

# Public Meeting Questions

*September 25, 2019 Public Meeting Questions:*

Q&A Session:

1. How does the Bridge Park benefit Ward 8 residents?
  - 1.1 Over the last four years, the Bridge Park has expanded the scope of its work to include community development projects and strategies to advance social and economic justice. This is exemplified by the creation of an Equitable Development Plan (EDP) that outlines how the Bridge Park, residents and partner organizations can ensure that the Park's surrounding neighborhoods benefit the most from this investment. The Bridge Park has since pivoted to implementing the plan, securing over \$60MM as part of our capital campaign to invest directly in the communities surrounding the Park; this is nearly equivalent to the estimated cost of building the Park. Visit [BridgePark.org/equity](https://BridgePark.org/equity) to learn more.
2. How many businesses on the project team are local?
  - 2.1 Currently, there are six DC based Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) firms working on the project. These include:
    - Delon Hampton and Associates Chartered
    - Setty and Associates
    - Tina Boyd and Associates
    - Hillis-Carnes Capitol Services, LLC
    - MCLA, Inc.
    - Vika Capitol, LLC
  - 2.2 During the next phase, the project team plans on adding additional CBE firms to the project team as we progress the final design of the project.
3. What is happening to the empty parcel behind DHCD offices in historic Anacostia?
  - 3.1 DDOT does not control this parcel, but they have reached out to DC agencies (DGS, DPW, & DHCD) that control the area to take care of the property.
4. What is the capacity of the bridge? How many people can be on it safely?
  - 4.1 At this time, we are looking into the egress of the bridge park which will determine the capacity of the bridge. The project team will have a more definitive answer during the next phase of the project.
5. What is the maximum width of the bridge?
  - 5.1 The maximum width of the bridge is 143 feet.
6. Are there plans to plant trees on the bridge?

# Meeting Minutes

- 6.1 We are working on incorporating trees in many areas. One of the many benefits is that the upper decks shade the lower level but there will also be trees in many areas. There is a grove of trees along the play area and at the entrances on both sides of the Bridge.
7. What are the plans to provide security?
  - 7.1 The Bridge will have park rangers on site to both answer visitors' questions and keep an eye on the space. Throughout the area we will have Closed Circuit Cameras. There will also be two-way call boxes at regular intervals along the Park. We continue to work with DC Metro Police and Homeland Security to ensure the park is a safe gathering space for all visitors.
8. Are additional piers necessary to help support the bridge and where will they be located?
  - 8.1 There will be two additional columns, one in front of the two piers to the east of the center of the bridge. An additional pier is also proposed on land within the Anacostia Park, adjacent to Anacostia Park Drive.
9. What is the traffic Plan during construction?
  - 9.1 As part of the environmental review process, we need to look at the initial constructability as we go into final design along with how we will access the space during construction.
10. Is there a trash collection plan?
  - 10.1 BBAR is working to develop a comprehensive maintenance plan that will include trash and recycling.
11. Are you planning to allow for rentals of kayaks/canoes?
  - 11.1 Outside of the Environmental Education Center there will access to a floating dock with kayaks and canoes. During the week, these will be used by visiting school groups. On the weekends, they will be available for rental.
12. Who is going to manage the Environmental Education Center?
  - 12.1 Since the beginning of the project, we have been partnering with the Anacostia Watershed Society. AWS has been leading environmental education in D.C. for the last 30 years and working to restore the Anacostia River.
13. How many bathrooms will there be? Will there be more women's than men's bathroom?
  - 13.1 There will be restrooms in the café area as well as on the upper and lower level of the Environmental Education Center. We should have an exact count in May 2020 as we complete this design phase.
14. MLK and Good Hope is a dangerous intersection for pedestrians. Has there been any extra

# Meeting Minutes

study on that?

14.1 The DDOT traffic team is working on improvements of the intersection.

15. How will visitors arrive to the park?

15.1 The Anacostia River Festival has provided a great way to test how people come down as we get 7000 – 9000 festival attendees. At past festivals, 50% attendees walked, biked or took public transportation. The park is in walking distance from Anacostia Metro Station as people can access Anacostia Park next to the Metro parking garage. There are a number of bus lines that stop on either end of the bridge including the 90, 92, P6 and the Circulator.

16. Are there plans for DDOT to repair the sidewalk along MLK from the Anacostia Metro Station and 11th Street Bridge?

16.1 This has been raised with our partners at DDOT to ensure there is safe and accessible paths between the metro station and the park.

17. How long is this bridge going to be open? Is it open for 24 hours or will it have a specific hours of operation?

17.1 The buildings such as café and Environmental Education Center will be closed at a certain time in the evenings. Although we are continuing to study this issue, a majority of September 25 public meeting attendees thought access to the park should remain open by show of hands.

18. The website said that you are trying to raise \$74MM for the actual construction of the bridge; how close are you to that goal?

18.1 Last Fall we hired a Capital Campaign Consultant to run a feasibility analysis. We now describe our goal as a \$139MM project that includes both the Park's equitable development strategies, bricks and mortar costs as well as a \$10MM reserve fund for operations and maintenance. To date we have secured \$114MM which represents 80% towards our goal.

19. How is the community involved in the project?

19.1 During the design competition, we had representation from local stakeholders who helped select our design team of OMA+OLIN. As we are moving forward, we are bringing that group together on a regular basis to provide on-going feedback on the park's design. We are planning a public meeting in April, 2020 and will present a project update at that time.

20. What will be the pet policy on the park?

20.1 People can bring their pets to the Park on a leash.

21. Are there plans to turn the old CSX train tracks next to the 295 freeway into a bike / pedestrian trail?

# Meeting Minutes

- 21.1 DDOT is nearing completion of the feasibility study and conceptual design for the Shepherd Branch Trail and will make the documents publicly available. Although the intended trail corridor appears to be open and available, it is owned by CSX Transportation and is classified as inactive railroad. Additionally, PEPCO has an easement along the corridor for existing electrical transmission. Obtaining rights for DDOT to use the land as a trail requires significant right-of-way discussion with CSX and PEPCO. Accordingly, DDOT does not yet have an estimated schedule for further design or construction, but the Department remains enthusiastic about this trail.
- 22. What documents are going out as these documents and plans are generated by the NEPA process?
  - 22.1 Preliminary Engineering will produce preliminary engineering plans, estimate and a bridge type, size and location (TS&L) report.
  - 22.2 As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, DDOT will complete a Re-Evaluation (document) of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges Final Environment Impact Statement (EIS) documentation approved in 2007 and previously re-evaluated in December 2008, July 2009, December 2013, and January 2014 . The Re-Evaluation is being completed to determine if there are environmental impacts associated with the Bridge Park that were not considered in the 11th Street Bridges Project Final EIS and if those impacts are determined to be “significant” which could possibly require additional documentation. As part of the re-evaluation document, a wetland and stream delineation report and hazardous materials memorandum will be prepared. Through the re-evaluation process and through agency coordination additional documentation may be prepared including but not limited to cultural / historic resources, socioeconomic, endangered and threatened Species, and indirect and cumulative impacts.
  - 22.3 The National Park Services is also completing a Categorical Exclusion document to comply with their NEPA requirements for the transfer of jurisdiction (minor land transfer).
- 23. Will there be alcohol and smoking allowed in the park?
  - 23.1 Like other DC parks, there will be no alcohol or smoking allowed, although the café may sell beer and wine.
- 24. How will construction effect Anacostia Riverwalk Trail?
  - 24.1 Pedestrian detours will be put in place to help mitigate impacts to the Anacostia

# Meeting Minutes

Riverwalk Trail.

25. What programming planned for winter?

25.1 We are exploring a range of winter programming including a holiday market and ice sculpture show.

26. What is your plan to hire from the local community?

26.1 BBAR has led more than a dozen construction training sessions at Skyland Workforce Center to ensure local residents can successfully apply for jobs building the park. For more information on these trainings, please visit:

<https://www.skylandworkforcecenter.org/> As a Ward 8 based non-profit, BBAR will also ensure local residents are hired to work at the park when open (engineers, café, environmental education center, landscaping, etc.) These are key strategies in BBAR's Equitable Development Plan.