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# Meeting Minutes

## Brent Spence Bridge Project Aesthetics Committee Meeting

**Date:** September 25, 2009, 1:30 PM

**Location:** Cincinnati City Hall, Room 115

**Attendees:**

| Name              | Org.                                      | Email  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Stefan Spinosa    | ODOT D8                                   | <a href="mailto:stefan.spinosa@dot.state.oh.us">stefan.spinosa@dot.state.oh.us</a>   |
| John Eckler       | KYTC                                      | <a href="mailto:john.eckler@ky.gov">john.eckler@ky.gov</a>   |
| Stacey Hans       | KYTC                                      | <a href="mailto:john.eckler@ky.gov">john.eckler@ky.gov</a>   |
| Kevin Martin      | KYTC                                      | <a href="mailto:kevin.martin@ky.gov">kevin.martin@ky.gov</a>   |
| Vivian Llambi     | Vivian Llambi and Associates              | <a href="mailto:vivian.llambi@vla.net">vivian.llambi@vla.net</a>   |
| John Schneider    | Alliance for Regional Transit             | <a href="mailto:millvalley@aol.com">millvalley@aol.com</a>   |
| Michael Moore     | City of Cincinnati                        | <a href="mailto:michael.moore@cincinnati-oh.gov">michael.moore@cincinnati-oh.gov</a>   |
| Steve Schuckman   | Cincinnati Park Board                     | <a href="mailto:steven.schuckman@cincinnati-oh.gov">steven.schuckman@cincinnati-oh.gov</a>                                       |
| Sherry Carran     | No. KY Urban & Community Forestry Council | <a href="mailto:carranbs@fuse.net">carranbs@fuse.net</a><br><a href="mailto:scarran@covingtonky.gov">scarran@covingtonky.gov</a> |
| Ralph Wolff       | Kenton County Historical Society          | <a href="mailto:ralphgw1@aol.com">ralphgw1@aol.com</a>   |
| Michael Schuster  | Michael Schuster Associates               | <a href="mailto:mschuster@msaarch.com">mschuster@msaarch.com</a>   |
| Dan Cuffman       | ASCE – UC                                 | <a href="mailto:cuffmads@email.uc.edu">cuffmads@email.uc.edu</a>   |
| Dr. Ted Grossardt | University of Kentucky                    | <a href="mailto:tedgrossardt@gmail.com">tedgrossardt@gmail.com</a>   |
| Duane Phelps      | PB  | <a href="mailto:phelpsd@pbworld.com">phelpsd@pbworld.com</a>   |
| Dan Carrier       | PB  | <a href="mailto:carrier@pbworld.com">carrier@pbworld.com</a>   |
| Fred Craig        | PB  | <a href="mailto:craig@pbworld.com">craig@pbworld.com</a>   |
| Ruchu Hsu         | PB  | <a href="mailto:hsu@pbworld.com">hsu@pbworld.com</a>   |
| Todd Teuscher     | PB  | <a href="mailto:teuscher@pbworld.com">teuscher@pbworld.com</a>   |
| Miguel Rosales    | R+P                                       | <a href="mailto:mrosales@rosalespartners.com">mrosales@rosalespartners.com</a>   |

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome**

Welcome everyone to the meeting, general introductions.

**Agenda Item 2: Meeting Purpose / Project Update**

Project team presented the goals for the meeting and gave a general overview of the project. The three goals were:

- Present an update of the project.
- Present context of aesthetics along I-75.
- Develop key design criteria for project.

Update on work completed to date:

- Completed the Traffic Data & Traffic Analysis Reports.
- Horizontal and vertical design development for the five alternatives out of previous steps.
- Environmental field studies and reviews.
- Conceptual Alternatives Study (CAS) Report. The CAS Report identifies two alternatives to be carried forward in the next steps. The two alternatives being carried forward are: Hybrid of Alternatives C & D, and Alternative E. Both alternatives are located along the existing alignment and includes keeping the existing Brent Spence Bridge with a new bridge being constructed west of the existing Brent Spence Bridge.



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Work to be performed during next steps:

- Refine design plans for preferred alternatives.
- Perform environmental field studies and refine impacts based on refined engineering work.
- Perform Structure Type Study for the proposed Main River Bridge.
- Draft Aesthetic Design Guidelines document.
- Completion of the Assessment of Feasible Alternatives Report.
  - Report will recommend the preferred roadway alternative and the selection of three bridge alternatives.
- Completion of the NEPA Document.

Project Schedule:

- Complete Assessment of Feasible Alternatives Report – September 2010.
- Complete Interchange Modification Study – September 2010.
- Complete Environmental Assessment – November 2010.
- Prepare and Hold Public Hearing – December 2010.
- Finding of No Signification impact (FONSI) – April 2011.

### Agenda Item 3: **Brent Spence Bridge Configurations**

The proposed configuration of the traffic crossing the Ohio River will utilize one of two options. Both options utilize the existing Brent Spence Bridge in its current double-deck configuration and a new double-deck bridge.

The Option 1 configuration for Hybrid of Alternatives C & D:

- Existing Brent Spence Bridge will remain.
  - Top Deck: Interstate-71 NB, two lanes with two shoulders.
  - Lower Deck: Collector Distributor NB, three lanes with one shoulder.
- New Double-Deck Bridge.
  - Top Deck: Interstate-75 NB & SB, three lanes with two shoulders each direction.
  - Lower Deck: Interstate-71 SB, two lanes with two shoulders and Collector Distributor SB, three lanes with two shoulders.

The Option 2 configuration for Alternative E:

- Existing Brent Spence Bridge will remain.
  - Top Deck: Collector Distributor SB, two lanes with two shoulders.
  - Lower Deck: Collector Distributor NB, three lanes with one shoulder.
- New Double-Deck Bridge.



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- Top Deck: Interstate-71 SB, three lanes with two shoulders and Interstate-71 NB, two lanes with two shoulders.
- Lower Deck: Interstate-75 NB & SB, three lanes with two shoulders each direction.

### Agenda Item 4: Review Role of Project Aesthetic Committee

Role of Project Aesthetic Committee (PAC) was outlined per the Charter Agreement. The role of the PAC is to provide:

- Aesthetic guidelines and recommendations for the project corridor.
- Input on aesthetic treatments of bridge structure types.

### Agenda Item 5: Overall Project Aesthetics Context

The adjacent I-75 Thru the Valley Project and I-75 Mill Creek Expressway Project developed a Joint Aesthetic Design Guidelines. These guidelines outline aesthetic decisions for the following items:

- Bridges
- Community Identification
- Noise Walls
- Lighting
- Landscaping
- Retaining Walls

The PAC will need to produce Draft Aesthetic Design Guidelines for the goals that were established at the previous PAC meeting. The goals are:

- Minimize impacts on the surrounding areas and enhance economic development.
- Establish new gateway between Kentucky and Ohio.
- Emphasis on simplicity and clarity of design.

### Agenda Item 6: Existing Brent Spence Bridge Corridor

The existing Brent Spence Bridge Corridor consists of three zones. These zones need to be looked at collectively in how they work together and independently for how they meet the needs of the communities. The three zones are:

- Kentucky Zone
- River Zone
- Ohio Zone

For the River Zone, this will include the Bridge Type Selection (BTS) Process. The BTS process has three steps which are:

- Step 1 – Develop 18 Preliminary Bridge Concepts
- Step 2 – Develop 6 Bridge Type Alternatives
- Step 3 – Develop Final 3 Bridge Alternatives

The PAC will need to provide input during each step of the BTS process.



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### Agenda Item 7: **Bridge 101 – Various Possible Bridge Types**

A study was performed for possible bridge types that were feasible for the new double-deck bridge. Three bridge types are feasible for this location. These bridge types included:

- Cable-Stayed Bridges
- Arch Bridges
- Truss Bridges

A suspension bridge is not feasible at this location due to the proposed roadway geometry and costs.

The existing Brent Spence Bridge has a mainspan length of 830.5 feet with end spans of 453 feet. The new bridge will need to have a minimum mainspan length of 900 feet and match the bottom of steel elevation of the existing bridge per U. S. Coast Guard requirements.

### Agenda Item 8: **Bridge Case Studies**

Two case studies were presented to demonstrate what has been done on other projects with respect to the decision-making process that were used in selecting a new bridge across a major river located in an urban environment. The two case studies were:

- Charles River Zakim Bridge, Boston, MA
- I-74 Mississippi Crossing, Quad Cities, IA & IL

### Agenda Item 9: **Development of Evaluation Criteria**

The meeting was opened up for input on Key Design Criteria for the project. Comments and thoughts were documented on easel pads. The comments received are documented in Attachment A.

### Agenda Item 10: **Questions and Answers**

A summary was given concerning the next steps of the process. Three additional Project Aesthetic Committee meetings will be scheduled as part of the Bridge Type Selection Process.

The next meeting will be near the end of January/first part of February 2010 where the 18 Preliminary Bridge Concepts will be presented to provide input on the selection of the six bridge concepts to be move into the next step.

The following meeting will be in April 2010 to present the 6 Bridge Type Alternatives that were carried forward and to provide input on the selection of the 3 final bridge alternatives that are to be carried forward into the final report.

The final meeting will be in November 2010 where the Final 3 Bridge Alternatives will be presented.



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