

Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project Speakers Bureau

Group/Organization: Magnolia Summer Festival
Date: August 6th and 7th – 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Location: Blaine School
Team Members: Sarah Brandt, Chelsea Galano, Brad Hoff

Overview

Project team members staffed a small table at the Magnolia Summer Festival with the traveling display and handouts introducing Alternative C. Over the course of Friday and Saturday, over 100 people stopped by to review the alternatives and ask questions. Nine citizens signed up to be added to the project mailing list. Many other citizens said they appreciated the update and the team's efforts to keep them well informed.

Questions/Comments

- Many asked if a decision has been made yet, and inquired about the overall schedule through completion of the bridge.
- Most people expressing a preference about the alternatives liked A the best, as it represents a straight shot that is a known quantity to the community. Several people also disliked C because it would require drivers to go out of their way compared to the existing bridge. However several people thought that Alternative C was a good option because the Port will be developing the North Bay property. They expressed an interest in seeing something happen at North Bay to generate revenue – tired of the big parking lot.
- While most people had heard of the project, a few new Magnolia residents had not and appreciated our presence at the festival.
- A couple of people voiced skepticism about whether public input was actually being considered, and wondered if a decision had already been made.
- Several citizens inquired about the Port's development plans, and how that may effect a decision on a preferred alternative.