

Talking points for chartset for Susan Ellenberg, Wed, June 26, 9 AM, 10th floor of 70W Hedding.

1. Thnx for meeting w/ us! There are many things going on in the county, and it's surely hard to be current on all of them. We want to brief you on this topic because a lot is going on right now.
2. Quick summary of agenda. After intro briefing, we'll be asking for recommendations.

Intros. Shows that we have a long track record of working w/ County
3. Map. Discuss trail network; importance for regional transportation; LGCT: 40+ years of community engagement; a joint City/County project. Also, 3 Crks Trail: 19 years. Show location of WG Trestle: it's in Susan's Co. District 4. Show its accessibility, closeness to downtown & Diridon, importance of connection. Also point out 1993 Urban Stream Restoration Project
4. Quick summary of LGC USRP. Shows that we in community have a track record of successfully winning grants, working w/ county, and completing a complex project.
5. We in the community helped the city get grant funding for purchasing WPRR ROW for 3CT. Our sales pitch included the WGT and highlighted its historic significance.
6. The Q: Restore or Replace. Trestle is strong, but city rushed out to buy a replacement bridge, like many others along the trail. The prefab bridge has been in storage for some years now.
7. The City evaluated a basic adaptation of the trestle: scrape off the ties, install concrete slabs, install metal railing: it'd look like Houston's "Heights Hike & Bike Trail"
8. If we ever get the chance, we'd like to see other alternatives analyzed, including a more sensitive and "proper" restoration of the trestle, and also perhaps a "compromise solution" that would preserve the trestle intact and still let the city use the prefab that they've bought.
9. City did an engineering study and also an EIR comparing the concrete-slab restoration and the new prefab steel bridge. It showed the restored trestle to be safe, cheaper, and quicker to install. Environmentally better to keep in place than to remove; not a flood hazard; fire issues can be addressed; and it's more historic. Salmon swim and spawn in LG Crk. Public support for trestle. We'd like to see the EIR also evaluate the compromise & the steel-plate restoration.
10. Timeline. Set aside for future reference: use as a cheat-sheet for subsequent charts
11. History of trains in SJ. In 1922, WPRR broke SP's decades-long monopoly on SJ
12. History of seeking historic recognition
13. History of legal issues

14: Why we're here:

What happens if we win? Will city leave it to rot in spite, or can County help us again, like it did in 1993 w/ our LGC USRP?

Also, if we bring money, we might get city's attention. It's been recommended that we apply for part of County's historic grant program. Trying for all 3 types of grants: events, cap. improvement, & non-cap. impvmnt. Not likely to qualify for 2nd and 3rd as we're unlikely to get city approval in time, but doesn't hurt to at least take the initial step of registering. Main hope is to have an event next year celebrating WP and its breaking of the SP monopoly on SJ.

And, if City doesn't want the trestle, could the County reclaim it? After all, they gave a fair fraction of the money used to buy it. Could we claim it's connected to the LG Crk Trail, which is a Countywide trail?

15: Update: city is chomping at the bit! Yesterday, crk was dammed and is now crammed into a 2' pipe.

16. Closing remarks: read the quote.

17. Thank you.

L. Ames, 6/24/19.