



DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ODOT0000-0526

MS: 4

Meeting Date: 12/15/05

Issue Date: 12/27/05

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

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY-EMT #4

Project: I-5 to 99W Connector Project
Purpose: Executive Management Team Meeting
Location: Metro, Room 501

Attendees:

Kathy Busse	Washington County
Andy Cotugno	Metro
Mike McKillip	Tualatin
Rob Dixon	Sherwood
R. Scott Pemble	Clackamas County
Jeff Graham	FHWA
Michael Stone	City of Wilsonville
Barry Hennelly	Washington County
Michael Ray	ODOT
Mark Turpel	Metro
Vaughn Brown	JLA
Leslie Howell	HC
Jef Kaiser	DEA
Scott Richman	DEA
Alice Rouyer	DEA

Distribution: EMT, PMT, File

The meeting began at 9:30 AM. Agendas and other materials were provided prior to the meeting and copies of these materials were also provided at the meeting. The agenda items are represented in "bold" headings.

- **Welcome**

- Barry welcomed the group and led the overall EMT meeting. The primary focus of this meeting was to discuss public involvement and scoping activities including the recent scoping open houses, third SWG meeting, and upcoming SWG meetings, and to provide updates on the schedule and recent activities.
- Barry requested early conclusion of the meeting (by 11:15) due to a follow-up meeting between the PMT and EMT representatives of the project's lead agencies.

- **Public outreach – Scoping and SWG**

- Vaughn handed out a summary of comments received during scoping for the project. Attendance of around 250 total at the two public open houses, one in Tualatin and one in Sherwood, was less than anticipated. Interested citizens have access to other public outreach elements including the hot line, newsletter and web site to receive information and provide input. In addition, inclement weather may have been a factor in keeping more people from attending. Scott will copy the compilation of comments recorded from the open houses onto the ftp site.
- JLA has received numerous scoping comments, including a large number received through the project web site which had received over 1,000 hits. We expect that there may be more people in attendance at future open houses, once more information is available to discuss.
- Vaughn noted that many of the comments from both the open house participants and the SWG centered on the justification for the draft Purpose & Need and the project area boundary. The SWG has specifically expressed their desire to see the data supporting the Needs statements.
- Jef - We need to look at scoping comments and see how they relate to our proposed process. He referred to a sketched diagram of three options for advancing a major transportation improvement project past the comprehensive plan stage. The first option would be to proceed with a tiered EIS, the second option would be to proceed through a regional plan/corridor selection followed by a design-level EIS, and the third would be to proceed directly to a design EIS. Our proposed process is the second of these three options, and this process is based on the assumption that the RTP is the foundation for the project purpose and project area, and that we are charged with implementing one of many projects identified in the RTP. A focused Purpose and Need statement should effectively limit the scope of this project and not address other needs raised during scoping including problems on I-5 and consideration of extending the project area farther south.
- Mark handed out the section of the current RTP that addresses the project. While the RTP refers to a four-lane tollway between I-5 and 99W, we are not specifying a solution, but focusing on specific problems. The Purpose statement focuses on regional, intrastate travel and access. The PMT needs clear direction from the EMT, and ultimately from the PSC, on the alignment of the Purpose statement with the RTP.
- Some members of the SWG have requested data to support the Needs statement, and we are working to respond to this request prior to having 2030 modeling results. Some SWG members also would like the Purpose statement to be more broad, including addition of "mobility". The EMT acknowledged that the SWG represents a wide array of interests, and that they may not be able to align precisely with SWG input. Mark will describe the RTP role in the process at the next SWG meeting.
- Barry and Kathy noted that Washington County has 2020 modeling results that support the Purpose and Need. Modeling of a widened Tualatin-Sherwood Road still demonstrates the need for an expressway connector.
- Jeff G. – We should reinforce and articulate justification for including the project in the RTP, including modeling that demonstrates benefits of a connector. He

cited and handed out federal guidance addressing the merging of Transportation Planning and NEPA. Purpose and Need is central to this merger, and the guidance supports use of corridor plan – level Purpose and Need that is based on a project identified in a regional plan. Per the recent federal transportation authorization – SAFETEA-LU – FHWA and FTA “own” the Purpose and Need statement, and concurrence on Purpose and Need is only needed with the Army Corps of Engineers. The lead federal agency can choose to accept other agencies and groups input or not.

- Andy – The RTP identifies both a problem and a potential solution. The problem part of the RTP stands, but the project recommendation in the RTP is one of multiple options that could be considered. The problem should be considered as the foundation for the Purpose and Need. We are focusing on the problem and enacting a process to lead to a solution. We should not drop the fundamental “facility” element of the project, and local circulation/mobility is not the primary purpose of the project. The original project identified a solution inside the UGB. If we are going to consider a solution outside the UGB, we need to demonstrate why options inside the UGB are not viable. The range of potential solutions for a “state highway connector” should be broad at this point. The upcoming RTP update will revisit major projects.
 - The EMT agreed that the current draft Purpose statement correctly reflects the project problem identified in the RTP.
 - The EMT agreed that the 1/5/06 SWG meeting should be cancelled to allow the PMT to compile information to respond to the SWG’s request for data to support the Purpose and Need. This information will be presented at the SWG meeting scheduled for 1/19/06, and an additional SWG meeting will be scheduled in February. JLA will revise and send out draft agendas for the next two SWG meetings.
- **PSC**
 - Barry - The next PSC meeting is scheduled for 2/13/06, 11:30 AM at the Tualatin Police Training Center. The agenda is to gain PSC approval of the Purpose and Need, review draft Goals and Objectives, and discuss corridor screening criteria. We will need to revisit scheduling PSC meetings after February.
 - Referring to a draft decision process schedule outline that was handed out to the EMT, Leslie noted that getting PSC approval of the Purpose and Need, and Goals and Objectives by 2/13 and subsequent CETAS approval on 2/21 may not be achievable. CETAS requires materials to review one month in advance of their meeting, and they have requested that Purpose and Need, and Goals and Objectives be presented for approval simultaneously. It was suggested that a PSC meeting be scheduled for March to approve the Goals and Objectives statements.
 - **Technical activities**
 - Alice – Draft environmental, land use, and socioeconomic technical memos have been submitted to Washington County, ODOT, and Metro, and we are expecting a complete set of comments by tomorrow. The hazardous materials, and geology/soils reports being prepared by GeoDesign, Inc. are expected to be

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completed by 1/1/06. The consolidated Reconnaissance Report will be completed in January.

- DEA has been working on a larger amendment to get through the RTP Amendment Process.
- Mark – The Metroscope (model) “R” and “E” zone numbers for 2030 are done, and Metro is completing the 2030 transportation network coding. The RTP financially constrained system includes an arterial connection between I-5 and 99W. Andy noted that the 2030 No Build transportation analysis should remove this arterial link, but that it is appropriate to include for the growth allocation numbers.
- Michael – Jason Tell has contacted Ralph Webber, the TRNWL Refuge Manager. Mr. Webber provided Jason with another contact person and requested that the project agencies coordinate with that person. Michael will work to set up a meeting with the Refuge representative, Jason, Kathy B. and Andy C. The agency-to-agency contact plan for coordination with the Refuge is for Jason Tell to make the initial contact with Refuge Manager, and arrange a meeting with Kathy B. and Andy C. Our intent is for the Connector Project to be incorporated into TRNWL Refuge Plan.

• **Tolling**

- Barry – There has been substantial interest and questions related to tolling, including questions related to coordination between the I-5 to 99W Connector Project and the MacQuarie group leading the OTIG (group exploring tolling for three major corridors in the region).
- Leslie noted that the consultant team included a tolling expert, and the question arises of when we may need to get this person involved.
- Michael – The OTIG proposal is due to ODOT by early Summer 2006. The preliminary indication is that the Newberg-Dundee corridor is “too small” to be viable as a tolled facility, and that a more regional tolling approach may need to be considered.
- Andy – Tolling issues that need to be resolved include: system function and design, and financing and contracting.
- During the tolling discussion, the EMT had to conclude their meeting.
- The Next EMT meeting is scheduled for 01/26/06 at Metro.

Action Items	Responsible Party	Target Date
Copy compilation of comments recorded from the open houses to the ftp site	Scott	12/16
Revise and send out draft agendas for the next two SWG meetings	Vaughn/Kristin	12/16
Arrange meeting with TRNWL contact, Jason Tell, Kathy B. and Andy C.	Michael	Week of 12/19

Upcoming Events

January 19 – SWG meeting #4

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January 26 – EMT #6 (Metro)

February 9 – SWG meeting #5

February 13 – PSC meeting #3