

Planners prepare street plan for north end of South Waterfront; Open house June 11

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

Representatives of the City of Portland bureaus of Planning and Sustainability, and Transportation, and the Portland Development Commission, presented a proposed street plan for the north segment of the South Waterfront, between Southwest Gibbs Street and Marquam Bridge, to the Portland Design Commission last month.

There will be an open house to answer questions and take public input about the plan from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. June 11 at David Evans and Associates, 2100 S.W. River Parkway.

Such a plan was completed in 2007,

Portland Bureau of Transportation’s Art Pearce told the Commission, but it didn’t take into account the proposed new Oregon Health and Sciences University campus north of the Ross Island Bridge, or current plans to bring the MAX Light Rail Milwaukie Line to Southwest Porter Street.

A key feature of the plan is the continuation of Southwest Bond Avenue one-way northbound through the district, and shifting the northbound Portland Streetcar tracks to this street. There would be a bike path separated from the tracks.

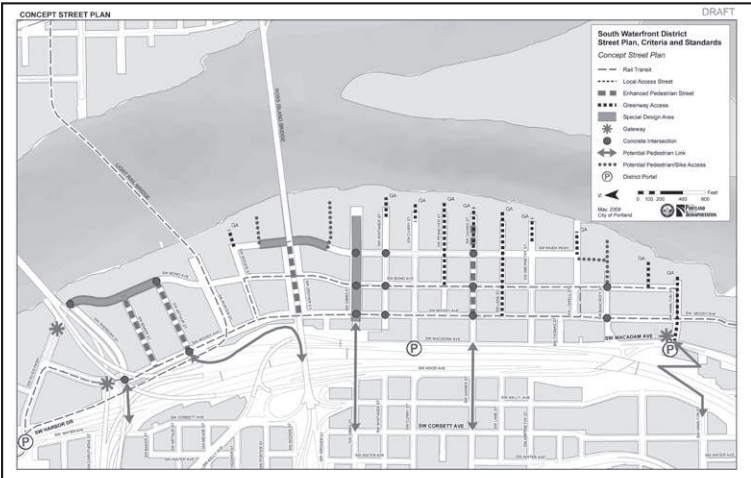
Pearce and planner Troy Doss conceded that there was “not consensus” among the “stakeholders” about all aspects of the plan. Specifically, the Zidell

Corporation, which owns a large part of the area, does not concur with plans for a Ross Island Bridge Park under that structure or with how the new facilities will be paid for.

Design Commission member Gwen Millius also questioned the bridge park, particularly since it will contain athletic fields. “It may be okay for practice, but I can’t imagine wanting

to play a game down there,” she said.

Doss replied that the bridge was quite high at this point and that there was relatively little noise below.



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