



Groundbreaking by Design.

MEETING MINUTES

Project: Brent Spence
Purpose: BSB Aesthetics Ft. Wright & Ft. Mitchell
Place: First Financial Bank Conference Room (6th and Madison, downtown Covington)
Meeting Date: November 16, 2022
Prepared By: David Reed
Attendees:

Edwin King	City of Ft. Mitchell
Dave Hatter	City of Ft. Wright
Jill Cain Bailey	City of Ft. Wright
Laura Tenfelde	Planning Development Services
John Stanton	Kenton County
Sean Buckley	Human Nature
Nicole DiNovo	Human Nature
Gary Valentine	KYTC - CO
Stacey Hans	KYTC – D6
Glen Kelly	Qk4
David Reed	Qk4

1. Introductions

Introductions were made by attendees around the room. Stacey Hans provided a project overview and reviewed the role of the committee and the purpose of the meeting.

- The overview of the proposed changes affecting the Dixie Highway and Kyles Lane interchanges included a review of the interstate lanes, new collector/distributor lanes, and existing ramp modifications.
- The latest soundwall information was also provided along with a conceptual rendering of the soundwalls affecting the subject area. Stacey noted that the intent was to maximize the extents of soundwalls, based on locations that were both feasible and reasonable (standard criteria). The details of the soundwalls are still in progress, and ultimately each of the cities, and the impacted property owners would have an opportunity to provide input on the final locations and limits of the soundwalls to be constructed. Separate meetings are planned for each community – Ft. Mitchell on November 30, and Ft. Wright on December 1.

2. Aesthetic Concepts

Nicole DiNovo presented a series of images exploring possible aesthetic improvements to the interchanges along with research and inspirational images for bridge designs and the creation of iconic gateways.

a. Fencing Concepts

- Typical fencing for areas for interstate-controlled access right of way is chain link.
- There is a desire for a more aesthetic fencing, but ease of maintenance is a concern.
- Material is desired to be vinyl or aluminum without the need to continuously paint the fence.
- Mowing around the fence is a concern as well so a fence type that is lifted off the ground with space for a mower or trimmer is ideal.
- Nicole provided a series of fencing images for consideration.
- Gary Valentine indicated his support of aesthetic fencing alternatives but made it clear that KYTC cannot provide maintenance for anything other than chain link, and that while specialty fencing could be constructed as part of the project, the maintenance would become the responsibility of the municipality.
- In addition to fencing, Jill Cain Bailey expressed a desire for lighting on the bridge surface and whether decorative light poles could be included in concepts. Gary indicated that he would research what lighting would typically be provided on the interchange bridges and ramps.

b. Landscaping and Gateway Concepts

- Nicole presented landscape comments for the interchange areas, including improvements offered by each of the two municipalities. Nicole encouraged inclusion of these features and a desire to further expand and embellish these solutions and find ways to offer a consistent overall aesthetic, such as bolder simplifications of the masonry features proposed, and the inclusion of larger areas of landscape plantings to help unify the two interchange areas.
- John Stanton expressed the importance of creating cohesion with landscaping and signage between Covington, Ft. Wright, and Ft. Mitchell.
- John asked if improvements or repairs to the terraced reforestation project at the cut-in-the-hill would be part of the project. KYTC stated that was an SDI project and is not impacted by the interstate project. John indicated that he would speak to SDI about repairs or concerns independently.
- Edwin King reiterated Ft. Mitchells' desire to manage invasive species along the roadside and remove the proliferation of volunteer Bradford Pears within the corridor.
- Gary Valentine provided an explanation of the dual fences that exists along the right-of-way area bordering Highland Cemetery, indicating that this was now an area of excess right-of-way, and if the community is interested the transfer of land ownership in this area could be discussed. This area was the right of way of the old interstate and is no longer needed.
- Overall, the comments were for a desire to have a cohesive design for northern Kentucky gateways and signage for Covington, Ft. Mitchell and Ft. Wright. Examples were brought up like an "Unbridled Spirit" sign on the Devou Park Hill or a Bourbon Trail identity tying signage together. It was clarified that both of those sites were outside the project area. However, the design team did look at gateway opportunities with Covington within the project area.
- The cities seemed consistent in their desire to maintain a more historic character on bridges and gateways, in reference to Civil War fortress features and possible use of each city's crest as presented by Nicole.

- Ft. Mitchell shared some flexibility and potential interest in a more modern fenestration solutions.
- Ft. Wright was clear in their dislike for anything contemporary like the cut metal or metal fins look and that this type of imagery was too abstracted for their taste.
- Ft. Wright really likes the Evandale gateway and mentioned the abutment and walls near Wright Patterson Airforce Base.
- Overall, the design team are on the right track in terms of general concepts and the intent is for us to “shoot for the moon and then work backwards” to find a balance between aesthetics and cost.

3. Next Steps

More input from Ft. Mitchell and Ft. Wright to help to move concepts further, and members of the communities represented agreed that they would consider the options presented and share them with others in their respective groups (Mayor Hatter mentioned an upcoming city caucus meeting). The next meeting to be scheduled would occur in late January or early February of 2023, with the intent of being complete with the aesthetic recommendations by June, 2023.

End of Meeting Minutes