
From: Andie Harper
Sent: 02 November 2006 21:55
To: Aileen Grant; Trudi Craggs
Cc: Gavin Murray; Ailsa McGregor
Subject: RE: CONCERN ABOUT SDS DELAY

Dear All

I am most distressed by this e-mail particularly in the light of my recent concerns, I will send direct to SDS senior management and seek their response. I have copied in Ailsa so she is in the loop.

Andie

From: Aileen Grant [<mailto:Aileen.Grant@dundas-wilson.com>]

Sent: 02 November 2006 15:46

To: Trudi Craggs

Cc: Gavin Murray; Andie Harper

Subject: CONCERN ABOUT SDS DELAY

Importance: High

Trudi

I have just been to a meeting at which SDS should have presented their work on test planning submissions in advance of the next Tram Design Working Group.

In the event, only SDS Halcrow turned up to the meeting, and they had not been passed these details by SDS PB. I am therefore concerned about a number of possible consequences of this.

1. The test prior approval submissions were programmed for consideration by TDWG yesterday. SDS had indicated that they would be ready. This did not happen (we had a site meeting at Roseburn instead). I am now concerned that the submissions will not be ready in time for consideration on 15th November and that this means the programme is slipping further.
2. We have agreed that drawings must be submitted one week in advance of the TDWG meeting. This is in the Protocol and it is also effective - by reviewing plans in advance, representatives bring their considered views to the Group rather than respond in an ad hoc manner. I am concerned that SDS may think that they can table their plans on the day. Such an approach is inefficient (it requires 2 meetings to discuss one issue) and may raise inappropriate issues.
3. Given that SDS Halcrow are contracted to obtain the consents and approvals, it seems unusual that they are not more closely involved with SDS PB. They indicated that they had not seen any emerging designs. Nor have they seen early drafts of design statements. I'm not sure if this is an issue for tie, but at the very least it suggests an approach which is not integrated or holistic in design terms. You may wish to consider this.
4. We still have no hint of a proper programme for the TDWG to go forward. SDS Halcrow were unable to report any suggestions in this regard. We must have clarity for future meetings of the TDWG, otherwise we will not get the right people round the table.

This is the third meeting Gavin and I have had over the last week-and-a-half where SDS have not turned up. I know that Kim is off ill at present, but I am concerned that perhaps they are not taking seriously the requirements for obtaining prior approvals, the importance of a staged approach to these, and the potential risks to the project unless a proper programme of submissions and pre-

application discussions is drawn up with buy in from all parties, including the CEC Planning staff who will have to allocate considerable resources.

I think Gavin is going to try and get a re-scheduled pre-meeting arranged on Tuesday, but quite frankly I have almost lost confidence that SDS will turn up!

Regards
Aileen

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