



Pier–Chimney Bridge Open House December 19, 2011

Overview

As part of the North Portland Greenway Trail project, a bridge is being built that will connect Chimney and Pier Parks. The bridge will affect key areas of both parks, such as the Chimney Park dog off-leash area (DOLA). An open house on the project was held at the St. Johns Community Center on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 6:30-8 p.m. The open house featured four tables on different aspects of the bridge including: park users, DOLA, the bridge project, and the N. Portland Greenway Trail Project, along with two presentations. Attendees were asked to fill out a comment form on the open house and bridge design. In total, 28 people attended the open house, and 22 completed the comment form.

Results

The following is a summary of the responses. When reading this information, it is important to remember that this information represents the opinions of 22 individuals. The data cannot be used to make generalizations about either parks entire community, but does provide a sense of how those who use the parks feel about the bridge/project.

The goals of the open house were to:

- Inform participants on the objectives and progress of the project
- Provide information on impacts to uses in the parks – both temporary and long term
- Provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions, and provide feedback on the project

The Goals

- When asked if the open house provided clear and accurate information on the objectives and progress of the project; 19 people (86%) felt like they understood the goals; and 4 (18%) had some questions, but felt confident they would get the answers.
- When asked if the open house provided clear and accurate information on the impacts to uses in the park: 21 people (95%) understood more about how the project will connect the parks; 8 (36%) understood the impact to the off-leash dog area; and 2 (9%) had some questions but felt confident they would get the answers.

The Meeting

- 17 people (77%) felt that they had ample time to ask questions; 2 (9%) needed more time; 4 (18%) felt the presentations were just right; and one person wanted more group presentations.
- 16 people (72%) thought the meeting was well organized with clear goals and outcomes; 14 (63%) thought it provided all voices to be heard; and 12 (54%) that it was designed to give all participants access to information.

Bridge Design

- **Bridge Finish:** 17 people (77%) favored weathered steel; 3 (13%) galvanized steel; and 2 (9%) liked paint. Three attendees wrote that the cheapest options should get picked, and one person thought whatever was the most graffiti resistant.
- **Bridge Structure:** 17 people (77%) favored the square steel truss; 3 (13%) wanted the arched steel truss; and one person didn't care. Two people commented that the extra \$40,000 for the arched steel truss should instead be put into restroom improvements.

Landscaping

13 people made suggestions about landscape with the inclusion of native plants as the number one request. Respondents also favored having a less manicured, more meadow like look

- “Keep trees far away from path”
- “Plant native plants; don’t block views; no flowers please”
- “Keep it open”
- “Use native plants with consideration to safety”
- “Plants and trees that are native to Oregon; I like long grasses”
- “Plant native edible weeds; no toxic plants”
- “I like the meadow look. I like Pier Park because it isn’t strictly manicured.”
- “It doesn’t have to be manicured. Pier Park has that lived in look. Chimney Park can look like a meadow”
- “Lots of trees”
- “Plant Chimney Park side heavily with native plants including Cedar and Fir”
- “Native plants, low water requirements”
- “Openness preferred vs. shrubs, etc.; lighting should be a priority to encourage use!”
- “Low maintenance, native plants”

Attendees were asked to list three things they liked about this project:

- 1) It improves bike/hike access to Peninsula; 2) It extends the NP Greenway
- 1) Good to bring two parks together; 2) Good for long-term bike plan.
- 1) Connections!
- 1) Safety from railroad; 2) Maintenance at Pier Park
- 1) Additional bike commute options; 2) Additional bike recreation options; 3) Can access Chimney Park with dogs without crossing tracks or driving.
- 1) Access
- 1) Making Chimney Park more park like; 2) Being connected by the bridge (the 2 parks); 3) Eventually connecting to other trails.
- 1) No Frisbee golf.
- 1) This will provide a safe way to access the parks; 2) It may attract more users to both; 3) A welcome improvement to St. Johns.
- 1) Better access to Chimney Park and eventual river gate access; 2) Landscaping and natural feel; 3) Small footprint on Pier Park
- 1) Extend and connect parks; 2) Transportation; 3) Intergovernmental cooperation
- 1) It crosses RR tracks; 2) It’s a critical link in the trail; 3) It is a new bridge.
- 1) Crossing from Pier to Chimney Park

Attendees were asked to list their questions and/or comments

Concerns about Columbia Blvd. and lighting were the top two concerns:

- “Bridge over Columbia Blvd. should be #1 for safety for bikes and thruway trucks; Hill up to bridge over rail maybe too steep—can this be improved?”
- “Timeframe?”
- “Lighting is needed”
- “I would like to be informed of updates on the status of pathway improvements for the Greenway regional trail.”
- “ADA accessibility; whether more parking lots will be required”
- “Project needs to consider how peds/bikes will cross Columbia Blvd. when you head toward Kelley Pt. Park; Consider ped/bike trail oriented around old Archus Building alongside packaging area and road could provide straighter path to bridge across Col. Blvd; Col. Blvd. is HEAVLY used by trucks. Need to think how to cross it now.”
- “Public safety”
- “Cost of finish vs. cost of maintenance (graffiti); Need restrooms! ; Alignment to existing bike in Pier Park”
- “I am concerned with how this project impacts the Will River Conway Trail where it will cross Col. Blvd. Columbia Blvd is to be the state/city designated truck route replacing Lombard when height limit structures on Col. Blvd are fixed. Consider construction of a ped/bike bridge over Col. Blvd.”

Other thoughts attendees wanted to share:

- “Looking ahead, consider the impact of a Columbia Blvd. crossing on truck traffic. A regulated crossing will work against our plans to route trucks that way. Alternatives?”
- “A bridge over Columbia Blvd. needs to be considered in terms of access to it NOW.”
- “I am very excited for this connection between the two parks.”
- “ADA groups should be invited.”
- “Lighting may be an issue for safety reasons, as in personal safety against criminal acts. It may also reduce the graffiti. I remember when Pier Park had very little lighting and I didn’t feel as safe walking through the park.”
- “Keep working on connecting trails”
- “Lighting would be a nice addition”

Respondent Information

- 36% of the respondents were female and 64% were male.
- 81% owned their home and 19% rented.
- Neighborhoods:

St. Johns	64%
Pier	18%
Arbor Lodge	4%
University Park	4%

- Age of respondents:

25-34	9%
35-44	23%
45-59	32%
60-79	36%