Pedestrian/bicyclist access only from Winona Ave SW to Winchester Ave SW should also be maintained.

- Meaningful bicycle facilities are expected on the bridge, approaching the bridge, and under the bridge.
- Provide pedestrian amenities, including rest areas, small gatherings (possibly with shading), and safe and quality areas for walking. Plantings and viewing areas were also preferred.
- The bridge itself should make a statement and should support the park below. Artistic lighting, views of the river as one drives over the bridge, and environmental sustainability (see statement about deicing concerns) are important to the community. Coordinate with the parks department to maximize benefits for the park.

Team Members participating in the meeting:

Josephus Johnson-Koroma, City of Roanoke
Luke Pugh, City of Roanoke
Whitney Slightham, City of Roanoke
Chad Thomas, Mattern & Craig
Oliver Boehm, Volkert
Keith Weakley, Volkert
Brendan August, Volkert

Next Steps:

Focus Group Meeting October 16 with Old Southwest Community

Welcome

Study and Design of the Wasena Bridge

WASENA NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

Location: Wasena Park Pavilion (closest to playground and parking lot).

Meeting #1: October 4, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Three separate meetings will be held with each neighborhood impacted by this project. The goal is to introduce the project and solicit input separately because each neighborhood has slightly different needs and perspectives.

Agenda for Focus Group Meeting

1. Team introductions and purpose of the meeting
2. Overview of the need to replace the bridge. Description of the City's inventory process and background information about the project.
3. Presentation of the overall project schedule. Dates of the other upcoming Focus Group Meeting(s):
 - 10/16 Old Southwest
 - 12/4 Mountain View
4. Introduction of the public engagement process.
5. Brainstorming with the public.

Next Steps: **Wasena Focus Group Meeting #2:** February 7, 2019 @ 7:00pm

Display of preliminary bridge design

WASENA BRIDGE MEETING 10/4

- Minimize R.O.W acquisition
- Each neighborhood has distinct character
- Rerouting of traffic concerns (vehicular + ^{ped.} traffic)
- Views of River from vehicular movement
 - like driving down a tunnel currently
 - provide views of local features (mountains, water)
- Focus on spatial character of underneath the bridge
 - Programming
 - canoe launch
- Pedestrian friendly; places to sit and stop
 - Planting on the bridge
- Speeding (Traffic calming)
 - Bike lane stops creating hazard
 - Physically separated cycle-track
 - Connectivity to other bike infrastructure

- Provide shaded seating on the bridge
 - trees
 - overhangs
- Provide viewing areas that provide viewsheds of mountains
- Close street next to bridge on the south side
 - make it a pedestrian / bicycle link from the bridge to the park
- Provide more seating opportunities and an event space to the park
- If the bridge is a statement + landmark the park should be as well
- Make bridge a destination
- Allow light to shine under the bridge
- Add artistic lighting as part of the bridge design

• Not ~~gawdy~~ gawdy

• Temporary bridge (study the feasibility) ~~Keep on~~

• Skatepark under the bridge

• Coordination w/ parks department

• De-icing to prevent ~~water~~ ^{rock salt} from entering river

• Great views shed (celebrate this)

• Evaluate impacts to greenway underneath bridge

• protection of river + greenway

• Speak w/ Parks department about kayak course (launch)

• more access to the water

- Railings: height, setback

• netting, safety measures

- Connections to roadway network

• tight turning radii

• line of sight

• Pedestrian connections around Green Goot to the skate park