



June 8, 2017, 3:30 p.m.

TXDoT Offices, 7600 Washington Avenue

Attending: Quincy Allen, Varuna Singh, Raquelle Lewis, Kathleen O'Reilly, Paul Wilson, Sandy Stevens

Quincy Allen opened the meeting by indicating that the portion of the project, between Hwy 288 and Spur 527 is scheduled to begin summer, 2020.

KO: Defined Museum Park Super Neighborhood boundaries and explained the neighborhood's primary concern is regarding the caps at Caroline, San Jacinto, Fannin, and Main.

- TXDoT as part of the US 59 improvement project will provide the light rail crossing, bridges, and caps to walk out on. To join caps would require tunnel construction, which entails completely different design. TXDoT will not provide dirt, grass, or landscaping on the caps. It will be up to partners to provide the park build out.
- No detail design available at this point. Still in EIS phase and ROW mapping.
- Comment period for the project will be extended four weeks beyond original June 27 date.
- TXDoT needs to have landscape plan ahead of construction in order to design cap to support tree planting.
- Rough estimate of landscape costs are \$300M for caps at the Heights, George R. Brown, and Midtown. The Midtown caps include Caroline, San Jacinto, Fannin, and Main
- Discussion regarding joining the caps for continuous coverage from Main to Caroline. KOR requested a cost differential estimate between current plan of divided caps vs. continuous coverage joining Fannin & San Jacinto. **Action Item:** QA will provide cost differences.
- What about a pedestrian path to join the two caps over the middle of the freeway? Currently sidewalks connecting the caps on each side of the freeway. Path over the freeway will provide additional access.
- Current concept includes wider sidewalks incorporating Houston Bike Plan.
- Current plan includes left turn lane on Caroline reducing the esplanade green space. KOR requested that the turn lane be eliminated. Will need to clarify who is requesting turn lane, CoH or TXDoT.
- Time Line: EIS currently underway. Expect Record of Design (ROD) in early to mid 2018. Two years for design. Expect to break ground in summer/fall of 2020.
- Will the dropped walls be landscaped similar to the US 59 walls between Hazard and Shepherd? Possible. QA asked the MPSN submit suggestions, if the fig ivy that has been used on the initial suppressed section of US59 is desired for continuity, please comment as such.
- QA encouraged submission of comment cards requesting the landscaping of walls and to retain design of Caroline bridge as currently shown in concept plan.
- Discussion of need for noise wall adjacent to residential areas along 59. QA indicated that TXDoT will look into this, the additional level also adds landscape opportunities.
- Discussion of current storm water management for US 59 and Hwy 288. Concerns regarding drainage and flooding were expressed at the TXDoT public meeting at Houston Community College. Detention pond for suppression will be located near La Branch. Suggestion to landscape the retention pond with plants that enhance habitat as well as provide remediation and filtration of contaminants in water from roadways
- Park Development Strategies
 - Consult with Bob Eury at Houston First as they are working on the George R. Brown cap. Current time line gives approximately three years to design and fund (three years to start of project and three years to complete).
 - Also have conversation with Klyde Warren Park developers in Dallas.
 - Identify stakeholders: Museum Park, City of Houston, Rice University (as major property owner), Fiesta, etc
 - Hold design competition calling on Rice Design Alliance and University of Houston.
- QA invited continued discussions as project proceeds.