



Steel Bridge Skatepark in Old Town, PAC Meeting #3 Notes

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 5:00-7:00PM, Hybrid (220 NW 2nd Ave. and Zoom)

Attendees

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members: AJ Waters, Ben Wixon, Chris Adams-Nukala, Dean Dickinson, Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, Jesse Wilhite, Margaux Mennesson, Nicole Tignor, Preston Harper, Selma Urbina, Stig Nilsen-Goodin, Stevie Moe, Violet Aveline (**Absent:** Isnardo (Nardo) Gandarilla, Jasmine Burch, Joanna Harrison, Hope Huynh, Miles McGowan)

Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) Staff: Aspen Brown, Travis Ruybal, Jesús Rodríguez

DAO Architects: David Horsley and Joann Le

Lango Hansen: Katherine Sheie

Grindline: Matt Fluegge

Dreamland Skateparks: Danyel Scott

Welcome, Settle, Introductions, and Agenda Overview – Aspen and Jesús lead; introduction of new PAC member Violet

- A quick round of introductions

Site Visit – All with Travis pointing out some features

- We skipped the site visit for the sake of time and went right into project updates

Project Updates – Travis

- Collaboration with TriMet, ODOT, and PBOT, continues.
- In collaboration with TriMet, one of the two switch gears could be relocated to another property.
- TriMet has some concerns about the SW entry that are being worked out.



- TriMet also has concerns about locating (2) Portland Loos beneath their overpass, but the design evolution will likely address this concern.
- PBOT's main concern is in regard to right-of-way. Current direction is for skatepark to be classified as a right-of-way area, but this is still being confirmed.
- PBOT will provide the north-side crossing on Naito Pkwy, with \$250,000 funding from this project.
- Collaboration continues with ODOT.

Review Group Agreements and Fist-to-Five Voting (5 min) – Aspen

- Reviewed

Survey Review and Discussion– DAO

- Stevie brought up the question about maintenance of the project facilities.
 - Travis mentioned that the current goal is to build the project, and that maintenance will be decided by city leadership.
- Community created “friends-of groups” is on the table.
- Hanako wants more clarity on the diversity of the respondents to assure representation.
 - There is a consensus that more targeted outreach is needed to increase a diverse scale of responses.
- Chris wants to get some clarity with the responses around bowls at the skatepark. Does the desire to not want a large bowl refer to depth, with, or something else?
- Nicole asked the group, “what describes a world-class skatepark”.
 - Margaux responded that a beautiful plaza style skatepark is something that will be photogenic and adds to what is “world-class”.
 - Danyel describes “world-class” as diverse and inclusive. Such a skatepark can include a bowl in such a large skatepark area.
- They also asked about the idea of a pump-track.
 - This is on the table too but it takes up a lot of real estate.

- Matt's input is that we must refer to the data first and the comments second. He acknowledged that there is a need for street-style skate sites in Portland and believes that street and transition style can be integrated.
- Jesse thinks we should not create such a large flow-bowl as demonstrated in the Option 1 – Traverse design concept.
- Travis mentioned that there is an opportunity to coordinate an event alongside the Rockstar Energy skate competitions, but that this project would not be able to accommodate that event itself.
- Chris brought up that by the time this project is finished, more street-style skateboarding might already exist for the public, such as Creston.
- Skate Urbanism Connection? Was mentioned by Margaux. The idea of building community connection through placemaking via a skate plaza such as in places in Europe.
- AJ would like to see more specific questions in the next round, such as percentage of street vs transition style skating.
- Battleground is an example of integrated skate styles in one skatepark, but it's also huge.
- Chris wants to assure that the data we are receiving reflects our community and users, not just who took the time to fill out the survey.
- Jesse referred to Ed Benedict and is a fan of the incorporation of native plants to the site.
- The design team shared that we're not at a stage to decide on what plants will be used or incorporated, but due to the proposed roof, it would be challenging to include them within the site.
- Joann mentioned to the team that part of what makes a site "world-class" is durability and timelessness.
- She also mentioned the concept of "borrowed landscape", of Japanese origin, which borrows landscape from beyond the skatepark site, rather than have it incorporated in every element.

- Katherine asked the group, “how can we make the borders/transitions between skate elements stand out without interfering?”
- Chris suggested reaching out to Sarah from Prosper Portland to utilize some of the cast iron that they have in stock.
- Hanako suggested the Yamaguchi hotel columns as a reference.
- Travis suggested posting flyers at schools to increase participation from younger community members.
- AJ mentioned that at his skatepark, on the first Friday of every month he offers free skating and receives a large amount of participation from younger skaters.
- Preston wants a question about the roof-coverage in the next round. Do community members want full coverage or partial coverage?
- Stig thinks that we need to consider the world-wide perspective of what makes a world-class skatepark that.
 - David asked Stig for suggestions of additional global references.
 - Future engagement can ask the question of what other world-class skatepark attributes people would like the design team to reference.
- Ben does not want bark chips. He wants a question that asks what the design team should not do.
- Danyel suggested referring some youth-involvement programs to increase participation from the youth and will reach out to Aspen.
- Ben will also reach out with suggestions for outreach, including SUN School program, PP&R programming, and Skate Like a Girl.
- Hanako suggested tabling or doing outreach during Burnside Bridge’s 100-year celebration which will likely include a half-pipe.
- Chris mentioned that in his experience, half-covered skateparks are not a good idea because if one part of the skatepark is wet, the majority of the skatepark will become wet, even if covered.
- There will be a youth focus group (sub 18?) outreach in the next iteration of engagement.

Dean

- Dean spoke about the importance of educating on what qualifies beginner, intermediate, and advance skating.
- The square footage might seem large, but realistically, the size of the skateable area will shrink as the project moves forward.
- Breaking down the footprint and percentage of what areas are for what levels of user groups is very important.
- The question about the breakdown of the skate site and its segments needs to be included in the next iteration, with a more focused lens.

CE Next Steps and Close (15 min) – Aspen

- Aspen will share the recording and notes of today's PAC meeting, share the survey summary, and ask the PAC to review notes from the meeting.
- The PAC will reach out to Aspen with suggestions and comments.
- Travis shared that the goal is to break ground in 2028.



Steel Bridge Skatepark in Old Town, PAC Meeting #3 Survey

Discussion

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What gaps are you noticing in the data?

- Gaps in demographic data – specific questions
- The question about avoiding bowls is vague – need a point of reference for transition
- Pump tracks
- What does world class mean? Answer: Durable for a long time
- Youth and parent voices
 - “Under 18” or “School age children and teens”
- Flyer and table at events, schools, shops, programs, etc.
- Host multiple focus groups especially for youth in case of scheduling conflicts
- Education!
- Scooters and quad riders

What questions are missing?

- What do you identify as?
- What percentage of street vs. transition? (cut off at 25-30%)
- Design team give examples of skate features (height and footprint)
- Design team give examples of feasible green spaces (suggestion: skateable stormwater drain with plexi glass)
- Design team to clarify if the roof cover is fully or partially covered
- Ask for examples of skateparks across the world (with a waterfront focus)
- Ask about lessons learned or what not to include in the park, plaza, or skatepark
- Define what beginner, intermediate, and advanced mean (with a footprint – see Dean’s notes for reference)



Other things to consider

- How will we weigh the data next round to focus more on youth, elderly, women, queers, non-skaters, adaptive skaters, BMX riders, quad riders, scooters, etc.)
- What do borders look like to stand out and be useful? What materials? (maintenance friendly)

Dean's Notes

USER GROUPS

- Skateboarder
- BMXer
- Mountain Biker
- Scooter Rider
- Roller Skater
- Roller Blader
- Wheelchair Rider

ABILITY BREAKDOWN

- Beginner 25%
- Intermediate 50%
- Advanced 25%

SKATEPARK SQUARE FOOTAGE

33,000 SQ FT PARK

STREET FOOTPRINT: Square Footage

- 60% - 70% STREET = 23,000 Sq Ft appx
- 23,000 Sq Ft WJ + Urban Plaza Eugene, Or Skatepark Reference to Size

STREET BREAKDOWN: Beginner to Advanced Square Footage

- 11,500 Sq Ft = 50% Intermediate
- 5,750 Sq Ft = 25% Beginner
- 5,750 Sq Ft= 25% Advanced

TRANSITION FOOTPRINT: Square Footage

- 30% - 40% TRANSITION = 10,000 Sq Ft
- 10,000 Sq Ft Pacific Park Vancouver, WA Skatepark Reference to Size

TRANSITION BREAKDOWN: Beginner to Advanced Square Footage

- 5,000 Sq Ft = 50% Intermediate
- 2,500 Sq Ft = 25% Beginner
- 2,500 Sq Ft = 25% Advanced