



SRF No. 8418

Bridge Enhancements Meeting Record #2 Long Meadow Lake Bridge Rehabilitation

City Project 2010-201
May 2, 2014
8:00 am – 9:00 am

A design meeting for the above referenced project was held at City of Bloomington offices on March 2, 2014 from 8:00 am – 9:00 am. The following is a summary of the meeting. Action items are in bold and underlined.

Meeting Summary:

1) Introductions & Sign-in

- Matt Cramer, SRF
- Michael Jischke, SRF
- Tim Bodeen, FWS
- Gerry Schimek, FWS
- Brandon Jutz, FWS
- Jason, FWS
- Julie Long, City of Bloomington

2) Previous Meeting Action Items

- **SRF to review existing information to see if lighting was originally provided on the bridge and discuss possibilities of adding it for security and safety with the project historian.**
- ~~Tim to provide contact information to SRF for future meeting attendees. SRF to coordinate follow-up meeting with FWS for week of 4/7.~~
- **SRF to prepare exhibits for presentation / discussion at the next bridge enhancements meeting.**

3) General Discussions

- The schedules for the bridge rehab, old cedar reconstruction, and parking lot reconstruction were discussed. Brandon noted they are planning to undergo design next year, but they would investigate if it would make sense to have the City and/or its consultants do the design. Matt noted that he would send the overall bridge schedule to all for information. **SRF to forward project schedule to all. Brandon to investigate possibility of transferring funds to City for design of lot and associated improvements.**
- Matt asked how much of the lot could be used for the bridge construction staging. After some discussion it was agreed that one row of parking would be maintained along the NW side of the lot. The staging area will be shown with a barrier/fencing around its perimeter. Additional temporary parking may be necessary to the north and east of the lot.

- Gerry noted that the area on the north side of the access road to the existing lot is under consideration for a savannah restoration. There is a desire to create better visibility in the immediate area for the comfort level of visitors. This work would include thinning the underbrush significantly while preserving significant trees. There is interest in managing invasive species such as Buckthorn and Siberian Elm.
- Matt noted that temporary access for the bridge rehabilitation is currently planned on the south/west side of the bridge. Gerry noted that there are some mature trees on that south side that they would like to avoid if possible. Matt noted that the north side may be problematic due to utilities, but would look into it. **SRF to investigate access to the bridge from the north side.**
- Tim noted that they would prefer to see drinking fountains and restrooms on the site within City ROW.
- Gerry noted that low level lighting (near deck/low intensity) on bridge would be desirable for commuter traffic. Julie noted that the bridge would likely be closed from sunset to sunrise with a gate to restrict access to maintenance vehicles only, but would confirm with the Parks Dept. **Julie to confirm hours of operation for the bridge.**
- Michael asked about what USFWS programming would be considered for this site. Tim said that school groups typically focus on the primary Visitor's Center near the airport. The logistics of transporting larger groups from the Visitor's Center at this site would be difficult. Nevertheless, small group programming is possible, such as naturalist-led walks.
- USFWS has an initiative to respond better to the needs of a more diverse urban population and consequently is open to re-thinking the layout and amenities provided at this site.
- Brandon said that the existing boardwalk is in acceptable condition. Michael generally concurred with this assessment based on a cursory field visit with respect to the surface decking. There are plans to level and adjust the terminus overlook this year. The pathway from the parking lot to the boardwalk/overlook is not currently accessible.
- USFWS also wants evaluate the hydrology of the area. Gerry said that there is a spring in the bluff above that drains towards the site. Several of the trails currently act as low dikes.
- Brandon noted that there is also an interest in improving fishing access at the Bass Ponds north of the site.
- Michael provided some background research on the overall Minnesota River watershed, visitor use within the refuge, and design precedents for consideration. There is the opportunity to interpret the story of site so that visitors can gain a broad understanding of its ecology, natural history, and cultural history.
- Michael suggested the potential to borrow design details from the main Visitor's Center site (such as limestone site walls) to reinforce the refuge's visual identity.
- USFWS plans to meet internally next week to consider the options discussed outline their conceptual plans for the area in more detail.

4) Next Steps

- The next bridge enhancement meeting is tentatively scheduled for the week of May 26th.

Meeting Record Revisions:

The preceding represents SRF Consulting Group's understanding of the referenced meeting and was prepared on May 5, 2014. If you identify discrepancies or items that require clarification, please contact Matt Cramer at SRF via email at mrcramer@srfconsulting.com or via telephone at 763-249-6788.