Public Meeting – Upper Buckley Water Quality Project

Meeting Notes 09/16/2022

1. What is the new pipe made of?
   1. The new pipes will be a combination of various materials including PVC, HDPE, and SRPE.
2. What if the rain comes and nothing is done?
   1. We have installed a storm water bypass system designed to handle major storm events.
3. What capacity do the pumps have to bypass the broken pipe?
   1. We have asked the contractor to be able to bypass stormwater flows that are typically experienced at this location.
4. Is Tucci going to be involved in this project?
   1. Tucci is not involved with this project. They are however involved with the neighboring project, Street Initiative #14.
5. How do you prevent more damage to the green space?
   1. Our contractor will be asked to try to minimize disturbance to the green space as much as possible, while maintaining a safe work zone.
6. Why are we not routing around the greenspace like we are routing around houses?
   1. There are many reasons why we are not proposing to route around the green space. For various reasons such as impacts to additional neighborhoods, conflicts with other underground utilities, cost, etc., it is not feasible to do so.
7. Will the gulch grow back?
   1. Yes, we will perform vegetative mitigation, and fully expect the gulch to fill back in with native trees and shrubs.
8. How is the stability of the slope if greenspace is disrupted?
   1. The slope will be restored to a condition very close to existing. New soils with better structural characteristics will be brought in to replace the loose soils the will be excavated from the gulch.
9. Will the new line run similarly to the old trunk line?
   1. The new line will be offset to the east, but will tie back into the existing line near the bottom of the slope.
10. What is the life expectancy of the pipe we are tying into?
    1. Conditional estimates could put the remaining useful life near or greater than 30 years.
11. When would you anticipate completing the temporary bypass and when would the permanent fix be completed?
    1. The temporary stormwater bypass operation will begin being set up the week of 9/20/22. At this time, we anticipate that the pipe portion of the permanent fix to be completed by the second week of November.
12. When the pipe goes down the gulch what does it do then, does it connect to existing pipes?
    1. Yes, when we construct the pipe down the hill, we will tie into existing sewer pipes.
13. Is the sanitary line in jeopardy?
    1. The sanitary line is not currently in jeopardy; however, a portion of it will have to be replaced to allow for the new stormwater alignment. It will be replaced in the same limits that the stormwater work will be occurring.
14. How deep is the pipe located below the bottom of the gulch?
    1. The pipes at the bottom of the gulch are approximately 8 to 10 feet deep.
15. What is the estimated cost of the current proposal versus the cost of the original proposal that involved shoring?
    1. We are not certain of this yet, as we do not have a formalized construction drawing ready for estimation. We anticipate additional cost, but we are trying to minimize cost overruns.
16. Will the contours of the gulch be close to what they are now when the project is completed?
    1. Yes, they contours will not be exactly the same, however, they will be very close to existing.
17. What will the slope look like during construction?
    1. All vegetation within the limits of the access road will be removed. There may be some adjacent impact, but we will try to minimize it as much as possible.
18. Have you thought about getting rid of part of Junett and expanding the gulch and greenspace?
    1. We have not seriously considered a reconfiguration of the current right-of-way. We intend to restore to a configuration which closely matches that before the start of construction.
19. How wide will the trench be?
    1. The trench fort he utilities will be about 12 feet wide. It will be centered within the access road which will be about 18 feet wide at the base and as much as 50 feet wide at the top.
20. Are you going to take a big excavator down into the gulch and what would happen if it got stuck down there?
    1. We must bring a big excavator down into the gulch to construct the necessary pipe improvements. We have consulted with our Geotechnical engineer and we do not believe there will be a situation that will prevent us from being able to remove it.
21. How many trees will be removed during this project?
    1. At this point we cannot say for sure; however, a best guess would be about 5 to 6. We will, however, remove any trees that we feel have been compromised and pose a safety risk.
22. The gulch is covered in invasive species. What is the long-term plan for clearing out the invasive species to keep the replacement trees alive?
    1. There are plans in place to remove invasive species for all gulches in the City; however, those locations are limited to open space properties owned by the City. General public right-of-way is not included in these plans. Unfortunately, much of Buckley Gulch is not owned by the City, but is general public right-of-way, including the southernmost portion of the gulch.
23. The communication has not been good so far. How widely will you publicize what is going on with this project going forward?
    1. We will look into the feasibility of providing weekly updates on our project website.
24. The community would like a representative of the community to meet with the City to discuss progress and problems associated with this project.
    1. We will look for an opportunity to engage with a representative regarding progress and problems associated with the project.
25. Could you give us a timeline for the completion of the project?
    1. Contract days for this project end in May of 2023. WE anticipate that most of the heavy digging and road restoration should be complete by January 2023, but there will be ongoing work to restore the slope and perform vegetation mitigation.
26. Concerns were brought up about the historic homes in the area and preservation efforts regarding the SEPA report and the housing ages not being correctly reported as well as the core drilling taking place on the stable side of the road.
    1. We will look into the SEPA documentation to determine if we made an error in our assessment.
    2. Geotechnical investigation was performed at the direction of a local professional geotechnical engineering firm. We relied on their expertise in determining the location of borings for this project.
27. Certain residents do not want the community garden to have the only voice for this project. Not all community members feel the same as the letter that was received from the community garden.
    1. It is noted that there is a difference of opinion between some of the community members.
28. Was there human error involved in the seepage of concrete into the trunk line?
    1. We can’t answer that definitively, as we are still investigating what led up to the concrete getting into the trunk main.
29. What level of rainfall would overwhelm the bypass?
    1. We have asked the contractor to design a temporary stormwater bypass which will allow us to bypass the recorded historic peak flows that we have experienced in this section of trunk main.
30. When you put the bypass pump in will it cause noise and vibration?
    1. We do not anticipate much vibration, but it will create noise. We have requested the quietest pumps that are available.
31. Who is responsible for cleaning up the ally?
    1. There are two separate projects working in the alley. One is Street Initiative #14 and the other the Upper Buckley Water Quality Project. Currently, we anticipate that final restoration will be performed under the Upper Buckley project.
32. Concerns about the drainage in the alley. Gravel has been dumped for the project on Cedar & Alder and now the grade of the alley has changed, and the drain is no longer on the low side of the road.
    1. We will contact the project management/construction team for the Street Initiative #14 Project to see what they can do to fix the grading issue.
33. How can we get on the mailing list for this project?
    1. Please make sure you’ve signed in. Alternatively, you can contact the project manager Kirk Myklestad ([kmyklestad@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:kmyklestad@cityoftacoma.org)) directly and request to be put on the list
34. How often will updates occur for this project?
    1. We will do our best to update the project website weekly.
35. Could the city place a sleeve in the no parking sandwich boards with updates regarding the project?
    1. We will look into the possibility of doing something along these lines.
36. Could a sign be posted that the road is closed to through traffic to reduce the vehicles turning around at the construction site?
    1. We will work with our contractor to improve signage in the vicinity of the construction site.
37. What is the timeline on the filtration vault?
    1. We cannot be absolutely certain, but at this point were are thinking there is still about one month before the open pit will be filled back to grade.
38. Is there another treatment vault like this in Tacoma?
    1. Yes, there is one of similar size near S 23rd and Ferry Street. There are also several smaller vaults at various locations throughout the City.
39. Would like the restoration to be better on Junett than the project on Cedar & Alder.
    1. We are not aware of the restoration requirements for the Street Initiative #14 Project; however, we following the restoration requirement of established by City code for this proejct.
40. The homeowner at 15th and Junett believes his property should not be used as a staging area.
    1. Staging construction materials in a dense neighborhood such as this is very difficult. In this instance we are limiting our staging to areas within the public right-of-way and have full authority to do so. We will reestablish the affected area to a condition equivalent to or better than we found it.
41. The stop sign at 15th and Cedar is not visible and has led to people running that intersection.
    1. We will pass along this concern to the project management team for Street Initiative #14.
42. Concerns about the streetlight that has been removed and hopes that it can be placed in another location.
    1. We will look into what ultimately happened with that streetlight, and review the potential for reinstalling it within the project limits.
43. Where is the accountability on the Cedar & Alder project and when will we see it?
    1. We cannot specifically address the other projects, as it is not being managed by our department. We will, however, contact their project management team about your concerns and the issues you’ve raised.