

**REDMOND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

January 13, 2009

Mayor

John Marchione

Members of the Council

Nancy McCormick, Council President

Kim Allen

David Carson

Richard Cole

Hank Margeson

Hank Myers

Staff

Craig Larsen, Parks Director

Terry Marpert, Principal Planner

Michelle McGehee, CMC, City Clerk

MEETING SUMMARY

Convened: 7:30 p.m.

Adjourned: 10:05 p.m.

Councilmember McCormick opened the meeting and overviewed the agenda.

Sound Transit Briefing Re: Process for Environmental Review and Construction of the East Link Light Rail Line to Redmond

Mayor John Marchione, Sound Transit Board Member, introduced members of the Sound Transit Staff: James Irish, Leonard McGhee, and Don Billen, who presented a Sound Transit East Link Project briefing:

- Presentation
 - Schedule for draft EIS, public comment, and identifying a preferred alternative
 - Review of DEIS alternatives
 - Summary of DEIS findings
 - Choices for the ST Board of Directors in April
- East Link EIS Partner Agencies
 - Environmental co-leads (FTA – NEPA lead, WSDOT – SEPA co-lead)
 - Environmental cooperating agencies (Federal Highway Administration, Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Redmond, King County, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard)
- Project Timeline
 - Past (summer 2006 to November 2008)
 - Present (comment period, December 12, 2008, to February 25, 2009)
 - Future (April 2009 to Summer 2010)

- Draft EIS Public Hearings/Open Houses (2009)
 - January 21 – Redmond
 - January 22 – Seattle
 - January 27 – Mercer Island
 - January 28 – Bellevue (Bellevue HS)
 - January 29 – Bellevue (Downtown)
- Design Process
- 19 Route Choices (connecting downtown Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond via I-90)
- Draft EIS Operations Plan for 2020
- Segment A: I-90 (2 stations, I-90 bus transfers, Mercer Island Park & Ride)
- Segment B: South Bellevue (1-2 stations, bus transfers, park & ride)
 - Alternatives: B1-Bellevue Way, B2A/B3-112th SE At-Grade, B2E-112th SE Elevated, B7-BNSF Route
 - Transportation
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Cost
- Segment C: Downtown Bellevue (2-3 stations, Bellevue Transit Center)
 - Alternatives: C1T-Bellevue Way tunnel, C2T-106th NE tunnel, C3T-108th NE tunnel, C4T- Couplet, C7E-112th NE elevated, C8E-110th NE elevated
 - Transportation
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Cost
- Segment D: Bel-Red/Overlake (2-4 stations, Overlake Transit Center, park & rides)
 - Bellevue's Bel-Red Land Use Vision
 - Redmond's Overlake Land Use Vision
 - Alternatives: Overlake Transit Center
 - Transportation
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Cost
 - Additional Choices: Bel-Red Corridor in Bellevue, Overlake Neighborhood in Redmond
- Segment E: Downtown Redmond (2-3 stations, Redmond Transit Center, SE Redmond Park & Ride)
 - Alternatives: E1-Redmond Way, E2-Marymoor, E4-Leary Way
 - Transportation
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Cost
- Maintenance Facilities: EIS Alternatives (Bellevue, Redmond)
- DEIS Outreach Plan
 - Advertising and Notification: DEIS distribution, newsletter, e-newsletter, posters, display ads, postcard, media outreach
 - 5 open houses/public hearings in 4 communities
 - Web-site and library availability of all documents
 - Briefings to elected officials and community groups
 - Possible public tours of alignment and Central Link
 - Comment opportunities: email, postal mail, in person

- For More Information:
 - Leonard McGhee, Segment Manager, 206.398.5206
 - Don Billen, Project Manager, 206.398.5202
 - James Irish, Environmental Manager, 206.398.5140

Discussion ensued between Councilmembers and Sound Transit Staff regarding the following:

- the cost of Segment B7-BNSF;
- location of railway on Bellevue Way;
- segment C right-of-way, number of stops;
- segment D alternatives, preferences;
- Microsoft Shuttle operation;
- station location in the Overlake Neighborhoods
- narrow lane widths on I-90;
- local jurisdictional rights-of-way;
- traffic capacity; and
- open house draft rights-of-way presentation.

East Corridor Park Master Plan

Mr. Craig Larsen, Parks Director, introduced Mr. Guy Michaelson, The Berger Partnership, who presented the East Redmond Corridor Park Master Plan:

- Introduction
 - Comprehensive vision
 - Goals of master plan
- Overall Corridor Concepts:
 - Historical engagement
 - park names-the story of Redmond is in the name
 - farmsteads
 - adaptive re-use
 - Character and Site Elements
 - visual openness
 - lawn, meadows and pastures
 - fences
 - park structures
 - signs and intuitive wayfinding
 - Trail Hierarchy
 - spine trail
 - secondary trails
 - wetland/spur trails
 - equestrian trails
 - Environmental Engagement
 - Discovery Trail (Arthur Johnson)
 - “Creek’s Eye View” (Martin Park)
 - Forest Canopy Tower (West Perrigo)
 - Environmental Learning Center (Conrad Olsen)
 - Bridge Overlook (Farrel McWhirter)

- Wetland Oval (Juel Park)
- Salmon Prow (Juel Park)
- Interpretive Shelters
- Discovery Elements
- Plant Collection
 - native landscapes
 - ornamental/variety collections
 - tree groves
 - hedgerows
- Parks of the Corridor:
(description, programming & features and steps to realization of each park)
 - Arthur Johnson and Martin Parks
 - Evans Creek Connector and West Perrigo
 - Conrad Olsen Farm
 - Olsen McWhirter Connector
 - Farrel McWhirter Park
 - Juel Park

General discussion ensued regarding the following:

- definition of “spine trail”;
- use of asphalt on trails;
- bike usage on trails/paths;
- urban gardening;
- John Couch’s concept of master park plan;
- relocation of Juel Park disc golf course; and
- overall Council support for master plan.

Mr. Larsen stated that the East Redmond Corridor Master Plan will be coming up for approval by the City council in February 2009.

Council Talk Time

General discussion ensued regarding the 2009 Council retreat; advantages and disadvantages to holding the retreat, beneficial exercises and possible topics, and the possible establishment of a City Council 10-year vision of Redmond.