



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

I-5 to 99W Connector: PSC Mtg. #17

Meeting Date: 5/28/08

Issue Date: 6/9/08

The contents of this summary are assumed correct unless our office is notified in writing within five calendar days of receipt.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Project: I-5 to 99W Connector Project
Purpose: Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting #17
Date/Time: Wednesday May 28, 2008 / 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Location: Tualatin Police Facility

Attendees:

PSC	Tom Brian	Washington County (Chair)
	Fred Eberle	ODOT (PSC Alternate)
	Cam Gilmour	Clackamas County
	Carl Hosticka	Metro
	Emily Lawton	FHWA (PSC Alternate)
	Charlotte Lehan	City of Wilsonville
	Keith Mays	City of Sherwood
	Lou Ogden	City of Tualatin (Alternate Chair)
	Roy Rogers	Washington County

Executive Management Team (EMT)	Lawrence Odell	Washington County
	Mike McKillip	City of Tualatin
	R. Scott Pemble	Clackamas County
	Tom Pessemier	City of Sherwood
	Mike Stone	City of Wilsonville

Project Management Team (PMT)	Jim Evans	Moyano Group
	Amy Gibbons	ODOT
	Leslie Howell	Howell Consulting
	Russ Knoebel	Washington County
	Tim Wilson	ODOT
	Scott Richman	DEA
	Angie Jones	DEA
	Jef Kaiser	DEA
	Randy McCourt	DKS

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Shareen Rawlings Jeanne Lawson Associates (JLA)

**Stakeholder
Working Group (SWG)**

Mike Feves

Others

(sign-in sheet)

Michael Bowers City of Wilsonville (EMT Alternate)

Christa Gardner Metro

Mark Ottenad City of Wilsonville

Distribution: PSC, EMT, PMT, SWG

The meeting began at 12:15 PM. Agendas and other materials were provided to the PSC members prior to the meeting, and copies of these materials were provided at the meeting. The agenda items are represented in "bold" headings.

• **Welcome/Introduction**

- Chair Brian asked people at the table to introduce themselves

• **Approve March 26, 2008 PSC Meeting Summary**

- Chair Brian moved to approve the summary notes from the March 26, 2008 meeting, Mayor Ogden seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

• **EMT Report**

- Lawrence updated the PSC on the Alternatives Analysis status and the EMT's recent discussions. The EMT unanimously approved the process to be used to discuss and develop recommendations to the PSC on the readiness of the Alternatives Analysis for release to the public.
- All of the EMT members, save one, recommended that the AA is ready to be released for public review and comment, and targeted public meetings for June 24, 25, and 26. One EMT member recommended "conditional approval" pending their request for resolution of perceived missing data, errors and omissions of information. Lawrence commented that most of the EMT, while recognizing the importance of the additional information, felt much of it was information that would be provided later at a design level analysis, not at the current corridor planning level. He appreciated the detailed scrutiny of the AA by all EMT members which has lead to an improved document.
- Lawrence noted that congestion on roads outside the project area under the connector alternatives has been raised as a concern. The majority of the EMT agreed that is an issue to be addressed at a regional level as part of the RTP. He and others also question the feasibility of Alternative 5 because of its impacts in Sherwood, including proximity to a major power substation and the National Wildlife Refuge. The Enhanced Existing System Alternative (EESA) is also recognized as being difficult to clearly describe and understand.
- Lawrence noted that any of the build alternatives could be viewed as a package of smaller projects, and the EMT recognizes that they would need to be implemented in phases. The EMT agreed that it would be beneficial to ask the

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public to give us feedback on elements that they consider worthy of carrying forward.

- Councilor Hosticka asked if the AA document is ready to go out to the public. He also asked if the draft summary memo would go out.
- Lawrence responded that we are logging comments on the draft AA that we have received from EMT and SWG members and the consultants are revising the AA document based on the discussions we have had thus far. The summary is not ready for release. Lawrence encouraged the PSC to approve the AA for public availability.
- **AA Status and Overview**
 - Scott said that we have logged comments through last Friday (May 23rd) received from EMT and SWG members at their meetings and work sessions focused on draft AA questions and comments. He noted that the SWG had provided some recent comments that are not included in the comment log handout. The SWG requested more review time and another meeting on June 5th to provide additional comments on the draft AA document. Scott said that our current schedule shows that we will have the AA document ready for public review beginning on June 12th.
 - Mayor Lehan asked when the discussion would occur about mixing and matching different elements of the alternatives. If a hybrid "Alternative 7" emerges as a recommended alternative, would this alternative be evaluated to show its benefits and impacts?
 - Lawrence responded that the mixing/matching would occur after the public comments have been received and provided to the PSC. He reminded the group that the preferred alternative would be at a corridor level for the RTP amendment, then we would conduct more detailed studies within the selected corridor. This RTP amendment phase is intended to emulate the NEPA Tier 1 process and intentionally views from a "20,000 foot" level evaluated corridor analysis. It is specifically not intended to be a design level analysis that would occur in the Tier 2 NEPA process.
 - Chair Brian noted that what is occurring is the release of the Alternative Analysis that contrast six alternatives, including three new roadway alternatives which is intended to lead toward selection of a preferred alternative. However, he recognized that the preferred alternative is likely to be a package of projects including phasing of elemented projects, TSM, TDM and ESA projects as opposed to a single "new road".
 - Scott said that we anticipate a similar level of analysis during refinement of the preferred alternative as has been done for the six alternatives documented in the AA. It could be an iterative process to refine to one alternative with variable elements.
 - Scott went through a Powerpoint presentation to summarize where we are in the process and the key points of the Alternatives Analysis.
 - The most current version of the comment/response log was handed out along with copies of a Powerpoint presentation on the AA overview.

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- Scott said that as a part of EESA, Tualatin-Sherwood Road would serve as the major arterial for directional through movement in the area, which would require access management.
- Mayor Lehan asked if auxiliary lanes are included on I-5 as part of EESA, and Scott said that they are included (EESA includes I-5 auxiliary lanes between I-205 and the North Wilsonville Interchange).
- Chair Brian asked how the open houses will be advertised, how members of the public will be able to understand the content of the document, and how long the public review period would be.
- Scott said that we will have the document on the website, and direct people there with a mass-mailed postcard that also provided information on the open houses. The open houses will have “stations” with information on each of the major analysis topics and staff available to respond to questions. The public comment period would be at least 45 days. The current schedule has the AA document being available beginning on June 12th, and the public comment period extending through July 30th.
- **AA PSC Discussion**
 - Lawrence said that the EMT has already gone through the powerpoint and the objectivity is interesting because there is no one alternative that stands out, but rather a mix of balances and choices
 - Mayor Lehan expressed concern that the PSC has not had any opportunity to discuss the policy implications of the project. She asked where it was found that Alternative 6 would be an effective “hard edge” to the UGB? She can see how a river or canyon could make a good urban edge, but she would like to see documentation that supports a road as an urban edge. Development pressure will occur on both sides of a road. This would be an appropriate policy discussion to have.
 - Lawrence said that this was discussed by the EMT. He would not be concerned with removing the “hard edge” reference from anything that goes out to the public, it was a reference made by Metro early in the process that had been carried forward.
 - Fred said that while he is not proposing using a road as a hard edge, ODOT would control access on a connector facility.
 - Mayor Lehan said that if utilities are extended up to the road, urbanization pressure will be on rural properties right on the other side of the road.
 - Councilor Hosticka asked about land use and potential for induced growth with Alternative 6. When you consider the number of trips, wouldn't it change based on types and locations of development? He cannot determine this change from the data given.
 - Lawrence responded that Metro and Washington County are conducting a parallel modeling study to look at potential for shifting growth. This information is expected to be available during the anticipated alternative refinement period and prior to the PSC selecting a preferred alternative.
 - Councilor Hosticka suggested including a footnote in the land use and transportation summary to note that additional modeling information will be forthcoming.

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- Mayor Lehan asked if we have been considering vehicle miles traveled (VMT) since the beginning, since it was not identified in the evaluation criteria. She thinks it seems like an odd measure for small areas such as town centers.
- Scott said that VMT is a common transportation system measure, we looked at analysis zones and aggregated VMT, broken into trip type. Randy added that if we do not look at VMT, we are not getting an accurate picture of what happens to the system when adding lane miles and new roadways. It is useful to articulate what facilities are being utilized.
- Chair Brian requested that we remove the hard edge reference from the AA findings. He noted that the PSC partnering agreement and process being followed required no formal or affirmative action by the PSC to release the document for public review, and it should be important to all PSC members to obtain the public's comment and input as soon as possible. Delaying the document's release for public comment only frustrates the public. Chair Brian asked if there was any objection to releasing the AA for public comment.
- Mayor Ogden suggested that the PSC explore the policy questions that Mayor Lehan raised.
- Chair Brian said that the policy questions discussion would likely be lengthy. For now, we are looking to send the document out for public comment, and then have policy discussions leading up to the selection of alternative.
- Mayor Lehan said she feels the document is incomplete and flawed, but she is okay with it going out to the public. She feels that the public will not be able to comment in a meaningful way without an understanding of what VMT is and the full impact of the analysis. She thinks the data has all been presented in one direction, and as the policy makers who will be making important decisions, the PSC should be more involved in the process. She wants to discuss the policy issues, not just a question and answer, but a discussion. She had anticipated that this would be a more iterative process.
- Commissioner Rogers agreed that we need to have policy discussions, but feels it is a matter of timing. He wants to get the public involved in this since many people are frustrated with this.
- Lawrence said that the process is designed to give the PSC time for policy discussions and encouraged the PSC to discuss their policy questions with their EMT members.
- Chair Brian suggested that the EMT develop and circulate a list of key policy questions for the PSC to discuss.
- Councilor Hosticka asked when discussions would occur regarding whether any new road would be a parkway or expressway.
- Lawrence responded that while any new road design would be determined at the design-level stage, it is anticipated that the PSC will discuss this as a policy issue after also receiving public comments.
- Mayor Ogden said that we can have general policy conversations, but how those relate to these project alternatives is tied to understanding the information. He does not feel that he can have a meaningful policy discussion until he has a full grasp of the data and information.

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- **Public Comment**

- Mike Feves noted that he only received confirmation of the time and location of this meeting from the web site this morning. There needs to be better advance notice of meetings. He expressed concern that there was not a "SWG report" item on the PSC agenda today, and this should be on there. He said that the AA summary presentation today was better than the version presented to the SWG last Thursday. He thought the SWG version contained bias and judgmental statements. There is a 20% increase in project area fuel consumption for the connector alternatives, and the EESA is more favorable in that area, the team should be more fair about how they present this information. He was disappointed that there was not more discussion about the AA report and if it is ready to go out to the public. He feels that the PSC has had about the same amount of time for review of this as the SWG, which is not enough time. There should be more time for review and policy discussions before release to the public.

- **Other Business**

- Chair Brian asked about future PSC meeting dates and availability.
- Lawrence suggested that the EMT would put together a list of policy questions to bring to the PSC. He noted that the EMT will review the postcards and public open house presentation information.
- Mayor Ogden asked if there would be purpose to meet on June 11th to start the policy questions and discussions.
- Mayor Lehan said that being the only meeting before the public open houses, she would like to use it as an opportunity to review and discuss what goes out to the public. She does not think the EMT only should review what is released to the public. She asked how we are collecting public comment.
- Scott said that at the forums there will be comment forms, and court transcribers to record comments. People can also comment via the website and the project phone number.
- Mayor Lehan asked how many court reporters would be at the hearings, and Scott replied that there would likely be two.
- Scott said we will assemble a report of the public comments on the AA following the end of the public comment period that is currently at the end of July.

- **PSC Next Meeting**

- The PSC agreed to meet again on Wednesday June 11th, 2008 at 10:00 AM. This meeting will again be held at the Tualatin Police Station