



## COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

### Glendale Narrows Riverwalk–Community Meeting #2 “Jewel at the Bend”

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Glendale Narrows Riverwalk project is a unique community amenity that will increase access for residents and visitors to the Los Angeles River and Griffith Park. Phase I, open to the public since 2012, provides a recreational trail, two parks, public art installation and is adjacent to the City’s equestrian facility. At its completion, it will also provide a unique opportunity for the Measure R funded “Bridge Options Study.” Although the construction documents and construction of the bridge are not presently funded, the Bridge Study will enable the City to prepare for a search for funding.

The current project under design will connect segments of the trail that are already completed. A cover for the existing flood control culvert to connect the existing bike paths will be designed. There will also be two new parks - one at the culvert location known as “Flower Plaza” and the other called “Confluence Park” at the southeast end of the bike path at the Verdugo Wash (adjacent to the 134 Freeway).

**MEETING LOCATION:**  
Pacific Community  
Center Gymnasium  
501 S. Pacific Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91204

**MEETING DATE/TIME:**  
October 29, 2014  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



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#### MEETING OVERVIEW

On October 29, 2014 the City of Glendale hosted the second of three community workshops for Phase II and III of the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk project. The event was presented in two parts. In the afternoon, approximately 25 members of the public toured the project site. During the tour the project team reviewed the pros and cons of each of the three proposed bridge locations and allowed the public to view the location of the proposed Confluence Park, which is not usually accessible. Approximately 35 people participated in the evening workshop.

The purpose of the evening meeting was to review potential bridge designs and to rank their preferences. Members of the City-selected design team lead by Atkins reviewed the findings of Community Meeting #1. The design team then presented eight bridge concepts for consideration. Along with the presentation was a display with suggestions for design details and materials. Following the presentation participants were asked to review the bridge designs and to highlight with colored dots those designs they thought were 1) exceptional, 2) acceptable, and 3) regrettable. A tally was made of the results and the findings were reviewed with the participants. Members of the public were asked to comment on what they liked or disliked about the selections which resulted in valuable feedback for the design team.

The final community workshop is scheduled for December 11, 2014 at the same location. At that meeting, the project team will showcase a proposed scheme that reflects input gathered at the two previous public meetings.

## Outreach Conducted for the October 29, 2014 Tour and Workshop

Three weeks prior to the October 29, 2014 Community Meeting #2, Katherine Padilla & Associates (KPA) implemented various public engagement strategies including stakeholder education and involvement targeting elected officials, the business community and members of neighborhood associations, recreational, environmental, community-based organizations as well as other interested persons. KPA conducted the following outreach:

- Announcements about Community Meeting #2 at Glendale City Council and at board meetings of community organization in Glendale and the neighborhoods of Griffith Park/Los Feliz and Atwater Village. Flyers were also distributed;
- Flyers distributed at public counters in adjacent Los Angeles neighborhoods and throughout the City of Glendale;
- E-mail blasts notifying community members of the October 29 Community Meeting #2;
- Phone calls to key stakeholders representing community organizations requesting that flyers and meeting notices be forwarded to organizations' members and placed on websites for wider promotion;
- Press release for City of Glendale to disseminate to media outlets.

After the presentations and feedback, Sam Gennaway of KPA facilitated a dialogue about the designs and other issues. Katherine Padilla Otanez captured the comments during the discussion.

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## Summary

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The bridge designs in order of preference are listed below. (See Appendix A for images of the bridge designs).

1. Garden Bridge
2. Solar Arch
3. Mesh Haunch
4. Simple Concrete Truss
5. S-Curve
6. Asymmetrical Beam
7. The Crossover
8. Eye

## Public Comments

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- Are all bridges acceptable to Army Corps of Engineers?
  - That is a technical consideration. We will be coordinating with the Corps.
- Bridges same width?
  - No. The participants' concern was that limited right of way produces conflicts between pedestrians and cyclist.
- What would Bio-Fuels power?
  - Lots of opportunities. The bridge will be near Glendale power plants.
- Any input from DreamWorks?
  - Yes and Disney as well.
- Costs?
  - To be grant funded
  - No details explored yet
  - Rough order of magnitude for bridge-only budgets ranges from approximately \$3 million to \$25 million
- Could become a tourist attraction
- What's the point of the project?
  - To connect to Griffith Park
- Love the steps and green technology so it pays for its functions and uses nature
- Make sure bridge is wide enough for strollers, bikes and pedestrians
- Beautiful, appropriate and non-obtrusive lighting
- Bridge location already decided?
  - Flower Street location (which is central) seemed to be the preferred location based on Community Meeting #1 input.
- Have bridge connect at Verdugo Bike Wash (location 3) for safely getting from downtown to Griffith Park
  - Alternative 20 will change the (Verdugo) Wash
  - Seems best location for bike access
- Center location seems best
- Do something on San Fernando Road to make it safer to tie-in
- Confluence Bridge is better for southern Glendale
- Why do I prefer Garden Bridge? With Garden Bridge design you want to sit, relax and have a bottle of wine along the way
- Garden Bridge provides a view from the bridge to enjoy the LA River
- How would you light it?
  - There are many opportunities for lighting
- Garden scheme has potential for light pods
- Because of this meeting, I learned to look at different ways of design
- I like the idea of using shape of bridge
- The idea of using spaces and making places is appealing

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- These are destination bridges. I like the curvy design of bridges.
- Consider the destination aspect on the other bridge designs
- Solar Bridge Design
  - This is a bird flyover
  - Bridge design has to accommodate wildlife
  - Keep nature in mind
  - Bridge lighting should be amenable (accommodating to the environment) -- not harsh
  - A wider bridge design would have been better
  - Lighting pods on solar bridge design are good
  - People are going to the river not the bridge – don't distract from that
  - Benefits – nature with bridge as destination—can co-exist
  - Solar bridge - no pylons is a real good design
  - Very fluid in design
- Simple Concrete Truss Bridge
  - Beautiful design
  - Could have used more shaded areas
  - Could have used thinner cables
  - Good structure
  - How about straight vs. meandering?
  - Wider is better
  - Meandering is good
  - Put beaches back like they were in the past...along the River before freeways were built
- Consider surface space which attracts graffiti
- Simple – less surface space is good
- Will Verdugo Wash Bridge look similar to the main bridge?
  - Yes, similar but smaller in scale.
- STRAMPS (ramps and stairs) are awesome

#### WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- This is Michael Eng from 400 Paula Ave. While I don't know how many people will attend your meeting on October 29, 2014, the word has it around here that so far all of my tenants would like to see a bridge going across the river very close to where we live. It would actually be a positive to this apartment building and I am all for it. So please count our vote for a Paula Ave. bridge.
- Like the algae photo-bioreactor.
- I love the Simcoe WaveDeck but think it would suffer from the sun.
- Add "ecology" circle to your "Sweet Spot" slide. It is surprising that technical, community, and economic were listed without considering biological resources.
- You may contact me via email regarding the December 11, 2014 meeting and on subsequent future meetings relating to the bridge. Thanks.