

Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge Open House Summary

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Overview

The City of Portland held a public open house for the Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge Project from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at the South Waterfront Umpqua Bank. The purpose of the open house was to present the final, revised bridge design, the landscaping plan, construction phasing, and construction impacts. The open house also featured several other projects that are taking place in the South Waterfront area. These other projects included:

- **SW Moody Avenue Project:** from River Pkwy to Gibbs St, the existing roadway will be raised to be level with the new Willamette River Transit Bridge and will include streetcar tracks, sidewalks, and a multi-use path
- **Harbor/River Parkway Project:** providing better auto, bike, and pedestrian access to the north portion of the South Waterfront district
- **South Waterfront Transportation Management Association (TMA):** a representative from the newly formed TMA will discuss the purpose, goals, objectives for the association
- **Portland Development Commission:** discuss the North Macadam Urban Renewal District and its current projects, including Block 49 Affordable Housing, the Utility Master Planning effort, and a potential EcoDistrict
- **Zidell Cleanup:** Representatives will discuss the remedial action (cleanup) project planned for this summer
- **Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project:** will include a new bridge over the Willamette and will travel 7.3 miles from PSU to North Clackamas County, beginning in 2015

The open house was advertised through a postcard announcement to the mailing list representing about 500 addresses. The open house announcement was also sent to the Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge and PBOT's email list. Umpqua Bank posted the event on their website and posted a short notice in their newsletter to bank members throughout Portland. Approximately 95 people attended.

Most people attending the open house found it to be useful and mentioned that they liked the availability of the information and found staff to be knowledgeable. Most respondents lived in the South Waterfront, Corbett, Terwilliger or Lair Hill neighborhoods.

The meeting was an open house format where members of the public had the opportunity to discuss the project with staff members, review displays and complete a comment form. The following information was provided:

- A looped 3D video visualization of the bridge that included aerial views and views from the bridge from a pedestrian's point of view.
- Displays of the process to date, the project context, schedule, and landscaping.
- Renderings of the east landing area and elevator.

Comment Summary

Attendees were invited to complete a written comment form. Seven forms were completed during the meeting.

Do you have any comments or questions about these projects?

The first question on the comment form resulted in a range of responses, including:

- Interest in the progress of the Gibbs Pedestrian Bridge because I want to organize a run/walk over the bridge upon completion.
- Install a HAWK (pedestrian activated) signal at Naito and Barber for pedestrians.
- Install a pedestrian activated signal to indicate that the elevator is out of order (both for users of the elevator and for aid in maintenance).
- Like neighborhood, anxiously awaiting construction of the bridge.
- Disappointed in the pedestrian bridge and hope that the length can be mitigated, psychologically by visual improvements and progression changes (perhaps by color).
- Do not add chain link fences to the bridge.
- Install resting benches, with visual interest, for older people to rest part way across the bridge.
- Will the bridge be designed or be plain concrete?
- Choose non-depressing colors; no grey.
- The Gibbs Bridge is really important for connectivity for the neighborhoods. Just get it done on time and under budget.