

**North Sound to Olympics (STO) Trail Feasibility Study**  
**Working Group #8 Meeting**  
 January 10, 3-4:30 PM Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Summary</b>
1. Overview	Prior to the meeting the working group was provided a map showing the route alignment suggestions submitted to the project team by working group members. Also, a map explaining concerns about specific segments, identified by the project team, was given to the working group. The goals of the meeting included the following: review and discuss working group alignment suggestions, review and discuss specific segment concerns, identify route alignments for Tier 2 analysis, and discuss upcoming Open House meeting.
2. Review of methodology used to identify alignments using the most suitable segments.	Jeff Bouma (Fischer Bouma Partnership) provided a brief re-cap of the process thus far. Jeff further explained, because Criteria 1.1 and 1.2 indicate whether a segment meets the project goals of connecting communities, parks and open space for all ages and abilities, those ratings were considered highly important. As was mentioned in prior meetings, the route alignments would include both non-road and road options. Jeff guided the committee through a review/discussion by zone (WEST, CENTRAL, and EAST) of the alignment suggestions submitted by the working group members.
3. Discussion of map showing working group members alignment suggestions.	<p>Working group members were given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the pros and cons of the suggested alignments using the criteria maps and county GIS maps as a reference. A summary of discussion topics follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Decisions regarding North Kitsap Heritage Park ROW concerns would be determined prior to the public meeting to be held on January 24. The Parks Department has been working diligently to have a written statement soon. At this time, ROW criteria ratings will remain as shown in the criteria spreadsheet.</li> <li>-Comparisons across different alignments of environmental impacts will be made during Tier 2 analysis. And, an important consideration will be the ability for an alignment through an area with environmental concerns to be able to meet project goals in a practicable way.</li> <li>-If warranted, mitigation for environmental impacts, as outlined in the criteria, could take several forms, preferably “on-site, in kind, is best”. Ideas for potential mitigation were proposed, if needed.</li> <li>-It was suggested, if the route were to go through a sensitive area, it would be important to design the trail with constraining features to limit off-trail travel.</li> <li>-Preservation of the user experience, described as “sense of place”, was stated as an important consideration.</li> <li>-Routes designed for accessibility and inclusiveness allow for more people to use the trail, was stated as an important consideration.</li> <li>-Preservation of sensitive areas was voiced as important.</li> <li>-Public misperceptions, early on, about trail design may have fueled some general opposition to the project, was stated.</li> <li>-Other topics covered pertaining to suggested alignments included discussion of issues with building on Tribal Trust Lands, pros and cons of forging a new trail through a “green field” versus using existing trails, determining when a segment veers too “out of the way”, viability of topographically challenging areas within Divide Property, and whether a road route could meet the needs of all ages and abilities.</li> </ul>

Discussion of map detailing specific segment concerns.	<p>The committee reviewed and discussed the map containing details about areas of high concern. The project team demonstrated the rationale for not choosing several segments due to specific challenges including steep topography, inability to avoid wetland areas, slope constraints within ROW, lack of connections to communities, parks, and open space, and barriers such as driveways.</p> <p>Ultimately, the committee was able to identify several alignments to be presented at the upcoming public meeting.</p>
Public Meeting Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NSTO Public Open House Meeting #2 (in-person and virtual) will be held on Tuesday, January 24 at the Village Green Community Center in Kingston (26159 Dulay Road NE). Doors open at 6 PM, then presentation begins at 6:30 PM.</li> <li>- Open House Meeting #2 will have the same format as the first public meeting.</li> <li>- A reminder email for the meeting will be sent out approximately one week prior to the Open House. The reminder email will confirm information has been posted on the North Sound to Olympics (NSTO) website for community members to review before the meeting.</li> <li>- Static maps and other information will be available in the meeting room at the Open House.</li> <li>- The Open House presentation outline will be emailed to the working group members for review prior to the Open House.</li> </ul>
4. Next Steps	<p>Next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain community feedback on alignments at Open House Meeting #2 and from NSTO website submissions.</li> <li>- Begin Tier 2 analysis of alignments.</li> </ul>

Meeting summary written by Deborah Weinmann January 12, 2023.