

AGENDA

Future Phases Working Group Session #4

3-4pm, November 19, 2009

North-South Streetcar Alignment Alternative for Phase 1

- a. What is it and why might it be considered?
- b. What effect does looking at north-south alternatives have on the current Phase I study?
- c. General game plan for evaluating one or more N-S alternatives.
- d. Consensus of Future Phases Working Group to move forward and to present the idea to the full Task Force at the Friday meeting.

**Notes from November 19, 2009 Meeting (#4)
Of the Future Phase Working Group**

Introduction/Recap of WG Session #3

- Phil Kushlan noted that there is some impetus to study in greater detail the North/South Alignment going out to Boise State University. SOJ has prepared a scope for a fatal flaw analysis of one or more such north-south alternative alignments. As we have gotten feedback from the public regarding the streetcar, there has been interest expressed in taking a closer look at a north-south route. However, doing so raising questions about how a closer look at a north-south alignment affects the current Phase I alignment and how it relates to the TIGER grant application submitted to FTA in September.

Discussion of Alternative North/South Alignment

- Mike Hall explained the reason for calling this meeting which is to allow the Future Phases work group to provide direction as to how to proceed rather than be forced to react to it at a later date. Mike indicated that the working group could explain the review of the N/S alignment to the full task force at the next day's meeting (on Nov 20) and ultimately the full task force will weigh in on what comes out of the review of N/S alignment.
- Carter has already prepared a scope of work and summarized it.
- 10-11 optional alignments have been mapped out with the goal of narrowing down to 2-3 options for the fatal flaws analysis (Phase 1 of the N/S review). Mike explained that the goal is to complete Phase 1 of the N/S review by the first week in December and then to proceed to Phase 2 to be completed by around mid-January.
- Cece Gassner clarified that the \$40 million TIGER discretionary grant application is for the Main/Idaho streetcar alignment and the City is sticking to this. However, there has been a lot of public interest in a N/S alignment which could be a natural outcome of the discussion about the phase one alignment that has occurred.
- One participant asked about the rationale for potential change? Another member noted that criteria used up to this point regarding alignment have focused on three components: ridership, economic development and traffic mitigation. A follow-up question asked if there is any momentum behind the N/S alignment. Discussion that this was useful to look at now. Phil noted that the Downtown Boise Mobility Study (2005) prioritized an E/W alignment as the first downtown circulator phase to be followed by a N/S alignment. ARUP noted concerns about crossing the Boise River and challenge of bridge access and suitability. One participant asked what had changed in the past two weeks. Staff responded that the interest in a N/S alignment has accelerated in the past two weeks and it is likely the Task Force would need to either start to address it now or be in a position to respond to it in the future. By addressing it now, the N/S review (including the fatal flaws analysis) can be initiated soon and possibly be completed by the end of January – at a time where the conclusions can be most useful to the discussion and decision making anticipated immediately following the end of January.

- James Maguire from BSU responded that the BSU Master Plan acknowledges new housing development and transit center next door to the student union building. Connection to a larger regional system is a key point.
- Mike Hall noted that another meeting of the working group has been scheduled for November 30th to narrow down the options. One participant asked how we would be able to narrow down the options without more data and information. Asked about connection to the Depot? Phil responded that this is a fatal flaw exercise.
- One participant noted that this is all about future extensions – not a replacement for the phase one alignment. This is all purely exploratory at this point.

Next Meeting – There was discussion about the potential for holding the next meeting for review of the alternatives on December 1, 2009. However, it was concluded that the next meeting of the Future Phases Working Group will be scheduled for around noon, November 30, 2009 with the exact time to be confirmed by Thanksgiving.