

Sellwood Bridge

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The PAG reached agreement on D very quickly, and almost as quickly on other elements of the project. A pedestrian signal on the east end, they felt, would provide adequate access for bikes and pedestrians, while a conventional signal could result in traffic backups during rush hour and tempt motorists to cut through neighborhood streets.

Regarding the west end Don Hanson,

chair of the Portland Planning Commission, who reviewed the project a week later, said, "Traffic circles look good, but they take up a lot of space. Here reducing the impact is the way to go."

Even with a signal, transportation planner Mauricio LeClerc told the Commission that designing the west approach to the bridge will involve "a huge number of issues."

LeClerc later told *The Post* that this would include providing access to roads from the north and south and a future streetcar, providing for access to private properties that include the Staff-Jennings and Macadam Bay moorages and Riverview Cemetery's funeral home, and avoiding adverse impacts to the riverbank and Powers Memorial Marine Park. In addition, the land has a history of geologic issues and slides.

In the past, Task Force members had accused the PAG of ignoring their recommendations. This time PAG members cited the Task Force's work in explaining

their own votes.

Multnomah County Commission Chair Ted Wheeler said, "I was swayed by the task force. They weren't unanimous but there was a strong consensus, and they gave sensible reasons. There's a significant impact either way, and people will be displaced, but D is more likely to get funded. No one wants phasing, but it's still an option with D."

Mayor Adams agreed, although he added, "We need to be responsive to those most affected."

Lynn Peterson of Clackamas County said, "Not having seen a finer citizen group, I will support all their intentions."

State Rep. Deborah Kafoury agreed, although she said she shared Councilor Liberty's concerns about costs. A priority, she said, should be to help those displaced, "and as quickly as possible." Even Councilor Liberty, while saying that he "would have preferred a different menu," supported Alternative D.

Budget Forum

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ment and Finance put the budget forums together. Butman said she was pleased with the discussions she saw this year and with the electronic voting, which was introduced for the first time.

Butman will be compiling the data and comments collected during the three forums to present to Mayor Adams before the City Council budget meetings starting March 9. The information will also be available online at www.portlandonline.com/communitybudget.

Anyone who couldn't attend a forum but still wants to make their voice heard is encouraged to submit an online testimony on the website.

The City Council remains hopeful that this system will allow community members to take an active role in forming the budget. "After all," Mayor Adams said, "we get delegations from all over the world to see how we do things in Portland."

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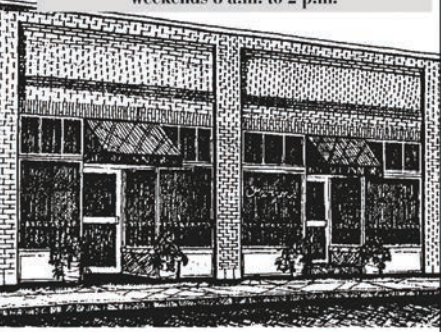
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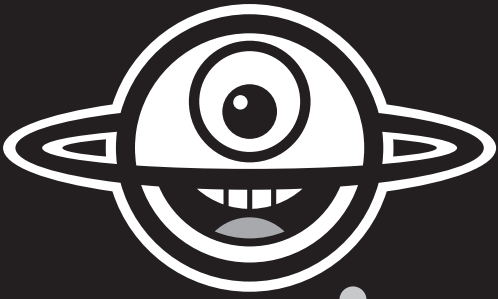
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