



Stakeholder Committee Meeting #9 Minutes

Tribal Trail Connector Project

Date/Time: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:30 pm to 4 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Link to the recording

https://www.tribaltrailconnector.com/Documents/TT_StakeholderMeeting-9_zoom_recording%206-21-2021.mp4

Attendance: Stakeholders:

- Lisa Carpenter
- Ralph Haberfeld
- Tom Holland
- Lindsay Kissel
- Scott Pierson
- Virginia Powell Symons
- Dave Schuler
- Debra Wuersch

Teton County Staff:

- Heather Overholser - Director of Teton County Public Works
- Amy Ramage – County Engineer
- Jazmine Watson – Engineering Technician

Facilitator:

- Sara Flitner – Facilitator, Flitner Strategies

Consultants:

- Randy Bomar- Morrison Maierle
- Tim Brugger - Morrison Maierle
- Jim Clarke - Jacobs
- Whitney Wimer - Jacobs

WYDOT:

- Jeff Brown
- Nick Hines
- Darin Kaufman
- Peter Stinchcomb
- Kevin Stogsdill

JH Land Trust:

- Derek Ellis

Action Items found in these notes are **underlined in bold**. Group decisions are highlighted. The notes presented below are summary notes. Copies of all materials presented, and recordings of the meeting can be found on the Stakeholder page of the Tribal Trail website, <http://www.tribaltrailconnector.com>.

Meeting Purpose:

Introduce new stakeholders to the entire project team and provide project updates.

Meeting Goals:

- Provide stakeholders with a status update of the study.
- Review and discuss four design alternatives for the Tribal Trail Connector (TTC) connection to WY-22.

Introductions

The project has four new stakeholders:

- **Deb Wuersch** – Applied to do this position because she cares about the community and it's an interesting group of people to be a part of. She moved to Jackson in 1989 and was an engineer who worked on the Indian Springs & Indian Trails subdivision plat.
- **Virginia Powell Symons** – Excited to be a part of this group, she's been here for 20 years, the longer she's here the more invested she is. Lives in Cottonwood with a son in kindergarten. She's invested in open space, intelligent growth and what this place will look like in 20 years for her son.
- **Lindsey Kissel** – First moved here in 2000 and has been here continuously for the last 15 years. Currently lives in Teton Village and commutes to town a lot. Background in landscape architecture and most recently worked for the Grand Teton Music Festival.
- **Coby Stevens** – Unable to attend. He is the new representative for Teton County School District.

Returning stakeholders provided introductions:

- Lisa Carpenter voiced her concerns about bike/pedestrian infrastructure. Safety of the intersections are her biggest concern and feels this has been put on the back burner during the design considerations.

Stakeholders Roles/Responsibilities/Ground Rules

- Sara reviewed the [Roles of the Stakeholders](#) and briefly went through the [Stakeholder Packet](#) that was sent out before the meeting.

Project Review

- On June 2, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the project to move forward with environmental work and final design. Information presented included:
 - a. South intersection (Boyles Hill and South Park Loop Road)
 - b. North intersection, 2 design alternatives
 - c. What the existing Tribal Trail roadway cross-section could look like
 - d. What the new portion of TTC roadway cross-section could look like
 - e. Bike path options
 - f. Traffic calming options
- May 2019 was the first stakeholder meeting and the Study process began

- 8 stakeholder meetings between May 2019-May 2020 to determine if the Commission decides to move forward with the project, what is the best design alternative
- There is clearly more to this project than the WY-22 intersection, but it is the most complicated part. The team has been spending more time on this part.
- 2 open houses
- 5 HOA Meetings

Key Project Developments

Three key project developments that have influenced the Project team's work. The [Stakeholder Packet](#) also has information on this topic.

- Commissioner directive for staff to work with Teton Science School & IndianSprings
 - June 2, 2020 BCC requested a separate meeting to discuss Indian Springs Ranch and Teton Science School intersection with WY-22.
 - July 20, 2020 had a workshop with BCC to discuss the problems with Indian Springs Ranch and Teton Science School intersection.
 - Staff was directed to work closely with Indian Springs Ranch and Teton Science School to see if there was a way to incorporate that intersection into this project and try to find a solution that would address all the three parties concerns and objectives.
- Traffic issues on WY-22
 - More traffic analysis has occurred over the past year.
 - Ideally, would like a TCC/WY-22 intersection option that has the least impact on WY-22 since its already at a low level of service being a 2-lane highway.
 - Want a solution that works with the 2-lane and a multi-lane highway design.
 - Traffic light not the best solution for intersection. Causes operational impacts to WY-22.
 - Right in Right out less operational impact to WY-22.
- Single access point
 - WYDOT has officially stated they will not allow 2 access points on the south side of WY-22 that do not meet the required intersection spacing. This has reduced the number of possible intersection alternatives. This follows past direction in the India Springs Ranch access permit and plat documents.

Other Project Updates

Gathering additional information about some of the new design alternatives. Additional data being gathered includes:

- North slope stability
 - Geotechnical information about the north slope will help determine the feasibility of some of the design options.
 - Expect that work will occur in later summer
 - Hoping to be able to share information later this fall with the group
- Hydrology
 - Early on in the project, southern frontage road alternatives that utilized the platted connector road alignment were eliminated in Level 1 screening due to "irresolvable" environmental impacts due to the fen.
 - A fen is a unique high quality wetland that has a thick soil layer containing a high level of organic matter which is hard to mitigate for if its damaged.
 - With the new directives, we've had to reevaluate some of those southern frontage road options. Before a determination on the alternative's viability is made, the County has decided to collect

- groundwater data.
- Installed new groundwater monitoring wells and collected data from the existing wells installed by Teton Science School in 2005. General well locations:
 - Near the pathway
 - Near the existing two-track
 - TSS wells are in the fen (again these are not new wells)
 - WYDOT right-of-way
- Need to collect data through the growing season, May – October, before being able to determine how groundwater moves through the site.
- Alternatives being presented today are “potential” alternatives. Without the data we can not make a true determination.
- Land Trust
 - County has been in communication with Jackson Hole Land Trust (JHLT)
 - The conservation easements on the property are complex.
 - Two separate conservation easements for the properties
 - Northside of WYO 22
 - Southside of WYO 22
 - In discussions to understand the complexity and how the alternatives would look from JHLT perspective and feedback.
- Bar Y wildlife Crossing
 - County continues to work with WYDOT to determine how it gets phased into the great WYO 22 widening project and how it ties-in to the Tribal Trail Project.
 - Just to the west of the Tribal Trail project there is wildlife crossing identified in both the Teton County Wildlife Crossing Master Plan and the WYO 22 master plan also known as the PEL Study (Planning and Environmental Linkage)

Alternatives

I-N2b: At-grade signalized intersection

- Simple Signal Intersection
 - At grade intersection- Carried over from before
 - Single access point
 - Indian Springs access via Swan Road to Boyles Hill Drive
 - Possible private underpass to Coyote Canyon Road

Comments about I-N2b

- Lisa Carpenter - More details should be considered on the designs for Bike/Peds.
- Ralph Haberfeld - Having the access to WYO 22 cut off is a negative, changing the way residents get to their homes
 - Indian Springs Ranch HOA & TSS raised donation \$200,000 to enhance the habit in the open space that the connector will go through.
 - Is there a rationale to close Indian Springs and leave Teton Science School open?
 - Amy Ramage- Coyote Canyon does not have restrictions like Indian Springs Ranch Drive does based upon WYDOT access permit and plat language
- Scott Pierson- The under pass would be a new route through conservation easements. Has a dialog been started regarding this with Jackson Hole Land Trust?
 - Amy Ramage- This option will be more impactful, and difficult to have a net zero impact based upon preliminary conversations with JHLT staff.

- Virginia Powell- Will this impact the pathway underpass of Hwy 22 that leads to the Coyote Canyon Access?
 - Amy Ramage- Crossing to east is not affected. . That tunnel is a cow tunnel and will need maintenance.

I-N5b: South frontage Rd. with right-in right-out

- Southern frontage road option
 - Right-in Right-out only
 - Connector road is moved out of platted easement to be closer to WYDOT right of way
 - Minimizing physical impact to Fen
 - Lines up to historic highway
 - Underpass option is available

Comments about I-N5b

- Ralph Haberfeld- WYDOT has not been clear about future projects, so how will this accommodate their future projects?
 - Tim Burger - Alternative designs are shown with WYO 22 as 4-lanes with a median.
 - Jeff Brown - We will design alternatives to be compatible to WYDOT plans in the future. For example if Tribal Trail were built tomorrow, it would connect to the 2-lane WYO 22 but be built to accommodate a widened roadway cross section.
- Lisa Carpenter - More details should be considered on the designs for Bike/Peds.
 - Jim Clarke - Bike/Ped is a criteria of the level 2 screening so it will be factored into the decision making.
 - Bike/Ped will be incorporated into a design once it passes the viability test of being an alternative (based on results of geotech and hydrology)
- Scott Pierson – How does the underpass effect the conservation easement?
 - Amy Ramage – From the JHLT perspective, the underpass is more impactful and will be more difficult to find either a net zero or conservation gain.
 - Pertains to any alternative with an underpass.
 - Liz Long – confirmed the board has the hardest time seeing a path forward with this option.
- Ralph Haberfeld– this one seems safer.
- Would Teton Science School use the underpass to get to the south side of WYO 22 to make a right turn onto the highway to head into Jackson?
 - Whitney Wimer - Yes

I-N18: South frontage road with signal – New Design

- Southern Frontage Road
 - Signal at the entrance of Coyote Canyon and Indian Spring Ranch
 - Connector road is moved out of platted easement to be closer to WYDOT right of way
 - Minimizing physical impact to Fen
 - Lines up to historic highway
 - Differs from I-N5b
 - Full movement
 - No underpass options since there is full movement

Comments about I-N18

- Concerns that any signal on WYO 22 would worsen the congestion
 - Pete Stinchcomb (WYDOT Traffic Engineer) that is correct.
 - Amy Ramage – once the alternatives are narrowed down the traffic analysis will be re-run.
- Frank Lane – suggest a traffic circle instead of signal
 - Jim Clarke – Previously looked at the roundabout on WYO 22. The traffic analysis showed that from an operations standpoint it didn't work.
 - A roundabout is proposed for the intersection with Boyd Hill.

I-N19h: Lazy J with underpass – New Design

Alternative came out of conversations with Indian Springs Ranch HOA

- Tribal Trail connects directly to WYO 22 as a right-in right-off for east bound traffic.
- The frontage road parallels WYO 22 then crosses under WYO 22 where the north slope is less steep.
- The frontage road has been shifted north out of the platted easement to minimize physical impacts to the fence.
- Existing access points for Indian Springs Drive and Coyote Canyon would be closed.
- Tribal Trail would connect directly to WYO 22 as right-in right out for west bound traffic.
 - The access would be a bit further west from its current location.
- Coyote Canyon would connect directly to Tribal Trail instead of WYO 22.
- Indian Springs Ranch has option to connect directly to Tribal Trail.
- Proposed retaining wall along the north slope
- Slope stability concerns on this option, hence the Geotech work.
- Conservation easement because of the underpass.

Comments about I-N19h

- Scott Pierson – Looks reasonable. Thinks it could work out well. Also seem to discourage cut through traffic because it's not direct.
- Jeff Brown – does require some out of direction travel.

General Comments

- Heather Overholser explained why I-N2a, the interchange option presented to the BCC, isn't being shown.
 - Amy - the intent was to be lighter on the land. I-N2a had a large footprint.

Next Steps

- Continuation of data collection
 - Ground water/Geotech work
- Stakeholder meeting once we have the results from the additional data collection.
- Public Outreach
 - Group prefers to do public outreach before evaluating the alternatives.
- Public Workshop
- Open House

Meeting Concluded