

Wasena Bridge Replacement

DATE AND TIME	Thursday February 7, 2019 at 7:00pm
LOCATION	Wasena Elementary School
SUBJECT	Focus Group Meeting #2 (Wasena Community)
ATTACHED	Agenda List of community attendants Comment Sheets Meeting Notes completed during the meeting

This meeting was the first in a series of three, second round of neighborhood public meetings. The meeting was held in the cafeteria of the Wasena Elementary School at 7:00 pm and 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 40 people attended the meeting(s). The presentation was started by city staff, followed by Mattern & Craig, Volkert, Iron Dog Preservation and finished off by Rosales. The powerpoint presentation reintroduced the public to the project team, explained the stakeholder engagement process and revealed the data collected and comments that were obtained from the first round of community meetings.

Kristin Kirchen from Iron Dog Preservation spoke for about five minutes in regards to the Section 106 Compliance that is required for a project to receive federal funding.

Prior to the discussion of the concept bridge design, Volkert presented the results of the public engagement process to date and the future plans for the remaining public meetings.

The next portion of the presentation revealed the initial design concept for of the new bridge, presented by Miguel Rosales. The bridge footprint, organization, and conceptual form were presented. The initial design was well-received by the community and they are excited to continue to be part of the design process.

The meeting closed with a question and answer session. In addition to the questions and comments received verbally during the meeting a comment sheet was provided as well as a link to the project website (<https://planroanoke.org/wasena-bridge/>).

The meeting notes recorded during the meeting, sign-in sheets, and public comment sheets are attached, and are summarized below:

- The community has concerns about the construction phasing and the anticipated amount of time the bridge will remain closed.
- Pedestrian and Bicyclist connections from the bridge to the park and greenway remained a topic of concern
- There is a desire for the design to consider possibly closing Main Street SW (local street) that lies to the west of the bridge. The existing conditions in this area make it difficult for vehicles and cyclists trying to turn onto and off of the bridge. The closing of this street would provide additional space for pedestrians and cyclists exiting the bridge and could serve as a gateway into the park and to the greenway. Vehicular access to the alley would still need to be provided for residents and for local trash collection, however there is an opportunity to close Main Street SW (local street) from Winona Ave up to the alley. This would still provide vehicular access from the alley to Winchester Ave SW while increasing safety for all users entering and existing the bridge.
- There is a desire to incorporate future community placemaking features such as banners, planting baskets, and public art on the bridge. The bridge design should include site furnishings that can accommodate these placemaking features without detracting from the overall character of the bridge.
- The approaches to the bridge are just as important as the bridge itself, especially the connections to the Main Street Commercial District, Wasena Park, and the Wasena neighborhood. Careful consideration must be given to how the bridge interacts with its surroundings. There are unique opportunities to incorporate placemaking elements, traffic calming measures, and stronger pedestrian and bicycle connections at the bridge approaches that would create a safer and more cohesive experience for all users. It was brought to our attention that there are initiatives being explored by the business owners on Main Street and within the Wasena Community to implement traffic calming measures and make the area more walkable and pedestrian friendly and it is our goal as a design team to ensure the new bridge seamlessly integrates with these features.

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
Mike Agee, Mattern & Craig
Keith Weakley, Volkert
Brendan August, Volkert

Christopher Weir, Volkert
Miguel Rosales, Rosales
Kristin H. Kirchen, Iron Dog Preservation

Next Steps:

Second Focus Group Meeting February 21 with Old Southwest community

Study and Design of the Wasena Bridge

Comments Sheet:

NO eminent domain. (except for comic book store we are not attached to that!) And the traffic circle should re open Ferdinand.

ping pong + cornhole under bridge (Donnie Underwood said he would pay for it)

The neighborhood planted the Chinese elms on bridge in 2006. If they could be preserved that would be awesome!

a signal at ~~12th~~ 13th St and Wasena terrace would help with left turns on the detour

traffic calming on downhill side of bridge is key. - raised crosswalks, lighted crosswalks etc. . . -

Giant archway over bridge/welcome sign



Study and Design of the Wasena Bridge

Comments Sheet:

It is currently very dangerous to cross the street across Main St @ the Winona intersection. The crossing width as well as the speed of the cars are both issues. As a driver it is also difficult to see pedestrians at this intersection if you drive at the typical speed through here (well above the 25 mph speed limit). Traffic calming is desperately needed. I feel very unsafe crossing this here, especially with my kids. A shorter crossing distance is needed.

Study and Design of the Wasena Bridge

Comments Sheet:

Consider how to include residents who do
not have / do not use websites/social media/etc.
(eg: I knew about this meeting because of an
old fashioned letter!)

Study and Design of the Wasena Bridge

Comments Sheet:

♥ the design so far -
great work!

The bridge is the entrance to the Wasena neighborhood. It would be nice if you felt the transition and "knew" you were entering our beautiful, unique place!

Signage is difficult in the S. entrance (bridge) currently due to the landscape. Can there be "signage" as part of the bridge - ironwork in the side rails that says "welcome to Wasena" or something similar. Thank you!

Traffic calming also important, current slope encourages speeding (downhill). The vitality & success of the village center businesses is dependent upon a walking center that is safe!

Please don't put tacky kid trains on the track - better to connect the history ~~to~~ ~~the~~ if the tracks want to be used -

Please work with WNF (in tandem) with the main street improvements already under way!

WASENA PUBLIC

FEB 7, 2019

MEETING 2.1

- WHAT WILL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PHASING BE? CAN IT BE DONE $\frac{1}{2}$ @ A TIME? CAN WE EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD NEW ELEMENTS THAT WILL GRADUALLY BE INTRODUCED
- WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO SEE MORE GRAPHICS?
- WHAT ABOUT SIDEWALKS ALONG WINCHESTER AND UNDER BRIDGE?
- HOW WILL BRIDGE TIE INTO GREENWAY? PATH SHOWN CROSSES RAILROAD.
- TO WHAT EXTENT WILL THIS PROJECT INTERACT WITH / BEGIN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NEARBY COMMUNITIES (I.E. FOR EXAMPLE TRAFFIC CALMING)
- WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF CONSTRUCTION?
- WHAT IS WRONG (FUNCTIONALLY? AESTHETICALLY?) WITH THE EXISTING BRIDGE?
- CAN WE SLIDE THE LOWER OVERLOOKS TO A HIGHER POINT TO ENHANCE THE VIEW? IS THERE AN ELEVATION INCREASE AND CAN EXISTING STEPS BE RETAINED?
- ROAD PARALLEL TO BRIDGE ENTRANCE CREATES VEHICULAR SAFETY ISSUES

WASENA (CONT.)

- CAN WE HAVE SOMETHING TO INDICATE WASENA NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY ENTRANCE? HOW CAN WE CELEBRATE THIS? WHAT ABOUT FLAGS? GATEWAY.
- WHAT WILL THE COST BE? WHAT IS THE BUDGET? IS IT BASED ON A BUDGET.
- HOW WIDE WILL THE BRIDGE BE?
- WHAT MATERIAL WILL THE TRANSPARENT HANDRAILS BE?
- WHAT/HOW CAN DECONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION BE PLANNED FOR IN 100 YEARS?