

Citizens' Advisory Panel

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 7:30 – 8:30 AM
Place: Victoria City Hall – Committee Room 1

MEETING NOTES

Attendance

Members: Jim Kerr, Sid Chow, Don Prittie, Margaret Lucas, Richard Linzey, Iain Russell
Staff: Peter Sparanese, Gail Stephens, Katie Josephson, Ken Jarvela, Dwayne Kalynchuk, Laura Baker (recording secretary)

1. Agenda and Call to Order

Peter thanked everyone for coming and called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. There being no additions to the Agenda, it was adopted as circulated.

2. Approval of CAP Minutes

Copies of the notes for the meeting held January 7, 2013 were distributed to the Panel for the purpose of having them approved; the absence of any comments, the minutes will be adopted as distributed.

3. Project Update

Contracts with PCL and MMM have been finalized. Some of the key risks, such as the accuracy of estimates, construction cost escalation, delay in the award of the construction contract, and issues with constructability, have either been reduced or eliminated.

Value engineering opportunities continue to be worked through and the project continues to be within budget. PCL is actively relocating families on site. They are looking for labourers and will be securing their sub-consultants closer to the summer.

4. Construction Schedule

An overview of the construction schedule was presented, noting that construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of this year. In order to accommodate the new bridge, some utility relocations will take place starting this summer. It is anticipated that the new bridge will be operational in June 2015.

It was noted that the trestles, which will be put in place in June of this year, will allow for construction to take place from these platforms, thus eliminating the need for coffer dams, which will lessen the impact on the marine environment. Also, the area of the seafloor bed that will be disturbed has been reduced.

The federal government has been contacted regarding the sod turning event, which is forecasted to take place this May. Steel for the new bridge will be manufactured soon off site, shipped in three pieces, and then assembled on site.

The existing bridge is scheduled to close August 2015 and be removed by November 2015. There will be minimal impacts to traffic as the existing bridge will remain open during construction. Regular communications to keep stakeholders informed of construction activities will be made and supported to reduce the impacts of the activities.

5. Communications Plan

An overview of the communication and stakeholder consultation plan was presented. It was noted that the most common questions asked about the project are regarding bridge closures, so it is important to reiterate that the project will not involve closures. It was emphasized that the public participation process will focus on informing and consulting the affected public.

The communications objectives are as follows:

1. Keep the public informed about the project through timely and meaningful information updates related to project progress, challenges, and construction impacts.
2. Consult with affected stakeholders in a timely manner in an effort to mitigate construction impacts.
3. Provide the public and interested stakeholder groups with opportunities to be involved and learn more about the bridge's construction and celebrate the opening upon completion.
4. Facilitate the coordination of information on City initiatives related to the bridge project to streamline information and avoid duplication or confusion.

Engagement principles addressed are as follows:

- Keep the public informed through clear, accessible, timely communication.
- Consult and involve stakeholders most affected by the project.
- Use tools and methods to reach people "where they are".
- Be an Engaged Neighbour.
- Close the loop.

6. New Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 am.