

Red Electric Trail Meeting Minutes December 13, 2014¹

Doug Rogers and Hans Steuch met with Liz Mahon, project manager at Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT). The meeting took place at the Bureau's downtown offices December 13, 2014, from 10:00 AM to 11:25 AM.

We went over the portion of the Red Electric Trail project that aims to make a pedestrian+bike bridge over the headwaters of Fanno Creek near the intersection of SW Bertha Blvd. and SW Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy. and to make improvements to nearby SW Nebraska St. and SW 19th Ave. We learned this project has been under way for several years. The roughly two million dollar price tag is covered by Federal and local (Parks) funds. PBOT is managing this activity because the bureau has received state certification to manage federal-aid projects.

A consultant contract has recently been signed for this project. KPFF Consulting Engineers (<http://www.kpff.com/about-kpff-2>) will try to tease out the best solution for the bridge and street improvements. This phase should be done by fall

2015; it will include where to place the bridge on the existing public property, whether a small piece of additional property needs to be purchased on the NW portion of the bridge site; consideration of a "shared street" design on SW Nebraska St. and SW 19th Ave., and how to address the rather steep bank on the south side of SW Nebraska St. across from Sasquatch Brewery.



The bridge will likely be twelve to fifteen feet wide to meet various code and maintenance requirements (they have to be able to have a truck cross it in case of repairs, etc.). Also, they only got half of the money they wanted so will make the bridge the priority, and will only do limited enhancements for pedestrians along Nebraska and SW 19th (they had hoped to do major street and sidewalk improvements over to SW Vermont). SW Nebraska is very narrow next to Sasquatch Brewery and has a bank on the south side that would prevent an easy widening for a good sidewalk, so they will probably have to rely – for now at least -- on clear striping on the pavement and lots of signage to make everyone aware of the congestion.

At some point next Spring an advisory committee will be formed. Liz was pleased to have us offer, on behalf of SW Trails, to be part of it. She recognizes that everyone in the community needs to work together to make this project a success. Liz was very supportive of the idea of regular quarterly meetings on the project for staff from her office, Portland Parks, SW Trails, the Commissioners offices, etc. This will help keep everyone informed and help coordinate and solve the inevitable problems that will come up.

Liz also clarified PBOT's role in the overall development of the Red Electric Trail. We shared with her our vision for the completed trail and the obstacles and opportunities on both the east and west ends of the trail (getting across Barbur Blvd. and through Himes Park, the need to purchase right of way from SW 33rd thru to SW 35th, the "ready to go" right of way along the north edge of Hayhurst School and Pendleton Park, and eventually

¹ Revised 3/16/2015 after Liz Mahon review.

getting across the north side of Alpenrose). She thought that Portland Parks would have primary responsibility for the project, but that there are significant transportation components for our community in this project (it's not just for recreation) and she expected that PBOT will try to collaborate as much as they could to make it a success.

One last item. As we talked about the significance of the Red Electric's right of way in our community's history she shared with us her vision for having "storyboards" and displays along the new trail's approach to the new bridge (just north of SW Capital Hwy across from Sasquatch Brewery -- that would be in the area that was cleaned by SW Trails for blackberries and brush last year, as described at <https://www.facebook.com/RedElectricTrail>). Community education – yet another benefit of the Red Electric Trail!