



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Fremont Siphon Replacement Project

Fremont Neighborhood Council Briefing Summary

November 25, 2013 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Doric Lodge, 619 N 36th St, Seattle, WA 98103

Overview

On November 25, 2013, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) presented information on the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project to the Fremont Neighborhood Council. The Fremont Neighborhood Council is a chartered organization that promotes the interests of Fremont residents.

The Fremont Siphon is located under the Lake Washington Ship Canal between the neighborhoods of Fremont and Queen Anne. The briefing was intended to present updates since the last briefing (June 25, 2012), focusing on the project final design, including construction areas, activities and traffic impacts in Fremont, construction expectations, and the final design of the Fremont site and new odor control facility. The team presented next steps in the project and upcoming opportunities for public participation.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) introduced an upcoming water main replacement project that will follow the completion of the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project.

Fifteen council members attended the briefing.

Presentations

After providing an overview of the project, the project team presented the final site layout and design for the Fremont side of the project, which was developed following a community workshop in January 2013 and a follow-up community open house in March 2013. The project team used community input to refine the site layout (including removing a second driveway to the site) and design a historic-looking aboveground building using northwest coastal-inspired landscaping.

The project team then described the construction process, anticipated work activities in Fremont and Queen Anne, preliminary temporary traffic and pedestrian detours, and the proposed construction schedule. The project team will be finalizing the project design in late 2013 and hiring a construction contractor in spring 2014. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2014.

Seattle Public Utilities – Water Main Replacement Presentation

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) introduced an upcoming water main replacement project that will follow the completion of the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project. SPU has a 24-inch water main in the Ship Canal Utility Tunnel, which must be replaced. The work cannot be completed until the existing Fremont Siphon pipes are decommissioned. The project is currently in the early planning stages. Design will occur from 2014 to 2016, with construction expected to start directly following the completion of the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project. SPU is coordinating with King County on the project, looking for opportunities to sequence work to avoid having to re-do County restoration work and perhaps share costs of some of the restoration. SPU is doing early outreach to make sure neighbors are aware of the project.

The presentation was similar to the November 20, 2013 community meeting presentation, which can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon/MeetingCalendar.aspx>

Meeting attendees were informed of and encouraged to use a variety of methods for submitting questions and input, including the following:

- Web: www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon
- Email: adair.muth@kingcounty.gov
- Phone: 206-477-5505

Meeting attendees were encouraged to ask questions, express concerns, and provide input, especially through the upcoming post-design survey. County staff indicated that input is always welcome and will be used throughout the project design and construction process.

Summary of Questions and Input

Questions, feedback, and discussion from the meeting attendees are summarized below.

The County collects much of the wastewater in the region. Where is wastewater from the northern service area treated?

King County has a regional system that transfers wastewater flows to the West Point, Brightwater, and South Treatment Plants. Wastewater collected from the northern part of our service area is conveyed across the Ship Canal through the Fremont Siphon and treated at the West Point Treatment Plant. The County has three siphons to transfer flows north of the Ship Canal to West Point Treatment Plant: Ballard, Fremont, and Montlake.

Will the new Fremont Siphon pipes have the same wastewater capacity?

Yes, the two new microtunnel pipes will carry the same capacity of wastewater as the current siphon (up to 220 million gallons per day).

Wouldn't a slightly bigger pipe help reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) at Canal Street?

The project team looked at this option; however, we determined that it would only shift the CSO problem across the Ship Canal to the 3rd Avenue outfall because of capacity limitations downstream. The CSOs would still affect the Ship Canal.

Is the diameter of the window on the new facility the same diameter as the pipe?

The window is 108 inches in diameter, which is the same size of the North Interceptor pipeline under Canal Street that delivers wastewater to the Fremont Siphon. The Fremont Siphon itself is made up of two pipes, one 48 inches and one 60 inches. The two new siphon pipes will be 60 inches in diameter.

Do the construction plans include the closure of Northwest Canal Street?

Northwest Canal Street will remain open during construction. However, the intersection of Northwest Canal Street and 2nd Avenue Northwest will be closed during two points of construction. The first closure will be for approximately one month in summer 2015 or 2016; the second closure will be for approximately four months in summer 2015 or 2016. During the intersection closures, Northwest Canal Street will be turned into a two-way street by removing parking on the south side of the street. A vehicle turnaround area will be installed on Northwest Canal Street near the closure. The community relations team met with businesses and residents in the area to discuss how they use the street on a daily basis (e.g. deliveries and parking) and to discuss the proposed traffic control plans. The community relations team will continue to work with neighbors throughout the construction process.

Will the new siphons provide additional sources of methane gas at West Point Treatment Plant?

Methane gas comes from the digesters that process solids at West Point. Since the new Fremont Siphon pipes will maintain the same wastewater capacity, this project would not affect methane production from the digesters.

Has the County considered installing a steam generator at the West Point Treatment Plant?

The County has long used digester gas at West Point. Some gas is used to run sewage pumps and the County is replacing cogeneration equipment that converts waste gas to electricity that can be sent back to the grid.

Will the contractor bidding documents be online on the project website?

The documents will be posted on the County's procurement website once they are advertised.

https://procurement.kingcounty.gov/procurement_ovr/default.aspx

Are project notifications typically delivered to every resident in the area?

The County typically leaves flyer notifications for nearby residents and businesses, sends mailings to a standard mailing area as well as the project mailing list, and emails updates to the project email list. The County appreciates any suggestions the community has to expand distributions.

During construction, the type of work or event typically drives the level of notification. For example, if the work directly impacts the nearby community, then posters or flyers may be hand delivered. If the project has reached a major milestone, then a press release or mailed postcard are better ways to get the word out.

Attendees provided the following suggestions for notification:

- Leave postcards in local coffee shops
- Post signs for cyclists along the Burke-Gilman Trail instead of using flyer boxes
- For car traffic, the County might need to cast the net wider. Press releases may not get to the folks who are passing through. Fremont Neighborhood Council can post information on their website. Community blogs and newspapers are also good avenues for spreading the word.

Monica recommended that community members can help flag important notices and pass information to each other through listservs. Monica noted that Community Relations lead Adair Muth will be sending out a post-design survey to the community to get feedback on what worked well with communications and what can be improved. People can use that opportunity to provide suggestions for new and different avenues to distribute information and communicate with the Fremont neighborhood.

Closing

The project team thanked the Fremont Neighborhood Council for letting the project team present on the project. Local input is very important to informing the decision process, resulting in a design that will meet the needs of the community. Staff encouraged the participants to remain involved and continue to provide input.

Fremont Siphon Replacement Project Team Attendance

King County Wastewater Treatment Division: Will Sroufe and Monica Van der Vieren

Seattle Public Utilities: Paj Hwang and Bill Benzer

EnviroIssues: Rochelle Stowe