



**Joint Meeting  
Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Agency  
and  
Columbia Gateway Urban Renewal Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 15, 2008**

City Hall Council Chambers  
313 Court Street  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
*Conducted in a handicap accessible room.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ericksen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Planning Tech. Denise Ball conducted roll call.

Present members: Jim Wilcox, Gary Grossman, Dick Elkins, Bill Dick, Carolyn Wood, Nikki Lesich, Ken Farner, Dan Ericksen

Absent members: Chris Zukin, Robb Van Cleave, Rob Kovacich

Staff present: Nolan Young, City Manager, Dan Durow, Community Development Director, Gene Parker, City Attorney, Dave Anderson, Public Works Director, and Denise Ball, Planning Tech.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Ericksen lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilman Wilcox moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Grossman seconded. The motion carried unanimously, Zukin, Van Cleave, and Kovacich absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Ericksen asked if there were any corrections or additions needed for the minutes of March 18, 2008. Mr. Grossman moved to approve the minutes as submitted and Mr. Farner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, Zukin, Van Cleave, and Kovacich absent.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

East Gateway/Brewery Grade Street Construction Project – Presented by Greg Jellison and Tom Beggs of Hopper Dennis Jellison P.L.L.C.

Director Durow presented the Staff Report. He updated the Councilors and Committee members on the project status and discussions with property owners James Martin and Curtis Baker in regards to access and parking for their respective properties on either side of the proposed new intersection. Director Durow said the alternatives have incorporated traffic counts into the Matrix (Exhibit 1) to arrive at a comparative cost and level of service for the alternatives. A public open house will be held soon to receive citizen feedback and help in moving toward a final design.

Mr. Beggs and Mr. Jellison began their presentation. Some of the key issues to be resolved in the final design are: getting large trucks up and down Brewery Grade, slowing traffic entering downtown The Dalles, provide access to the flour mill property, and create a low maintenance, sustainable traffic solution.

The new roundabout alternative addresses the majority of the issues, including a 24 foot wide east/west travel lane on the Sunshine Mill property to allow necessary traffic movement on that site. There is still some adjusting to be done to also accommodate the properties belonging to Curtis Baker on the south side of the proposed intersection.

Councilor Wilcox asked if the roundabout would have stop signs or yield signs. Mr. Beggs said the roundabout operates in a yield traffic flow pattern.

Councilor Wood asked if stop signs would be added later should there be increased traffic counts. Mr. Jellison said some of the older traffic circles, which are different than roundabouts, have added stop signs to improve their traffic function. However, this roundabout will not have stop signs.

Mr. Beggs said the roundabout will be able to handle 30% more traffic than a regular intersection. The Alternative Matrix (Exhibit 1) and a Level of Service description (Exhibit 2) were handed out and discussed. The project is now at the point to go forward with an Open House for public feedback. Staff and HDJ would then report back to the Agency and Advisory Committee.

Councilor Wilcox asked about pedestrian safety. Director Durow pointed out the safety islands for pedestrians and explained that, unlike a standard intersection, the pedestrian only has to look in one direction before crossing the travel lane in a roundabout.

Chair Ericksen asked James Martin his opinion of the proposal. Mr. Martin said this has truly been a joint process and the roundabout is the best alternative. There was a brief discussion regarding the access points to Mr. Martin's site.

Councilor Wilcox asked Mr. Martin about the Silo engineering and Mr. Martin said that project is underway now.

Chair Ericksen asked City Manager Young about the projected cost comparisons. City Manager Young said the cost difference between the T-Intersection with signals and the Roundabout is small enough to make them both viable projects for funding possibilities.

Councilor Wilcox asked if the project had been presented to the Traffic Safety Commission. City Manager Young said he would make sure they were invited to the Open House.

Mr. Beggs pointed out that the project needs to continue to move forward so funding opportunities will not be lost. HDJ will be preparing the final document and needs direction from the Agency and Advisory Committee at this meeting.

Councilor Wood asked if the project would impact the recent improvements along upper Brewery Grade. Director Durow said this project only addresses the lower intersection portion of Brewery Grade. This project will allow for a sidewalk on the north side of Brewery Grade, which will create ADA access at the top of the grade.

Ms. Lesich said she is happy to see the proposal has not lost focus of Mr. Martin's development and that it is proceeding as a joint effort.

Councilor Wilcox reminded Staff again that he wants the Traffic Commission to be involved in the process and was assured by Staff that would happen.

The members of the Urban Renewal Agency and the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee directed Staff and HDJ Engineers to move forward with the project for the roundabout alternative.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next scheduled meeting is May 20, 2008 but there is no business scheduled at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Ball, Planning Tech.



Dan Ericksen, Chair