

**Project Restore – First Street
Meeting Notes
(Ron Fong – Little Tokyo Service Center)**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Little Tokyo Service Center

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Jillian Green, Doug Suisman, Mark Rios, Ron Fong, Takao Suzuki, Evelyn Yoshimura

Introduction

Ron Fong is the Planning Director for the Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation. The Team gave a brief presentation on the project, as Mr. Fong was already familiar with the plans.

Issues Raised

- Big issue in Little Tokyo is coordination of City development projects. The Little Tokyo Service Center is the only corporation in Little Tokyo with a full-time community organization and planning staff.
- Bridge/river is the last piece of development for Little Tokyo
- Scale back development in the area to make it more humane
- City currently has no plans for development in certain areas, so there is a window open to propose a concept for developing the area
- What is going to be built on the Raffi Cohen site?
- What are we trying to preserve? The definition is often unclear.

Comments

- Mr. Suisman mentioned that one of the strategies for the First Street Project would be to focus on the First Street Bridge. Mr. Fong does not agree that the First Street project should focus on the First Street Bridge. He says you can't do anything to the bridge until the rail tracks/yards are dealt with to allow for easy access to the river.
- Little Tokyo is part of First Street is part of the Historical Corridor
- Mr. Fong feels San Pedro Street is a more interesting street to focus on
- Team described an idea design First Street and 2nd Street as a pair: First has more buildings, transit, large parks, and 2nd is smaller, more residential, small parks and plazas
- Mr. Fong is more concerned about development on the Mangrove block
- Team discussed the First Street festival concept

Concerns

- Affordable housing, as in the Artists' District, is a problem in the community
- Challenge of the neighborhood is trying to preserve an ethnic community when dealing with landscape and design, food, and the arts
- Key is to get people to get behind a set of ideas as to what they want to see

Ideas

- Use the space under bridges for lofts, markets, skate parks
- Construct inflatable dam at First Street to create a lake for recreation

- Develop the corner near the New Otani service entrance. It could be opened and made more pedestrian-friendly
- Include the tracks near the James Irvine Garden, as it might be a nice connector walk
- Translate the vision into a physical expression

Other Groups/People to Contact

- Linda Lee theater between 2nd and 3rd on Main Street is an important business (251 S. Main Street)

Follow up/Action Items:

- Work with the CRA on a workshop that the LTSC is putting together in November
- Get a copy of the community report on cultural preservation the LTSC is close to finalizing
- Mr. Fong would like to translate our map into his plans for redevelopment
- Mr. Fong will contact Chris Aiohara, formerly of the Little Tokyo Cultural Preservation Committee, about the project

Prepared by



**Project Restore – First Street
Meeting Notes
(Johnny Godinez – Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council)**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: 735 S. Soto Street, Boyle Heights

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Jillian Green , Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Johnny Godinez, Danny Gullart

Other Groups/People to Contact

- Concerned Mothers – Rita (Mothers of East LA?)
- Boyle Heights Chamber of Commerce
- Godinez’s email address – jhuero@hotmail.com

Follow up/Action Items:

- Mr. Godinez will get Jillian some names of people/groups for the focus groups
- Mr. Godinez will inform the neighborhood council board members from other quadrants

Introduction

Johnny Godinez is a board member on the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council. Danny Gullart is a member of the Boyle Heights community. The Team introduced the project through a Power Point presentation. The goal of the project is to link together all of the new developments along First Street, and connect the neighborhoods from the east to west.

Comments

- It would be great for business to bring in people from the Westside to Boyle Heights
- The residents in Boyle Heights might walk a few blocks to Pico Aliso, but not across the bridge
- Start off small in the beginning by involving key leaders, before reaching out to the entire community
- Joggers in Boyle Heights currently run on a track around the cemetery
- Very important to get the community involved to give them a sense of pride and ownership
- The people of Boyle Heights will care about what affects them directly
- People will be interested if you are legitimate
- Mr. Godinez suggests involving local security/law enforcement
- There should be something to look forward to when crossing the bridge from the east to the west

Concerns

- Many people stick to their comfort zones and don’t usually venture out of their neighborhoods
- Mr. Godinez is concerned that the creation of parks will bring the homeless
- Littering is a major concern for residents in Boyle Heights

Ideas

- Create some sort of attraction on the bridge to entice the residents to cross over
- Add Old-fashioned street lamps along First Street and the bridge
- Secure trash cans along the streets
- Include a jogging path along the First Street Bridge
- Add parks, benches, drinking fountains
- Consider that residents in Boyle Heights would like to have a mall and a movie theater
- Institute a work program for youth to participate in construction to get them off the streets
- Create a First Street Committee in Boyle Heights to act as a liaison to the team

Prepared by



**Project Restore – First Street
Meeting Notes
(Tim Keating – LARABA)**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Café Metropol

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Jillian Green, Doug Suisman, Mark Rios, Tim Keating

Introduction

Tim Keating is the president of the Los Angeles River Artists' Business Association (LARABA).

- LARABA – was formed for neighborhood betterment in the Artists' District
- Currently there are 2,000 residents in the Artists' District
- LARABA is interested in transit-oriented development
- The Center of the Artists' District is the triangle near SIARC (Traction & 3rd)
- Alameda is a natural barrier/boundary for the Artists' District, and is not considered a part of downtown

Issues Raised

- Keating suggests that gentrification has caused number of residents in the Artists' District to decline in recent years
- Keating notes that it is important to add value along the bridge/river
- Keating believes that historical preservation issues may pose a problem with planting trees

Comments

- LARABA is currently looking at two parcels of land in the area to develop low income housing
 - DWP Testing Lab (3rd/Traction/Santa Fe)
 - Area where former police headquarters was located
- The space under the bridges are typically rail right-of-way
- First Street could be the symbolic street where all festivals/parades could originate
- Keating says that because there are mostly warehouses on streets connecting to First Street in the Artists' District, there isn't a need to focus on them

Concerns

- According to Keating, green space is an amenity missing from First Street and the First Street Bridge
- Keating says that currently there is no relationship between the Artists' District and the community across the river, but it would be nice if there were

Ideas

- Construct a linear park along the bridge that weaves across both sides of First Street
- Add an elevator from the bridge to the river that goes to a kayak rental facility
- Use inflatable dams to create a lake
- Build stairwells on the bridge to the river
- Create more green space by using existing urban space for nurseries, and then housing

- Light the bridge and patrol it to make it more pedestrian-friendly
- Add a dog park
- Loop around to the 4th Street bridge
- Connect local arts festivals.
- Organize performance venues along First Street get together for a large festival

Other Groups to Contact

- Board of Directors of LARABA
 - Joel Bloom
 - Tim Keating
 - Katherine (who runs the website)
 - Jonathan Gerald
 - Charlie Woo (Mega Toys)
- Historical Cultural Neighborhood Council (201 E. 1st Street) hcncxc@lbox.com
- Allen Kumoto
- Ron Fong
- Mark Bava – regarding the Burning Man festival bluebongobar.com

Follow up/Action Items:

- Keating will contact Jillian with more names for focus groups

Prepared by



**Project Restore – First Street
Meeting Notes
(James Rojas – Latino Urban Forum)**

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 30, 2004

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Consensus Planning Group

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Jillian Green, Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Mark Rios, Tanya Patsaouras, James Rojas

Introduction

James Rojas works for the MTA, but is representing the Urban Latino Forum.

Issues Raised

- Mr. Rojas notes that there is the possibility that the downtown connector will come down First Street
- Mr. Rojas states that LA's current pedestrian places (Citywalk and 3rd Street Promenade) lack destination, grain of discovery
- There is a need to connect the area between Little Pedro's and Alameda to the civic center
- Mr. Rojas says that First Street is like Sunset Blvd. because it has topography, which sets it apart. This could be an asset for why one would walk on First Street
- Mr. Rojas believes there is a need to discuss the possibility of bikes on the bridge

Comments

- Mr. Rojas suggests talking to Robin Blair about extending the Gold line travel into downtown
- Mr. Rojas thinks it would be nice to turn the civic center into some place where you would take your kids
- Mr. Rojas believes that making First Street more pedestrian-friendly is possible
- Team discussed how new high school may bring more kids walking across the bridge
- Mr. Rojas mentions that MTA owns a lot of property near the bridges
- People may also use the staircases along the bridge to exercise
- A First Street park that starts in the north could be part of the high school

Concerns

- Current design of sidewalks is important to consider
- All North and South streets downtown have enclosed vistas
- Rojas feels that roadway widening on 2nd Street would not be a good idea

Ideas

- Strengthen differences of First Street from 2nd Street
- Make First Street more developed, with pedestrians along the side
- Create Paseo Primera – First Park
- Add benches: best park downtown is civic center/City Hall park, but no one goes because there aren't any benches
- Build median from Little Tokyo to Hill Street on First Street (whole bus system would have to be reconfigured)
- Include more green space, it will bring people and it compliments the transportation corridor
- Put something around or on bridge in order to get people to walk on it

- Build places you can exit the bridge so as not to feel locked, as the bridge is long
- Get Public Works to put a rubberized track along bridge, from Alameda to Mission (one was put in around the cemetery in Boyle Heights)
- Connect Santa Fe Street with the bridge
- Connect 2nd Street near river at bridge
- Expand idea of jogging on First Street to the freeway and loop around

Other Groups/People to Contact

- Robin Blair

Follow up/Action Items:

- Plot out connectors/landmarks on the map
- Contact Lupe Villa from Ed Reyes' office may have photos of the rubberized track
- Find out what land MTA owns
- Look at Utah Street and high school plans and work with them to get the setback we need to have a jogging path
- Create a map that shows all current and potential jogging routes in the City of LA

Prepared by



**Project Restore – First Street
Meeting Notes
(Brady Westwater – Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council)**

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 30, 2004

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Consensus Planning Group

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Jillian Green, Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Tanya Patsaouras, Mark Rios, Brady Westwater

Introduction

Brady Westwater is the President and Chairman of the Board for the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, and a long-time resident of downtown LA. He shared his insight on development issues and provided many ideas for the project.

Comments

- Westwater believes that First Street is not going to be a walking street., but 2nd street and the mall are more likely to be pedestrian streets
- Westwater wants a park to function as a civic space and neighborhood park
- Suisman notes that it may be difficult to create a space that functions for both. You really need two separate parks: civic and neighborhood.
- Westwater was adamant Civic plaza should **not** go up to City Hall steps
- Gateway to the west is Belmont yard
- Westwater feels the First Street project is meaningless unless you look at the connection to the west. Currently we are not out far enough. He suggests that outreach should extend to the 101/110.
- First Street is the First American street
- 2nd Street really is an extension of First Street
- Downtown is a north and south area, not necessarily east and west
- Little Tokyo has a presence on both sides of First Street
- Westwater is proposing an ordinance for buildings that have been capped. If they restore the front and the lobby, they will be exempt from parking fees

Concerns

- Need park space for people in historic corridor

Ideas

- Get artists to design art for kids to play on at park
- Extend civic park to First Street (First Street would be park edge)
- Create a botanical garden on First Street
- Move access to civic plaza
- Build a recreation center where garage is currently located on Parker Center block
- Take First Street and curve it to build a new courthouse and a park

- Design a civic center master plan
- Open Linda Lee Theater (no access to alley)

Other Groups/ People to Contact

- McDurnica Furniture (sp?)
- Dave Damis

Follow up/Action Items:

- Westwater will provide the team with his essay on First Street
- Westwater will send Jillian list of groups/people for focus groups
- Find out what key things need to be preserved and then put them on a list. Also create a list of what can, or needs to be torn down

Prepared by



**Project Restore – First Street
Meeting Notes
(Lewis MacAdams – Friends of the Los Angeles River)**

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 30, 2004

Time: 9:15 a.m.

Location: DMJM

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Jillian Green, Tanya Patsouras, Eli Garsilazo, Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Mike, Lewis MacAdams

Introduction

Lewis MacAdams is the president of the Friends of the Los Angeles River. Doug Suisman discussed the project process: currently two months into the process, with three months for design. He noted that CRA has become a co-client with Project Restore on this project. The team presented the 3 various ways to look at the project: 1) focus on bridge, 2) focus on ends of First Street, 3) focus on mid-sites along the First Street corridor.

Issues Raised

- Bridge configuration – relationship of road bed, curb, sidewalks
- What is the plan for the unsightly portals along the bridge?
- Property issues are important; does the City control all of the area under the bridges?

Comments

- Show range of alternatives
- Project should be less engineered and include more public art
- Santa Fe Street is a key part of the downtown river area
- Meyer street is a great open space with lots of opportunity
- Think of the river as a lakeshore (like Chicago), not an isolated industrial zone
- Adaptive re-use ought to be the approach to the bridge
- MacAdams says that the opening of the bridge project will bring much attention to the area. The more that this project (First Street corridor) has some legitimacy/connection with other projects, the better.
- Suisman is not entirely convinced that the bridge will show the connection. We need to show people that the bridge is not enough.
- Team feels that there is a need to create a “place,” and the bridge project won’t create a place on its own

Concerns

- Parks will encourage more development around the area which will move north
- Dealing with the BOE and the City on these issues
- MacAdams feels that the First Street Bridge may make First Street important, but not the river

Ideas

- Widen sidewalks
- Remove sidewalk on one side to make it wider on the other
- Create a way to get to Meyer Street

- Build connection between First Street Bridge and Meyers Plaza
- Look at the consolidation of the tracks on the Westside of the river to be put underground to allow for more space
- Add a series of images/photos along the Bridge documenting its history
- Include new access to the river – elevator, stairs
- Create First Park – linear park
- Construct a jogging path from Disney Hall to Mariachi Plaza
- Include more green and public space on the north side
- Fix the blind portals on the First Street Bridge like the Broadway Bridge

Other Groups/People to Contact

- George Magallanes from Jackie’s office (Adelante)

Follow up/Action Items:

- MacAdams will check on other useful studies on the river, besides the Harvard study
- Team should include cornfields in future renderings
- Take Millennium Park and superimpose it on a map to show what it would look like
- Look for projects around the country built under bridges as examples
- MacAdams will contact Deborah Weintraub at the City to get her input
- Get inventory of every piece of land currently owned by the City of LA, and all land currently available for public use. Contact Antonio’s office
- Talk to Dung Tran regarding the First Street Bridge expansion
- Get together to plan out exactly where the stairwells should be so we have something to show the BOE
- Produce a drawing with inflatable dams and water level

Prepared by



First Street Focus Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Time: 6PM-8PM

Location: Roybal Center in Boyle Heights

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Tanya Patsaouras, Eli Garsilazo, Mike Cheng, Cliff Fok, Saq Hafeez, Luis Sanchez, Jillian Green, Sylvia Novoa

- Bring Boyle Heights down the hill and connect to the area below
- Create an intriguing entrance into Boyle Heights
- The area near the 101 freeway is not the gateway to Boyle Heights
- The entrance to Boyle Heights is symbolically where the bridge ends on the eastside
- There is difficulty identifying the area (just below Boyle Heights) because there is not much going on in the area
- Gentrification- lofts might not be the best idea for Boyle Heights residents as they do not provide space for families and the expense of housing is out of their budgets

Introduction

The focus group began with introductions and a Power Point presentation by the design team. Representatives from East Los Angeles Community Corporation and the Boyle Heights business community joined in a conversation on the First Street project. The participants had an opportunity to discuss the plans, ask questions, and share their ideas.

Issues Raised

- The importance of incorporating the uniqueness of individual communities
- The affordability of multi-family housing, not just lofts
- The need for responsible development
- The development of the new high school

Comments

- More green space is needed in the community
- Create a park alongside the bridge, like in San Francisco
- Add park amenities, such as a pond, lake, track, and exercise equipment
- Create a place to “walk around”
- Mixed-use housing is the wave of the future, but we must be aware of possible gentrification
- There needs to be something that will attract people to go to the other side of the Bridge
- Safety is important to the community in Boyle Heights
- Many of the ideas proposed are not realistic because of the railroad and the development of the new high school
- Stop the development of the school and build a park instead
- Build shops and commercial enterprises on both sides of First Street
- There are more attractions on the westside, but there has always been difficulty in connecting the communities on the eastside and westside of the bridge
- Retail properties are only valuable if they attract people from the Westside
- The land set aside for commercial development is limited near First Street
- There is a lack of coffee shops, theaters, and other entertainment venues on the eastside of the Bridge
- Expand the business district on the eastside
- Use stained glass and molding for public art, and mix the Mexican and Asian cultures
- People on the eastside do not normally go to the westside for entertainment or shopping
- The availability of more affordable housing may be an incentive to cross the river from east to west
- Attract small businesses to the area, such as markets, arcades, cafes, computer and other specialty stores
- Include a farmer’s market in the space under or near the bridge
- The arts district exists on both sides of the river

Prepared by



First Street Focus Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 21, 2004

Time: 2PM-4PM

Location: City Hall

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Tanya Patsaouras, Eli Garsilazo, Mike Cheng, Mark Rios, Martha Estrada, Karen Yamamoto, Pat Diaz, Joel Bloom, Arthur Golding, Kevin Jew, Ron Fong, Thomas Yee, Rosalie Gurrola, Brigham Yen, Jillian Green

Introduction

The focus group began with introductions and a Power Point presentation by the design team. Representatives from the City Redevelopment Agency, Downtown Neighborhood Council, Los Angeles River Arts Business District (LARABA), Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, and Little Tokyo Service Center joined in a conversation on the First Street project. The participants had an opportunity to discuss the plans, ask questions, and share their ideas.

Issues Raised

- How bicycles will be incorporated in to the plan
- Bike paths along the river, housing, loft conversions
- City linkage as an important factor to consider when developing the plans
- Housing, retail, and green space are all needed in this area
- Shuttles, such as a DASH, are necessary to move from East to West on First Street, as there is currently no bus transit from Disney Concert Hall to the other side of the First Street Bridge

Comments

- A majority of the participants believe a jogging path along the First Street Bridge is a good idea
- There should be more sidewalk cafes along First Street
- There should be access from First Street Bridge to the river
- First Street is a major link in the community, and there is some resentment that it is a major traffic corridor
- We will be losing parking with the expansion of the First Street Bridge
- Density is a major concern for the area
- This project is larger than just an engineering discussion, and should include members of the community, not just those who understand the technical aspects
- Development under the bridge is exciting
- Add consumer opportunities that are not currently available to entice people to walk along First Street
- Ron Fong is more confident in the private developers to accomplish the plan goals than the City of LA
- There will be more opportunities for the City of LA to develop along First Street, once the streetscape vision is underway
- We need to have a unified vision and get together to decide what we want before involving government agencies
- Mangrove block in Little Tokyo is critical, as it is where the bridge lands and where the artists' district is located
- It is dangerous to walk across the bridge
- Widen the sidewalk on the bridge
- Find new uses for, or fill in the arches on the bridge to avoid them becoming waste receptacles

- Minor changes to the bridge, such as extra stairs, that bring people across the bridge may be acceptable and would not necessarily affect the historic preservation
- Salvage parts of the bridge that are removed during expansion and place them around the downtown area
- Connecting one end of First Street to the other is a good idea
- Obtain corporate/museum/or private developer sponsored shuttles to travel along First Street
- There should be more trees along First Street
- A distinct design element is important for identifying each distinct community
- Connect the communities, while at the same time maintain and highlight their individuality
- Make Alameda an easier street to cross
- There needs to be something great on the other side of the bridge to encourage people to cross
- Create a developer competition as an implementation mechanism to help bring this project to fruition
- Coordinate with the Los Angeles River development strategy
- The participants hope that this project will be like the Sears project, bringing people over the bridge
- Take the flow water diversion and activate it, which will cause the water in the river to move so it is more interesting to look at, and will bring more wildlife and people
- Run-through tracks project/High speed rail needs to be looked at before proceeding with the First Street project
- It is very difficult to remove rail maintenance
- It is not necessary to remove the tracks to begin development along the river
- Not all of the tracks in the study area are unused
- Some rail on both sides of the river will never be removed
- Boyle Heights is not East LA. People who live in Boyle Heights want it to be called Boyle Heights.
- The area east of the bridge, sometimes known as the "flats" is technically Boyle Heights; at one time this area was lower income and included the projects known as Pico Gardens and Aliso Village. This area does not need a new name, and should continue to be referred to as Boyle Heights.
- Rosalie Gurrola from Boyle Heights says there is not a problem with calling the new Gold Line station the Utah Street station
- The historical preservation of the bridge is important to the Boyle Heights community

Questions

- How do you make public agencies pay attention to First Street?
- What are some landmarks on First Street? Little Pedro's
- How will the connection between the river project and the First Street project interface?

Follow up/Action Items:

- Follow-up with Joel Bloom or Tim Keating for LARABA public feedback
- Connect with Gary, City Engineer, to hear his feedback

Prepared by



First Street Focus Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 21, 2004

Time: 10AM-Noon

Location: City Hall

Notes by: Jillian Green

Meeting Attendees: Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, Tanya Patsaouras, Eli Garsilazo, Mike Cheng, Mark Rios, Alan Kumamoto, Anne Samuelson, Carol Schatz, Chris Aihara, Brady Westwater, David O' Malley, Kevin Jew, Keith Coleman, Jillian Green, Sylvia Novoa

Introduction

The focus group began with introductions and a Power Point presentation by the design team. Representatives from the Central City Association, Downtown Neighborhood Council, Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council, and Little Tokyo joined in a conversation on the First Street project. The participants had the opportunity to discuss the plans, ask questions, and share their ideas.

Issues Raised

- There are currently competing priorities with regard to development within the City of Los Angeles
- The team should evaluate where the 10-Minute Diamond Plan can fit in with the First Street plans
- Transit development could be swayed if public is given the whole picture
- Political will and cooperation is of major importance when planning for a project such as this
- There is a lot of focus on downtown right now, which allows for great opportunity for using improvements as leverage
- It is possible that we might be able to use the streetscape as mitigation for the transit developments in the area
- This is a political process and the vision needs to be shared with political leaders and the community
- Neighborhoods in the downtown area have been separated by lack of planning
- Downtown must be a destination in order to ensure the communities thrive

Comments

- A trust fund for maintenance should be developed in conjunction with the First Street plans
- The First Street plan should create a positive, aesthetic stream
- 80% of the loft-dwellers have left because there is nothing to do in the evenings and on the weekends
- The streetscape is a good place to start
- It is important that the plan draws Angelinos to the government center
- Green space between First and Temple is small and there are too many homeless
- There should be more green space throughout downtown
- Streetscape on First Street is important, but you need to look at other streets, in addition to First Street
- The freeway and horrendous planning in the past has ripped the heart out of downtown LA
- The First Street plans should consider downtown as a unified area
- The First Street team should continue dialogue with the First Street Bridge team
- Some of the areas in Little Tokyo have a historic relationship that is deeper than 1 block
- The east boundary of Little Tokyo is Santa Fe
- The Artists' District historically has been a part of Little Tokyo
- Little Tokyo has very public institutions
- Little Tokyo is interested in connecting to downtown

- Little Tokyo may feel threatened with all of the new developments and plans for change; they want to maintain their identity
- There is a Japanese festival in the summer, which may include dancing across the First Street Bridge
- The design team should also consider other existing development plans in the downtown area
- The project team should hold a future meeting to discuss the 10-Minute Diamond Plan and ask the community what their thoughts are for First Street
- Use the 10-Minute Diamond Plan as the core area for the First Street project and expand from there
- Several participants commented that they liked the idea of First Street Bridge being the link, symbol, and/or focal point, and would like to see Second Street as a secondary link
- The plan can't just include First Street, but should bring in all the areas surrounding into First Street
- Safety and lighting should be key parts of the First Street plan
- The plan should draw people to First Street and the First Street Bridge
- The quality of design along First Street is important in all of the communities
- Everything does not have to look the same in each community
- It would be nice to see all the projects along First Street have different distinctions within each community
- Try to map out and differentiate between actual, planned, and not yet approved developments along and near First Street
- Include MTA in any future meetings
- The DOT is doing a lot of work on the streets and they should be involved in the decision-making
- Because of how much is being developed, this is a good opportunity to work on streetscape
- A Business Improvement District (BID) may be incorporated into the area studied
- The team should focus on private development to assist in the plans for First Street
- It is important to look at the amount of real estate and street frontage being developed along First Street
- We are in the peak of downtown development and there is a lot of excitement, which should continue for the next 5 years
- The participants expressed their appreciation for the flexibility of the plan and are grateful for the opportunity to comment
- The Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council is going to be severely impacted
- There is too much time between the building of the Gold Line stations and RFP for landscaping to happen
- Concerned that Homeland Security may inhibit the use of the space under the bridge

Questions

- Is the study anticipating a funding source?
- Where did the money for the study come from?
- What is the total amount of money available for the study?
- Will the streetscape within the 10-Minute Diamond Plan be incorporated?
- How do you plan to implement a streetscape?
- What will happen with the space east of City Hall?
- Will there be a follow-up report? If so, how soon?
- Is Chinatown a part of this plan? Is the plaza?
- Are the ideas being packaged?
- Does the MTA report on First Street station and Alameda incorporate comments on the First Street Bridge?

Follow up/Action Items:

- Central City Association volunteered to host another meeting
- The team will obtain more feedback from the Historical Cultural Neighborhood Council
- Alan Kumamoto will contact Charles Woo
- The team will come up with some sort of diagram that identifies which developments are private and which are public

Prepared by

