



## COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

### Glendale Narrows Riverwalk–Community Meeting #3 “Jewel at the Bend”

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Glendale Narrows Riverwalk project is a unique community amenity that will increase access for residents and visitors to the Los Angeles River and Griffith Park. Phase I, open to the public since 2012, provides a recreational trail, two parks, public art installation and the City’s first equestrian facility. Phase II provides for the design and development of a new pathway, two parks, and a structure over the existing culvert to connect both pathways. Phase III provides for the preliminary design and eventual construction of a bridge across the Los Angeles River and for another across the Verdugo Wash.

The City of Glendale hosted the final of three community workshops for Phase II and III of the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk project on the evening of Thursday, December 11, 2014.

The current project under design will connect segments of the trail that are already completed. A crossing over for the existing flood control culvert to connect the existing bike paths will be designed. Two new parks will also be designed and constructed—one at the culvert location known as “Flower Plaza” and the other called “Confluence Park” at the southeast end of the bike path at the Verdugo

**MEETING LOCATION:**  
Pacific Community Center  
Gymnasium 501 S. Pacific  
Avenue Glendale, CA  
91204

**MEETING DATE/TIME:**  
Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



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Wash (adjacent to the 134 Freeway). Proposition 84 is funding the park construction and Measure R is funding the culvert crossing. Funds from Measure R are also being used for the current "Bridge Options Study". Although the bridge construction documents and construction of the bridge are not presently funded, the Bridge Study will enable the City to prepare for a search for funding.

#### MEETING OVERVIEW

John Merkler of Atkins began the workshop with a project overview. He introduced the two projects, the Riverwalk and the LA River and Verdugo Wash Bridges, which are linked but have two different funding sources. Part One of the workshop was to display the preliminary designs for Flower Plaza and the Confluence Park. Scott Horsley and Eric Haley from EPT presented the park designs and described their features. The purpose of Part Two was to review the Garden Bridge Conceptual Design. The Garden Bridge was the favored bridge design presented at Community Meeting #2 held on November 29, 2014. Michael Fitzpatrick and Hunter Ruthrauff joined Joe Tognoli from TyLin to review the development of the Garden Bridge Design and its amenities. Approximately 47 community members participated in the December 11th meeting.

### Outreach Conducted for the December 11, 2014 Workshop

Three weeks prior to the December 11, 2014 Community Meeting #3, Katherine Padilla & Associates (KPA) implemented various public engagement strategies including stakeholder education and involvement targeting elected officials, the business community and members of neighborhood associations, recreational, environmental, community-based organizations as well as other interested persons. KPA conducted the following outreach:

- Announcements at Glendale City Council and at board meetings of community organization in Glendale and the neighborhoods of Griffith Park/Los Feliz and Atwater Village. Flyers were also distributed;
- Flyers distributed at public counters in adjacent Los Angeles neighborhoods and throughout the City of Glendale;
- E-mail blasts notifying community members of the Meeting;
- Phone calls to key stakeholders representing community organizations requesting that flyers and meeting notices be forwarded to organizations' members and placed on websites for wider promotion;
- Press release for City of Glendale to disseminate to media outlets.

### Public Comments

After the presentations and feedback, Sam Gennaway of KPA facilitated a dialogue about the designs and other issues. Members of the project team including Kevin Carter from the City of Glendale, Joe Tognoli, TyLin, and John Merkler, Atkins, addressed questions. Katherine Padilla Otanez of KPA captured the comments during the discussion.

#### FLOWER PLAZA

*Q: What about walking straight across the bridge- instead of sidewalks?*

A: There will be direct street access from sidewalk to trail – not ADA compliant.

#### CONFLUENCE PARK

*Q: Where's the parking lot?*

A: No additional parking lots are anticipated at this time.

*Q: Other amenities?*

A: Park Lighting-Yes / Restrooms-No

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*Q: Where will the entrance be located?*

A: Will relocate, but keep the gate currently at end of Phase I (Approximately 200 feet northeast of current location).

*Q: Will there be a steep grade at the culvert?*

A: It will be approximately 5%.

*Q: How about a third sidewalk at the east end for access?*

A: Considered but will not meet ADA requirements.

*Q: Are there trees included in the park landscape design?*

A: Yes. Fifteen feet from the LA River vertical wall as per Army Corp of Engineers regulations.

*Q: Will there be traffic lights and fancy cross walks?*

A: Future traffic signal at Flower and Fairmont

## COMMENTS

- "Great Idea, it will bring community together."
- "It is placemaking and connects Atwater District."
- "There is a concern: (Metro's) Doran Crossing Alternative involves Doran loop with an expected completion date of 2016. I have been attending Metro meetings."
- "Grade-Fairmont going south with no south sidewalk."

## GARDEN BRIDGE

*Q: Can we place a parking spot for bikes?*

A: Yes. We will look into designated areas where bikes can stop.

*Q: How will this all look from the neighborhood? What are the heights of the structures?*

A. Height of the bridge is approximately 24-25 feet above the bicycle path; underside of the bridge is approximately 3 feet above LA River retaining wall, with an approximately 5-foot bridge thickness for structure; and approximately 14-16 feet in canopy height.

*Q: What about operational issues?*

A: Those will still need to be worked out with LA side. Glendale Riverwalk is closed at dusk. From DreamWorks to Confluence may be open beyond dusk.

*Q: How will you separate cyclists from pedestrians?*

A: 18 ft. width can accommodate different users. The design may use different materials. There may be a center stripe to separate users.

*Q: How do you maintain plants that grow over the walls?*

A: There will be no vines on the walls of the LA River per requirements by the Army Corp of Engineers.

*Q: How will you water plants or generate energy?*

A: You are referring to the Solar Arch which was presented as one of the bridge design concepts at Meeting #2. Some of the ideas may be implemented in the final design. A variety of ideas are still being explored such as bringing water from the river to water plants. Right now, the focus is on making the conceptual bridge attractive. We can revisit sustainable concepts during the final design.

*Q: Great design but what happened to solar bridge design?*

A: While not shown-we-the city may still consider the Solar Design.

*Q: How does this coincide with Army Corp of Engineers LA Conservancy goals of removing concrete?*

A: Future plans for the River have been considered throughout the process. We expect that the Flower Plaza and Confluence Park, funded by Prop 84 funds will be in constructed - by spring 2016. We have coordinated with many agencies; we will continue to do so. For example, Alternate 20 does not lock in what we can do with Confluence Bridge.

*Q: What Phase is the Bridges?*

A: The bridges are Phase 3 elements and are not funded presently. The intent is to use these concept

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designs for find grant funding. The Verdugo bridge will be similar to the LA river "Garden" scheme.

#### COMMENTS

- "Very impressed! People on freeways will want to stop."
- "Blue and red lighting looks like a carnival-mimic nature in the colors."
- "Simpler is better."
- "Thank you for incorporating community ideas."
- "Happy we are moving forward."
- "Tell us how we can help support funding to complete the bridge."
- "In terms of pavilions, I believe that the "look" is contrary to open space. They are not a good idea."
- "There is a lots of wildlife. Think about the bridge could affect wildlife."
- "There is an image in which the foliage looks like a hat. You can use the most discussed or other ideas."

#### WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- I would like to see murals or some form of art incorporated beneath the bridge (seen by those recreating within the river). Plus will the LA River Corp. have access to Art funding? Be careful of interactions between pedestrians and bikers given connectivity to active bike path on other side in LA; Appreciate the connectivity to North Atwater given LARCC's LaKretz bridge in N. Atwater Park breaking ground in Q1 2015 and our recent receipt of funds for bike rental and café in the N. Atwater Park area in close proximity to our bridge, which would create a river landing (with kayaking launches); Confluence Park-love utilization of dead space with seating walls and maybe incorporate plaza/amphitheater space or interesting art space; As a small organization, we strongly believe in creation of place-making spaces, so this site and your work in connecting into North Atwater, where there is an existing park is fantastic!

Wash Bridge-YAY! Again connectivity to Atwater is much needed per aforementioned comments. Would appreciate bike/pedestrian access via the bridge since, the North Atwater funding we have relates to bike activity in the future river landing in that Atwater area.

- The bridge location over the wash should be reconsidered given plans for ALT 20. Its current location severely limits what can be done on the LA side. Let me know?
- Hi! Nice work! I wonder if you would ask a wildlife biologist how to design the bridge and park connections to connect the missing linkage from Verdugo Wash to Griffith Park. Miss You All!
- I prefer the "Mesh Bridge" option. Simple is better-futuristic designs go out of style eventually. If the "Garden Bridge" happens, please no colored lights.
- Question of security maintenance not answered clearly. Not clear that the bridge would be accessible 24/7. Prospects for neighborhoods with the Phase II/III Glendale Narrows Riverwalk? Negative impact on communities?
- I recently learned of the river crossing connecting residents of Glendale to Griffith Park. I am in support of this bridge, both as evidence of the revitalization of the L.A. River and for its potential for economic and recreational benefit to the City. I have demonstrated this belief by my donation for a similar river bridge between North Atwater Village and Griffith Park. This cable-stay bridge will function as both a pedestrian-equestrian-bicyclist crossing and a first "flag" planted in the riverbed to announce its renewal. I recently saw some of the concepts circulated for your Riverwalk bridge, and I wanted to respectfully submit my comments as part of the public process. I see our two crossings as "sister bridges" that will be linked throughout the 21st century. Much as a family of early 20th century bridges celebrate the river's history prior to its channelization, our new

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bridges will celebrate the river’s revitalization and conversion to a world-class urban greenway. Based on my review of the conceptals circulated online, I support Option C (The Crossover) and Option A (the Eye). I am looking forward to the ground breaking for the north Atwater Bridge later this year, and for its Glendale sister shortly thereafter.

## Next Steps

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Kevin Carter provided a summary of future activities. They include continued completion of the design and construction of the Phase II, including the two parks and the pathways. The project team will complete the Bridge options study and refine the preferred designs, present to City Council for approval, then seek funding for construction. The public was cautioned that the design may change to reflect funding constraints, in which case the City reserves its option to develop any of the three other schemes prioritized in Workshop #2 to match the funding sources available in a reasonable amount of time.