



Washougal Towncenter Revitalization (WTR) Project – Online Open House

OVERVIEW

The City of Washougal hosted an online open house on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. The open house was held virtually via Zoom.

CONTENT PRESENTED

- Project team introductions
- Project overview
- Recent updates and project status
- Timeline moving forward
- How to stay informed about the project (project website, online survey, project factsheet)

DISCUSSION

Following a presentation by the project team, the project team opened the discussion to questions from attendees. A community member asked if there are similar projects in surrounding cities the project team is looking at for inspiration. Jeremy responded that this project is a unique opportunity to have multiple components together in one space so there is not a close example, but there are examples to look at for the individual components. The project is an opportunity to make this space unique to Washougal that considers the location and history. The City added that the Battle Ground Community Center is a good example of how a community center can seamlessly connect to an outdoor space.

A community member asked how far outside the boundary this project will look, if there is an overall vision for how this will connect to the city, and if the overall traffic impacts of this project will be considered existing traffic impingements. Jeremy responded that the boundaries for the project design will be look at where the physical improvements will be focused. He added that the project will consider pedestrian connections within the project site to city hall, mirroring a “civic campus” design. He also mentioned that public parking is a component of the project design. The community member responded with specific concerns about traffic impacts and commented that Washougal River Road is a very limited access road with congestion. There is also a problem on 32nd Street at mile 5. They also commented that the walkshed at the project site is nearly non-existent to the north because the streets do not connect, and there needs to be more north-south and east-west connections.

A community member commented that the project overview created more questions for them about the layout, priorities, and what will be accomplished by 2025. Jeremy responded that the project team does not have definitive dates for construction, or a layout determined yet. He reminded participants that there is an online survey open now and that is the best way to provide comments on the project components at this point. The City will be hosting the Park Board meeting on November 16th and any participants are welcome to attend to provide additional feedback then.

A community member asked if there will be an open design process with the community rather than just engaging in information sharing. Jeremy responded that there will be another open house, likely in January, to further engage with the public. There will be more graphics at that point to engage in a deeper design process with the public. Results from the survey will also be used to help inform the initial design.

A community member asked how many people have responded to the survey and if the City has a goal for the number of people to reach through the survey. The project team shared that of November 14, the survey had received over 230 submissions. The City is hoping to reach as many people as possible through the survey. The City applied for a recreation grant to complete this project. This is the most supported project at the city, with support from the Port, Camas, and other stakeholders.

Community members thanked the project team for their time and generally expressed excitement to see how the project moves forward.

Optional Demographic Information

Consistent with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act, the City collects demographic data to encourage inclusive public involvement and to evaluate project impacts. Participants were asked to self-identify demographic information through a separate survey. All responses were optional and individual names are not reported.

Gender

Male	2
Female	3
Other	0
Prefer not to disclose	0

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	1
Not Hispanic or Latino	3

Race

American Indian/Alaska Native	1
Asian	1
Black or African American	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
Caucasian	4
Other	0
Prefer not to disclose	0

Languages Spoken at Home

English Only	5
Tagalog	0
Spanish	1
Korean	0
Russian	0
Chinese	0
German	1
Arabic	0
Vietnamese	0
Prefer not to disclose	0
Other	1 (Greek, Turkish, Kreyol, Quechcoa)