

WY 22 CORRIDOR PROJECT

Meeting Summary: PAC Meeting #1

Meeting Name	2000061: Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1	
Purpose	Committee Kick-off and Process Review	
Project Name	2000061: WY 22 Corridor Project – Jackson to Wilson	
Date	July 19, 2023, 1 PM to 3:30 PM	
Location	Teton County Public Library	
Participants	PAC Members Amy Ramage Andrew Salter Charlotte Frei David Sollitt Jade Krueger Jared Smith Melissa Turley Renee Seidler Ross MacIntyre Samuel Petri Tyler Sinclair FHWA Bob Bonds Flitner Communications Sara Flitner	WYDOT Nick Hines Peter Stinchcomb Bob Hammond Stephanie Harsha Darin Kaufman Kelly Cope Jeff Brown Meadow Ridley Keith Fulton (via Teams) Jacobs Jim Clarke Aaron Swafford George Woolley (via Teams) Carla Mykytiuk Charles Wence (via Teams) Jacqueline Dowds Bennett (via Teams)

The first Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for the WY 22 Corridor project was held July 19, 2023, at 1 PM at the Teton County Public Library. Jacobs led the meeting, with Jim Clarke as the main presenter and Sara Flitner as the facilitator. Aaron Swafford and Carla Mykytiuk assisted during the presentation.

Eleven of the 12 PAC members were in attendance. Each member of the PAC was provided with a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda, the presentation and the sign in sheet is attached. All PAC members will be provided with a copy of the presentation and the meeting minutes.

1.1 Agenda Items:

1.1.1 Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping

Brief introductions for all members of the Project Team and PAC were conducted. WYDOT expressed gratitude to the committee members for their participation.

1.1.1.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Sara Flitner discussed the roles and responsibilities of the PAC and a simple set of ground rules. WYDOT formed the PAC through comprehensive consideration of corridor interests, representing a diverse cross-section of stakeholders.

The PAC is an interest-based group working towards durable solutions in the corridor, not a decision-making body. The group is tasked with serving as a liaison between the public and WYDOT.

There was discussion of “consensus” vs a “general understanding of agreement”. A general understanding of agreement has been reached when the PAC members agree that their input has been heard and duly considered, and the process as a whole was fair. Minority opinions of PAC members can be included in meeting summaries.

FHWA and WYDOT will make all final project decisions.

Bob Bonds/FHWA clarified that the PAC is not a requirement for NEPA but that this group will play a key role in informing and shaping the NEPA process.

As planned, there will be a total of six PAC meetings, with four taking place during the Pre-NEPA phase.

1.1.2 Project Overview

Jim Clarke provided an overview of the project background and history, including past studies and stakeholder involvement.

The Tribal Trail Connector project was integrated into the WY 22 project based on public input and direction from WYDOT and Teton County.

Existing and future conditions in the project corridor, including safety, congestion, and wildlife-vehicle collisions were reviewed by Aaron Swafford. Aaron highlighted the results of the project team’s recent traffic and safety analyses. Safety issues and corridor travel times are expected to deteriorate in future years because of traffic increases.

1.1.2.1 Project Scope, Process, and Schedule

The project is in a pre-NEPA phase for two main reasons: to comply with shortened timeframes required to complete NEPA studies and to inform the NEPA class of action (formal request to FHWA for the type of environmental documentation for the project).

A general project timeline was presented, which included upcoming PAC meetings. The next PAC meeting will cover the alternatives process, and the third meeting will focus on evaluating the Level 1 alternatives.

1.1.3 Public Participation

Carla Mykytiuk reviewed the public involvement plan, which includes robust outreach approaches to the community, including underserved communities.

Results and summary of the June public meetings were presented, including top transportation priorities and needs identified by the public.

Public comments will be accepted throughout the project process, and all comments will be posted on the website.

1.1.4 Why is This Project Needed?

The project's purpose and need were discussed, with a focus on safety and mobility.

During the "Why is This Project Needed?" section, there were discussions about project goals and their formulation. Some attendees raised concerns about ensuring that the project needs and goals do not preselect alternatives and that they are not worded in a way that suggests a specific solution. Participants also brought up the need for clarity and definition of certain terms related to project purpose, need, and goals. The Project Leadership Team (PLT) would consider the feedback and circle back with the group on certain points raised during the discussion.

Key points from the discussion on project needs and goals:

- Concerns about predetermining alternatives
 - Several attendees wanted to ensure that the project Purpose and Need is neutral and does not favor any specific solution or alternative.
- Concern about winter driving conditions
 - Concern was expressed about the seasonality of WY-22, particularly icy conditions during winter.
- Clarification on the meaning of "resiliency" and its inclusion in the project needs.
 - (Editorial note: definition added to respond to request for clarification. Definition was not discussed during the meeting.) "*As defined by FHWA¹, resilience means "a project with the ability to anticipate, prepare for, or adapt to conditions or withstand, respond to, or recover rapidly from disruptions, including the ability to:*
 - *Resist hazards or withstand impacts from weather events and natural disasters.*
 - *Reduce the magnitude or duration of impacts of a disruptive weather event or natural disaster.*
 - *Have absorptive capacity, adaptive capacity, and recoverability to decrease project vulnerability to weather events or other natural disasters."*
 - Resiliency could include alternative routes during incidents, among others, and has overlapping safety and mobility benefits.
- Wildlife Safety and System Linkage:
 - Participants discussed the need to specifically address wildlife safety in the project need.

¹ Federal Highway Administration. 2023. Resilience Definition. <https://highways.dot.gov/research/infrastructure/resilient-pavements/definitions>

- PLT can look at including reducing wildlife/vehicle conflicts in the safety need.
- Consider adding improving WY 22/wildlife permeability as a goal.
- There was a suggestion to broaden the need for system linkage, rather than just focusing on Tribal Trails Road.
 - Remove Tribal Trails from P&N due to it suggesting a solution.
 - Jim Clarke: The PLT will take into consideration to just have Improve System Linkage.
 - (Editorial note: *As defined by FHWA, system linkage refers to providing a connecting link in the transportation system. This item was not discussed during the meeting.*) “
- Transit Considerations:
 - Two PAC members took issue with the word “Promote” and requested that “Promote multimodal travel options” be changed to “Improve multimodal travel options” or “Increase multimodal travel options”. They wanted a word that was measurable.
 - Jim Clarke responded that WYDOT isn’t the local transit provider, and the P&N needs need to reflect problems that WYDOT has the ability to address. The PLT will take into consideration the suggested wording.

Next Steps/Wrap-Up

Jim presented the upcoming meeting schedule. The next meeting will overview the alternatives process, and project goals. The next meeting for this group is likely to occur in early September.

PAC members were encouraged to provide feedback or suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.

1.2 Questions and general comments made by the PAC members were as follows:

- Are we deciding on the Tribal Trail Connector (TTC) as part of this project?
 - Jim Clarke: Yes, TTC has been included in the project and will be included in the alternatives evaluation.
- Does the no-build include Snake River and other projects?
 - Aaron Swafford: Yes, it includes all the projects currently under construction and funded to be built by 2050.
- Is the no-build alternative based on summer conditions?
 - Aaron Swafford: Yes, we are modeling an average weekday using traffic numbers from Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday over the peak summer months of July, August, and September.
- Concern of the consensus and how that's being articulated.

- Jim/Sara: The purpose of consensus is not to handcuff the other viewpoints. We're interested in consensus, but minority opinions will still be considered and recorded.
- Bob Bonds: Focus on collaborative approach
- What authority does the county have on decision making authority on TTC?
 - WYDOT and FHWA have decision making authority per the cooperative agreement.
- Does this study include WY 390 like the PEL did?
 - Jim Clarke: This project does not consider WY 390. It includes the Y intersection. We've identified rational endpoints and logical termini consistent with FHWA NEPA guidance. Intersections are often used as logical endpoints.
- Bob Bonds/FHWA suggested staying away from words like 'improve' in the purpose and need statement. He prefers “need to address”.
- What about the neighborhood concerns about accessing WY 22 from Pratt Rd since this is the only access?
 - During the first set of public meetings, WYDOT received several comments about the difficulty of making left hand turns onto WY 22, especially during peak hour traffic. WYDOT will highlight this concern in the purpose and need documentation and alternatives evaluation being prepared.
- Will there be a library of past studies available?
 - Jim Clarke: Past studies can be found on the project websites [“Resources” page](#). We can add to this.

1.3 Action Items:

No.	Item	Responsibility	Status	Deadline
1	Distribute project website address to PAC members	Jacobs	Complete	8/4/23
2	Add a list of PAC members to the project website	Jacobs	Complete	8/4/23
3	Meeting slides and summary from PAC meeting #1 to be posted on the project website.	Jacobs	Complete	8/4/23
4	Distribute PAC Meeting #1 notes to PAC team for review	Jacobs	Complete	8/4/23
5	The Project Leadership Team (PLT) would consider the feedback regarding Purpose and Need and circle back with the group on certain points raised during the discussion. A draft purpose and need statement and outline to be provided within the next three weeks.	WYDOT	Ongoing	8/9/2023
6	The Town/County scoping letter provided to WYDOT is to be distributed to the PAC	Jacobs	Complete	8/4/2023

8	WYDOT will coordinate the meeting date for meeting #2. This meeting will include a brief NEPA 101 overview.	WYDOT	Ongoing	8/9/2023
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