

Bridge Advisory Committee (BAC) Meeting

2/18/21, 5 pm

Attendees:

Mike Herzog - BNSF	Amy Sakariassen – CRM specialist
Amy McBeth - BNSF	Alexa Azure – UTTC, Engineer
Mandy Persson – FORB	Paul Noot – Art teacher, cooperative artist
Aimee Angel, Jacobs	Alex Hill – Landscape architect in CO
Susan Wefald (guest)	Connie Spryncynatyk – former city commissioner, lived at Fraine Barracks

Amy S. – Introduced the meeting and purpose

Mike H – Reviewed agenda and flow of meeting.

Made presentation

- Showed both 42.5 and 92.5 but spans look the same – deck plate girder – Steel span with a concrete deck.
- Showed plan view.
- View of BNSF decision bridge from the highway bridges.
- Showed new and old bridges together

Q: How long is disruption on the river during construction?

A: Depends on the project - could be 2-3 construction seasons (Question will be tabled to be discussed later)

- Cross section of a pier, spread footing supported by piling
- 12' tall steel girder, about 2" of steel,
- 3' to deck on top of pier
- Precast concrete girder on approach
- Self-weathering steel – to avoid need for painting
- Precast concrete girders look like concrete

Q: What flexibility does the BAC have to make aesthetic changes?

A: Discussion ensued regarding types of changes.

Q: Can the texture of the concrete be changed? Pressed concrete?

A: Not really an option – these are manufactured the way that they are.

Q: Can the concrete be colored.

A: Can put on an applied coating that would not be maintained.

Q: Vertical supports – could there be molds/texture to the poured in place piers?

Q: Could the new piers look like the old piers?

A: Discussion about the vertical supports and the pros/cons of trying to replicate the historic piers.

Discussed:

- Elements of the approach that will be visible from the approach and people using the trails.
- Color is more readily achievable than texturing. Coloring would be more of a stain and be allowed to weather.
- Weathering steel. Showed examples: Memphis, bridges along the Columbia River. Weathering steel more like a burnt sienna, red-brown.

Q: Are there any projects BNSF can draw on where there was successful input from the community?

A: In the past BNSF has bolted a brass plate to the replacement bridge that stated a few facts about the historic bridge and its replacement

Q: Could the land piers incorporate something near it to make more artful?

A: Could do it, but more in the realm of mitigation.

Q: What do the horizontal railings look like?

A: MH described the proposed railings

Discussion: What is the ultimate goal?

Either minimize the view to the existing bridge or make the new bridge less intrusive?

Maybe if old bridge stays, but if the bridge goes – does the new bridge become more interesting?

Q: How would BNSF effect a bridge design -how do we take the utilitarian structure and make it look nice?

A: BNSF is more interested in safety and successful shipping than in aesthetics of the bridge.

Q: Could there be mural on the piers? Would that hinder inspection?

A: BNSF may be able to work with that?

Q: What about the underside of the bridge looking up? Lights? Artist to replicate the super-structure.

A: Group discussed ideas and regulations that would make this idea challenging.

Q: What other materials can be used? Looking for something that isn't just steel girders?

A: Steel girder is a no touch area – so that it can be inspected. Concrete may be able to be textured so the surface looks like the existing piers' surface.

NOTE: Subsequent research by Mike Herzog found this may be difficult as the rougher surface would affect flow characteristics of the river.

Discussion: Many questions asked of Mike H. about what to change. Mike H. provided some examples from past projects and stressed BAC needs to bring the ideas to discuss.

Additional thoughts:

Paul likes the simplicity and clean lines of the design. Can the piers look like the old piers in shape?

Next steps:

Mandy P: Will send out another doodlepoll to set the next meeting.

Would like to have recommendations to USCG by April 1.