Western Avenue Reconstruction
Community-wide Meeting 3/31/10

Welcome

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

http://westernavenue.info

Team

Department of Public Works
Owen O’Riordan, James Wilcox, Wendy Robinson, Kelly Dunn

Community Development Department
Susanne Rasmussen, Bill Deignan, Jeff Rosenblum

Traffic, Parking, & Transportation
Sue Clippinger, Jeff Parenti, Wayne Amaral

Consultants
John Struzziery (SEA), Jerry Friedman (HDR), Rod Emery (Jacobs), Cynthia Smith (Halvorson), Chris Hart (IHCD)

Agenda

• Welcome
• Overview of the project
• The community input process
• City policies and project goals
• Surface redesign
• Questions
• Community input: positives and negatives about Western Ave.
  – Break-out session
  – Report back
The Project

Owen O’Riordan, City Engineer
Assistant Commissioner of Engineering
Department of Public Works

Project schedule

- Dec. 2009: Initial survey work complete
- Feb. 2010: Begin community process
- Jun. 2010: Complete conceptual design
- Apr. 2011: 100% design complete
- Jul. 2011: Construction begins
- Nov. 2012: Construction is completed

Project scope

Subsurface
- City: sewer, water, electrical for street lighting
- Companies: gas, electric, telephone, cable as needed

Surface
- City: roadway, sidewalks, street furniture, trees, lighting
- Available funding for surface restoration depends on final cost of doing subsurface restoration

Project scope

CENTRAL SQUARE
Preliminary survey and inspections
Video survey

Outfall Locations

Western Avenue Catchment Area

Surface Redesign Community Process

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning Community Development Department
Outreach

- Advisory committee
- Community-wide public meetings
- Neighborhood presentations
- Survey
- Informal walks of Western Ave.
  - See postcard
- Website: http://westernavenue.info

City Policies

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Western Avenue is a...

- Regional roadway and
- Neighborhood street and
- Retail district and
- Front yard.

GHG emissions: reduction by 20% by 2010
Policy #22

- Undertake reasonable measures to improve the functioning of the city’s street network, without increasing through capacity, to reduce congestion and noise and facilitate bus and other non-automobile circulation.

Policy #23

- Encourage all reasonable forms of nonautomotive travel including, for example, making improvements to the city’s infrastructure to support bicycling and walking.
Project Goals

Susanne Rasmussen, Director
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Surface design: Preliminary project goals

- Ensure corridor is safe for all users
- Maintain adequate traffic flow
- Reinforce residential character
- Appropriate traffic speed
- Improve conditions for walking, bicycling, and transit riders
- Provide disability access
- Improve access to businesses
- Help meet stormwater environmental goals through “low impact designs”
- Provide adequate parking
- Environmental sustainability
- Improve landscaping

Mobility on Western Avenue

- Transit riders
- People on foot
- Bicyclists
- Cars
- Trucks
Surface Redesign

Jeff Rosenblum, Transportation Planner
Environmental & Transportation Planning
Community Development Department

Overall design of roadway and sidewalk
- Vehicle travel lanes
- Intersections and pedestrian crossings
- Bicycle accommodation
- Parking
- Lighting
- Surface material for sidewalk
- Trees, plantings
- Open-space
- Green design elements

Existing conditions survey
- Sidewalk/roadway conditions
- Accessibility
- Vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian volumes
- Peak traffic, queues, travel times
- Turning movements
- Transit circulation study
- Safety history
- Parking utilization study
- Tree inventory

Peak-hour bicycle & pedestrian volumes

[Map showing different areas like Memorial, Putnam, Howard, River/Green with corresponding bicycle and pedestrian counts]
Transit (bus, subway)

Daily traffic volumes

Travel times: Green St. to the bridge

Breakdown of Evening Peak Hour
**Community Input**

**Break out session (30 minutes)**
1. Fill out questionnaire
2. What do you like about Western Avenue? What don’t you like?
3. Observations, write on map
4. Summarize group

**Report back (30 minutes)**

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**INTERNAL PROCESS**

Break-out session (30 min)
- Participants will break out into groups of about 8-12 depending on the audience size
- There will be one facilitator per group (city staff + maybe some selected committee members if needed)
- Each participant will be given 5 minute to sit quietly and fill out the survey (same survey as we have online)
- Facilitator will have group go through “likes and don’t likes” of western avenue, and areas of concern
- Each group will have a 12x36 map, which can be marked up.
- One member of each group will be selected to present Report Back (30 min)
  - about 5 min per group for 6 groups)
Transit (bus, subway)