

ONONDAGA CREEKWALK PHASE II

Public Hearing

Series 3



- ▶ Andrew Maxwell – Director of Policy and Innovation, City of Syracuse
- ▶ Owen Kerney – Assistant Director for City Planning
- ▶ Russell Houck, PE – City of Syracuse
- ▶ Charles Stanton, PE – C&S Engineers, Inc.

INTRODUCTIONS – PROJECT TEAM



- ▶ Please sign in
- ▶ Please note nearest exit in case of fire
- ▶ A stenographer is present to record this meeting
- ▶ Public Hearing – We cannot address questions during the presentation, there will be a formal comment period. Fill out registration cards and hand in, after registered speakers are finished general questions and comments will be accepted

HOUSEKEEPING



- ▶ Housekeeping (complete)
- ▶ Purpose of meeting
- ▶ Project background
- ▶ Technical presentation
- ▶ Right-of-Way acquisition procedures
- ▶ Next steps
- ▶ Public question and comment
- ▶ Close meeting and closing statements
- ▶ “Open house” after meeting

AGENDA



- ▶ Public Hearing for Onondaga Creekwalk Phase II
- ▶ Provide brief background of Project
- ▶ Presentation of Preferred Alternative developed during the public input process
- ▶ Solicit and record comments for consideration during development of Final Design Report

PURPOSE OF MEETING



- ▶ Vision: Trail that runs from Onondaga Lake to Dorwin Avenue
- ▶ Where possible, follows Onondaga Creek
- ▶ Three phases
 - ▶ Phase I – Onondaga Lake to Armory Square – COMPLETE
 - ▶ Phase II – Armory Square to Kirk Park – CURRENT
 - ▶ Phase III – Kirk Park to Dorwin Avenue - FUTURE
- ▶ Forms the backbone of a future interconnected trail system
- ▶ Emphasis on connection with neighborhoods

BACKGROUND – WHAT IS THE ONONDAGA CREEKWALK?



Why?

- ▶ Part of all projects receiving Federal money
- ▶ Review of project plan and project impacts
- ▶ Designed to allow public to voice their opinion
- ▶ Structured to allow comments to be incorporated into design
- ▶ Complete record of this meeting and comments received will be incorporated into the Final Design Report
- ▶ Public hearing is required due to number of potential property acquisitions – approximately 34

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS – 1

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



How?

- ▶ All comments are welcome
- ▶ Mail provided form or email to comments@onondagacreekwalk.com
- ▶ 2 week comment period

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS – 2

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Comments will be evaluated on:

- ▶ Do they fit within the Project goals?
- ▶ Do they fit within the funding criteria?
- ▶ Feasibility of suggestion
- ▶ Engineering review
- ▶ Practicality
- ▶ Project budget

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS – 3

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



- ▶ Public input process was further divided into 3 steps
 - ▶ 1 – Presentation of 2008 study alternatives
 - ▶ 2 – Presentation of revised alternatives incorporating public comments
 - ▶ 2a – Community advisory group (2 meetings)
 - ▶ 3 – Public Hearing and presentation of preferred alternative
- ▶ Eight total meetings were completed for steps 1 and 2, one final meeting for step 3 due to public hearing requirement

PUBLIC INPUT APPROACH

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Onondaga Creekwalk Phase II

- ▶ Continuation of “Phase I” – MOST/Armory Square to Onondaga Lake
- ▶ Current concept plans are a result of a study completed in 2008 and comments from first series of meetings earlier this year
- ▶ Encompasses area from Colvin Street to MOST/West Jefferson Street

PROJECT AND PROGRESS – 1

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Onondaga Creekwalk Phase II Timeline

- ▶ Early 2015 – First series of meetings
- ▶ Mid 2015 - Second series of meetings
- ▶ July 2016 – Public hearing
- ▶ Late 2015 – Survey and mapping
- ▶ September 2016 – Design report
- ▶ Fall 2016 – Start of final design
- ▶ 2016 to 2018 – Property acquisition phase
- ▶ 2018 to 2020 – Construction

PROJECT AND PROGRESS – 2

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Overall Goals

- ▶ Construct continuous pedestrian and bicycle trail
- ▶ Approximately 2.2 miles long
- ▶ GENERALLY following Onondaga Creek – “Onondaga Creek Corridor”
- ▶ Provide access to City neighborhoods including near West Side
- ▶ Possible opportunities for trailheads/nodes/parks and access points along trail

PROJECT AND PROGRESS – 3

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Design Considerations

- ▶ Where practical, dedicated trail with a desirable 13 foot wide path for bicycles and pedestrians, if cannot meet allows minimum 8-10 foot wide
- ▶ Where dedicated trail is not practical, utilize streets for bicycles and sidewalks for pedestrians
- ▶ ADA upgrades – sidewalk ramps, detectable warnings
- ▶ Public safety – dedicated street crossings, lighting, visibility
- ▶ Investigating use of COPs cameras, requires funding and coordination with Syracuse Police
- ▶ Investigating use of emergency lights/call boxes

PROJECT AND PROGRESS – 4

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



2016 Draft Design Report

- ▶ Reviewed available space, multiple routes
- ▶ Identified two feasible alternatives
- ▶ Through the course of six public meetings and community advisory group meetings, selected segments of the two feasible alternatives to make the preferred alternative

PROJECT SPECIFICS – 2

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



2016 Preliminary cost estimate

- ▶ \$7.562 million construction cost
- ▶ \$1.865 million right-of-way acquisitions cost
- ▶ Federal contribution of 80% of project cost
- ▶ City responsible for 20% of the project cost, or \$0.20 per dollar spent, in this case approximately \$1.885 million
- ▶ In comparison, Phase I was approximately \$6.2 million for construction

PROJECT SPECIFICS – 3

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Contracting goals

- ▶ Design phase (NOW)
 - ▶ 20% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal – exceeded at 32.7%
 - ▶ Survey, mapping, environmental professional services
- ▶ Construction phase (FUTURE)
 - ▶ 6.9% Female workforce Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) goal
 - ▶ 3.8% Minority workforce EEO goal
 - ▶ 6% DBE goal
- ▶ Current process does not allow for requirement for local workforce
 - ▶ City is requesting that project be included in USDOT local hire pilot program
 - ▶ Investigating opportunities for trail maintenance and planting by local conservation corps

PROJECT SPECIFICS – 4

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Common Elements

- ▶ Selective thinning of vegetation lining bank to open view to Creek
- ▶ ADA accessible ramps and walks
- ▶ Minimize number of changes in pedestrian/bicycle traffic patterns
- ▶ Lighting
- ▶ Striping to delineate path and channelize vehicles away from pedestrians as practicable
- ▶ Focus on moving pedestrians, but provision for rest areas
- ▶ Wayfinding signage

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 1

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 1 – Colvin Street to Midland Avenue

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 2 TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 1 – Colvin Street to Midland Avenue

Onondaga Creek Boulevard to South Avenue

- ▶ Dedicated parking at Hunt Avenue – Trailhead
- ▶ 13 foot wide asphalt path following Creek
- ▶ Canoe and kayak launch
- ▶ Path runs behind Traveler's Rest
- ▶ Path to run under South Avenue Bridge to avoid intersection and cost of improvements for crossing
- ▶ Lighting will be provided

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 3

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 1 – Colvin Street to Midland Avenue

South Avenue to Rich Street

- ▶ 13 foot wide asphalt path following Creek
- ▶ Closes a portion of Lower Onondaga Park Drive
- ▶ Leaves entrance to Park open for one-way traffic inbound
- ▶ Cross Rich Street bridge with widened sidewalk, keep traffic in two directions
- ▶ Lighting will be provided

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 4

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 1 – Colvin Street to Midland Avenue

Rich Street to Midland Avenue

- ▶ 10 foot wide asphalt path continues to South Avenue
- ▶ Potential green space between Rich Street and Hudson Street could have potential uses as a dog walk, fishing access, and picnic/day use area
- ▶ Extends and widens existing concrete sidewalk along Dr. MLK Street to 13 feet
- ▶ Widens existing permeable concrete path within green space from Dearborn Place to Midland Avenue to 13 feet
- ▶ Lighting will be supplemented along street and provided away from street
- ▶ Cross Midland Avenue bridge with widened sidewalk, keep traffic in two directions

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 5

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 1 – Colvin Street to Midland Avenue

- ▶ Uses Onondaga Creek Blvd and Lower Onondaga Park Dr. – part of which will be shared-use with vehicles
- ▶ South Avenue at-grade crossing with signal
- ▶ Marginal Street and part of Hovey Street – shared use with vehicles
- ▶ Hovey Street access to creek shelf – but closed during high water events
- ▶ Significant retaining wall cost to build along shelf
- ▶ Not chosen due to cost, limits to access, and presence of alternate path

ALTERNATIVE 2 – COMPARISON 1

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 2 –

Midland Ave to Seymour Street

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 6

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 2 – Midland Ave to Seymour Street

Midland Ave to Temple Street, 1 of 2

- ▶ 13 foot wide asphalt path
- ▶ Cross Midland near Hovey Street with “hawk” signal
- ▶ Path will run at the rim (top of bank), slightly depressed to allow for separation between back yards and path
- ▶ Will require acquisition of property to accomplish
 - ▶ Acquisitions will be discussed later in the presentation
- ▶ Shields will be installed on the house side of lighting to minimize spill over

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 7

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 2 – Midland Ave to Seymour Street

Midland Ave to Temple Street, 2 of 2

- ▶ Current plan is to demolish the Oxford Inn and the building at 200 Oxford Street
- ▶ This area will be converted to green space and potential parking and day use area
- ▶ Current plan is to demolish 427 Midland Ave (commercial property), no green space is planned as part of this project, will be looked at by City for community use
- ▶ Retaining walls will be utilized adjacent to Tallman Avenue to reduce impacts on properties
- ▶ Current plan is to demolish 401-403 Temple Street and convert to green space

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 8

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 2 – Midland Ave to Seymour Street

Temple Street to West Onondaga Street

- ▶ 13 foot wide asphalt path
- ▶ Convert existing lot to green space and day use area
- ▶ Potential Creek overlook and fishing access
- ▶ Creekwalk gateway at West Onondaga Street

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 9

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 2 – Midland Ave to Seymour Street

West Onondaga Street to Seymour Street

- ▶ Path now follows West Street
- ▶ Widen existing concrete sidewalk to 10 feet between West Onondaga and Shonnard Street
- ▶ Bicycles will diverge from path between Shonnard Street and Seymour Street to match cycle track on West Street
- ▶ Shonnard Street and Seymour Street intersection crossings will be narrowed and parking added
 - ▶ Shonnard – 3 lanes to 2 lanes
 - ▶ Seymour – 4 ½ lanes to 3 lanes
 - ▶ Reduces pedestrian travel time “in street”
 - ▶ Matches approach configuration for both streets

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 10

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 2 – Midland Ave to Seymour Street

- ▶ Utilizes existing street ROW along Midland and West Taylor
- ▶ Widen existing sidewalk and narrow green space – will impact some existing tree plantings
- ▶ More than a dozen driveway crossings
- ▶ Re-build 7 sets of stairs to residences
- ▶ Fewer property acquisitions than preferred alternative
- ▶ Community advisory group indicated a preference for path location behind houses, at the top of Creek bank
- ▶ Not chosen due to driveway impacts and input of community advisory group

ALTERNATIVE 2 – COMPARISON 2

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 3 –

Seymour Street to Armory Square

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 11

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 3 – Seymour Street to Armory Square

Seymour Street to Walton Street

- ▶ Utilize existing West Street cycle track; improve sidewalk
- ▶ Convert existing striped islands to curbed islands with plantings
- ▶ Supplement existing lighting
- ▶ Cross under railroad bridge and join with existing sidewalk between West Street and Walton Street

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 12

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 3 –Seymour Street to Armory Square

Walton Street/Armory Square to Phase I Trailhead

- ▶ Create new link on City-owned property between Connective Corridor walk and existing Walton Street sidewalk
- ▶ Selective rehabilitation of sidewalk (if needed)
- ▶ Lighting enhancements not needed

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE – 13

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



Section 3 –Seymour Street to Armory Square

- ▶ Utilizes West Onondaga Street sidewalk within existing street ROW
- ▶ Crosses (twice) major intersection of West Onondaga/ West Adams/Seymour/Shonnard
- ▶ Challenging width constraints in Trolley Lot
- ▶ Eliminates significant number of parking spaces in Trolley Lot
- ▶ Non-standard width at RR underpass
- ▶ Requires change to one-way operation and elimination of some parking on West Jefferson Street
- ▶ Not chosen due to challenges listed above

ALTERNATIVE 2 – COMPARISON 2

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION



RIGHT OF WAY

- **One residential building acquisition.**
- **Potentially three commercial building acquisitions.**
- **Potential acquisition of approximately 3 vacant parcels and 22 strip acquisitions from private properties**
- **Potential acquisition of some County owned parcels**

ROLE OF THE RIGHT OF WAY GROUP

- **Acquire the real estate needed for the project.**
- **Determine the compensation due the property owners for the real estate being acquired.**
- **Payment of compensation due the property owner for the real estate being acquired.**

STEPS IN THE ACQUISITION PROCESS

- **FIVE KEY ACTIVITIES:**
 - 1. Inspection of property**
 - 2. Determine compensation due the
property owner**
 - 3. Make offer**
 - 4. Legal acquisition of property**
 - 5. Payment to property owner**

1. INSPECTION OF PROPERTY

- **Owner involvement**
- **Copy of map and information packet**
- **Determine physical characteristics**
- **Determine legal interests**

2. DETERMINE COMPENSATION DUE THE PROPERTY OWNER

- **Staff or consultant appraiser**
- **Inspection of property**
- **Appraisals prepared**
- **Fair Market Value**

3. MAKE OFFER

- **One offer system, using the full approved appraised amount**
- **Written by mail, except offers for relocations, which are made in person.**
- **Agreements included**
- **Follow-up contact**

4. LEGAL ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

- **File map in County Clerk's Office**
- **Service by certified mail**

5. PAYMENT TO PROPERTY OWNERS

- Agreement required
- Closing papers
- Coordination with Department of Law
- Statutory interest & pro-rata of taxes
- Payment

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANTS

- Each residential site occupant will be personally interviewed to determine his/her specific relocation needs.
- Comparable replacement housing will be available and offered to all residential site occupants.

REPLACEMENT HOUSING BENEFITS CONSIST OF:

RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANTS

- **Supplemental Housing payments**
 - Supplemental Housing Payment
 - Eligible Closing Costs, if applicable
 - Loss of Favorable Mortgage Financing,
if applicable
- **Moving Expenses**
 - Self move option
 - Actual Move option

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

COMMERICAL OCCUPANTS

- **Moving & Re-establishment expenses**
 - disconnecting & reconnecting equipment
 - packing & unpacking
 - storage charges, if necessary
 - searching fees for replacement property
 - and eligible re-establishment expenses up to \$25,000

OR

- **Payment “In Lieu of” moving expenses**

IMPORTANT POINTS

- **To be eligible for relocation benefits the State must have initiated negotiations. Don't move until speaking with someone from the NYSDOT's Right of Way group.**
- **No site occupants will be required to move without at least 90 days written notice.**

BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

- **Available on the table are:**
 - **How Your State Acquires Property for Public Purposes**
 - **If You Must Move... We Can Help!**

- ▶ Compile official minutes of public hearing, including comments - Appx 3 weeks from today
- ▶ Publish official minutes on City of Syracuse website - Appx 3 weeks from today
- ▶ Review comments and evaluate for incorporation into Final Design Report
- ▶ Submit Final Design Report to NYSDOT - Late August, 2016
- ▶ When Design Approval is issued, may begin property acquisition and final design, then construction

NEXT STEPS



- ▶ In an effort to allow everyone to hear statements and questions, please speak directly into microphone
- ▶ Spanish interpreter available
- ▶ Please state your name and address
- ▶ Those who filled out cards to reserve a spot will be called first, then the floor will be opened for everyone else
- ▶ Please do not shout out questions or interrupt speakers, we are only allowed to address the person who is speaking
- ▶ If we cannot answer a question, we will let you know
- ▶ Please note that a stenographer is present to capture what is being said

PUBLIC QUESTION AND COMMENT



- ▶ Public comment open for two weeks from meeting date, August 9, 2016
- ▶ Comments should be sent to either
 - ▶ comments@onondagacreekwalk.com
 - ▶ Russell Houck, 233 East Washington Street, 401 City Hall, Syracuse, NY 13202
- ▶ Comments sent elsewhere may not make it to us!
- ▶ Staff will be available after the meeting at open house to discuss the presentation

CLOSING





OPEN HOUSE

THANK YOU!

