



## Public Meeting Summary

Plan/Project: Potential Recreation Reuse of 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge SE: Informational Meeting

Meeting Date and Time: 3/28/12, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location: DC Office of Planning: 1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, E200 Hearing Room

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### AGENDA:

#### Welcome and Introductions

Patricia Zingsheim, OP  
Associate Director of Revitalization and Design

#### The Opportunity

Harriet Tregoning, OP  
Director of planning

#### Related Initiatives

Nick Nicholson, DDOT  
Chief Engineer  
Mike Durso, DMPED  
Special Assistant  
Autumn Saxton-Ross PhD, DOH  
Physical Activity Specialist

#### Why do we love Bridges?

Harriet Tregoning, OP  
Director of Planning

#### Q&A

All Speakers

#### Moving Forward and Wrap Up

Harriet Tregoning, OP  
Director of Planning

## SUMMARY:

Programming and Design Suggestions Made During the Meeting:

- Shaded Structures
- Flags
- Terminus
- Softening materials
- Circle track for roller skating and skate boarding
- Creating a family friendly place to take kid
- During the afternoon, people can watch fireworks at Nationals Stadium
- Facilities for handicap children
- Partnership with Easter Seals? Also sponsorships by outdoor retailers i.e.: REI
- Solar panels or a vertical farm on the bridge
- Opportunity for outdoor sculptures that can be rotated easily
- Think about under the bridge and activate it with lightshow and art. It could be similar to the Fremont experience in Las Vegas.
- Putting programming on or around the bridge to recreate and restore the habitat of the river
- Creation of a “Kinetic Park” that makes the bridge active as well as sustainable: Kids climbing, pulling, and moving can create kinetic energy which can be transformed into electricity.
- Have architect design structural concrete work to make it more interesting. Dallas, TX is a good example of this with raised and embossed surfaces on the concrete. Emboss icons of wildlife that are indigenous to the Anacostia on the concrete. Possibly have screens that project local artwork.
- During the design competition, make sure people know that we have a high summer heat for 3 to 4 months. We need to put attention into having cooling surfaces. Don't make the mistake that the mall committee made with reflecting pool by turning it into a hot concrete plaza.
- Create a traffic garden where we can teach traffic and bicycle safety for kids.
- Need to create free play spaces for kids as well as programmed play. Big recreational element, but it can also be education with interactive elements.
- Should have telescopes on the bridge for star viewing. Could be funded by Wal-Mart or Carlyle.
- Have opportunities to talk about the history of the river and the communities on either side. There are strong connections between the Navy Yard and Anacostia.
- Might want to create places. Since deck is being resurfaced, why not create an amphitheater with tiered seating between the bridges if there is an elevation difference. The deck can then be used as a performance space. Engage performance groups and programmers early to incorporate and design for performance space so not having to retrofit later

Concerns Expressed During Informational Meeting and Responses Given (in italics):

- How would the bridge connect to Anacostia? Would pedestrians have to share the road with traffic on MLK?
  - *Path would be designed to get to the bridge, will not have to share with vehicular traffic.*

- There is a lot of attention on how to improve connectivity; however the Local Bridge that is being constructed is supposed to already serve this function. It's being designed to dramatically improve pedestrian connection with 16' sidewalk and pier connections to create viewing platforms. Also, we have been talking about fun and interesting uses for this bridge, but the bridge is being demolished, so all of these ideas will be new and need to be constructed. This project will cost millions and millions of dollars, and there is competition for capital dollars already. With capital dollars scarce we need to have our eyes open and be aware of current capital needs on both sides of the river.
  - *Goal is for DC Government to not pay much for this. The goal is for funders to build and operate.*
- Are there costs savings from not doing full demolition?
  - *Contract for the demolition is already negotiated. Bridge is in very bad condition and it would cost more money trying to rehab the bridge if it was not demolished. We will be keeping the piers which will allow us to create a wider deck so it can be closer to the local bridge, and use different materials*
- I heard you say you may keep the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge piers? I had heard previously that the bridge was going to be demolished? I want to make sure that the new 13<sup>th</sup> street will properly.
  - *13<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge will be completely demolished. Only considering keeping a few piers in the water for osprey nest. Street will be properly graded.*
- In regards to the demo of the upstream bridge and using the piers for Osprey Nests: Will osprey nests not be connected?
  - *Looking at preserving piers for specifically for osprey nesting*
- How will it connect to the Navy Yard? I'm having a hard time visualizing it. The Navy yard promenade is often closed, and there is nothing there (no commercial or development) due to the freeway. Will the bridge be enough of an attraction to get people to go through this dead space, especially if trail is closed and people need to walk down M street? Can we work with the Navy Yard to open the trail more often?
  - *We would like this to have more than 1 connection point, with at least one on each side. We must remember this is not the Highline, which goes right through the busy city. We would have to work with the Navy in extending their hours to allow longer access. We have already been in talks with the Navy about extending the hours of their portion of the river walk.*
- Will the overlooks and the fishing piers be constructed on schedule?
  - *Yes, it will be on schedule*
- It will be difficult to get ward 8 residents invested into project. Hold meetings in ward 8, meet with steering committee to get them more involved.
- What is the operational authority, how will it build, grow and operate?
  - *Looking for non-profits and private sector to help fund this project and operate the attractions. District does not intend to spend to foot the entire cost.*
- Would this managed by nonprofit? It seems like most of the elements would need to have a commercial structure to make it viable not only for construction, but also upkeep.

- Concerned about how the recreation bridge will impact existing contract from 11<sup>th</sup> bridge. It sounds like it will have no impact on the demolition schedule. However, there is a statement on the OP website that says it will be delayed due to this project.
  - *That is a misstatement on the website. The Project is moving forward.*
- Think about programing we can place the bridge to recreate and restore the habitat of the river.

#### General Questions and Comments:

- Which piers are being demolished?
  - For the upstream bridge, the navigation piers are to remain on the upstream bridge and will serve as sites for osprey nests. DDOT is working with FHWA, Army Core of Engineers and Coast Guard. For the downstream (recreational bridge) we will keep the navigational channel piers. All other piers on this side would be removed.
- Can LSDBE firms participate in the design of the bridge?
  - *Yes, we plan on having this open to all firms.*
- Can the streetcar go on recreational bridge? It seems like a good idea to have it closer to the people. Could help promote added amenities like dining and eating areas.
- Can Local Bridge be connected to the recreation bridge with mid-span connections?
  - *The two bridges are at different elevations but there would be opportunities to put places to cross.*
- How can we connect bridge to the water itself? Could there be a cut-through or stairs?
  - *Definitely a possibility. We would need to do an environmental analysis and look at its effects on water navigability*
- Is NPS involved?
  - *Yes they are aware. They are in the process of transferring the Poplar Point Land to the District.*
- This would be a great way to bring youth of all ages together from young children play into older youth sport, and promotion of scholarships. This is an opportunity to create a regional draw for youth play and sport education.
- What is the timing for the design competition?
  - *Begin later on this year with a winning design selected late 2012/early 2013*
- The Brooklyn waterfront was created with developer subsidies/land donations. We can do that here.
- Suggested we reach out to national organizations like AIA and ASLA.
- How can we get young people involved in the programing/design?
  - *Planning a Summer Youth Program. The youth will be grouped into teams to research and develop programming options for creating a physically active and educational user experience on the bridge*

NEXT STEPS

- ***VOTING on Programming Ideas to Identify Community Favorites:*** Majority want to vote over Web, but we can do both meeting voting and web voting
- ***Tweet Suggestions*** @OPinDC #RecBridge
- ***See Latest Presentations and Updates on OP Web Site:*** [www.planning.dc.gov](http://www.planning.dc.gov)

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

Roughly 65 attendees

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