

**US 97 Bend North Corridor Project – Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes
8/13/08**

CAC Members in attendance:

Wayne Schnur	Mike Schmidt	Linda Perelli Wright
Jeanne Newton	Tim Larocco	Stew Bennett
Michel Bayard	Neil Bryant	Dan Gilder
Mike Lovely	Bill Smith	

ODOT & COIC Staff in attendance:

Rick Williams, ODOT	Andrew Spreadborough, COIC	Rex Holloway, ODOT
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Guests:

Nick Arnis, City of Bend	Damian Syrnyk, City of Bend
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Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions

Mike Schmidt opened the meeting, and introductions were made.

Update on City of Bend UGB Expansion

Damian Syrnak provided a series of handouts on the City of Bend Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion process. He provided information on the city's project website, and demonstrated how to find materials and meeting records. He also provided a schedule of planning commission work sessions. He distributed maps that show the planning commission and TAC work to identify land suitable for residential or employment development.

Bill Smith asked Damian to define the terms "exception" and "resource" as used on the maps. Damian said that the intent is to classify property by priority class. State law requires cities to look at areas shown on the maps in green and blue (exception lands) before other property. He said that resource lands are primarily farm and forest lands.

The final map referenced by Damian showed sewer serviceability within the study area. He noted that the purple colors show additional areas serviceable by city sewer and are appropriate for inclusion in UGB. Collectively, the maps show all of the lands that are under consideration for UGB expansion.

Damian said that in June 2007 the City released a UGB map, and then held hearings in July and August. The planning commission held 24 work sessions since then, and looked at inventories, data, and needs for additional land over next 20 years (through 2028). Additionally, the commission received new direction from the city council: to focus on industrial and commercial land, not just residential; and to maximize UGB, not focus only on Juniper Ridge. The last planning commission hearing was held in June. The commission reviewed three scenarios for UGB expansion. The expansion would include 5,535 acres total, 3,000 for residential, schools and parks; and 2,500 for job creating employment.

Damian said that work is currently under way to evaluate properties within the study area based on serviceability for water, sewer and transportation. He said that the August, 2008, planning commission

work session information is posted to the website, including links to testimony and meeting materials. He said that by August 25 or September 8 the planning commission will start looking at alternative boundary locations. A final public hearing will be held in October, followed by planning commission and City action.

Mike Schmidt asked for the definition of “Goal 14”. Damian said that it is one of 19 statewide planning goals, and it deals specifically with UGBs and urbanization. Goal 14 defines the process cities must go through to expand their UGB, and includes requirements for public infrastructure – water, sewer and transportation.

Damian said that the information developed to date has gone to Rick Williams for the purpose of coordinating between projects and so that ODOT understands the areas under consideration for UGB expansion. Mike Schmidt said that there are differences between local and state projections for population growth, and asked if the City and State are in agreement. Damian said that the City is using local projections, and that there is no disagreement from the State. Mike Schmidt asked how employment land needs are determined. Damian said that they look at projected population growth, as well as employment forecasts prepared by the Oregon Employment Department and modified for Bend as a regional employment center. They are seeing faster/larger employment growth that exceeds the rate of population growth. Growth in high tech and manufacturing are unique to Bend. A document on this will be available at the next hearing. Damian provided his contact info and encouraged the CAC members to contact him if they have additional questions.

City of Bend’s NE Transportation Study

Nick Arnis provided an update on the NE Bend Transportation Study. He distributed a memo that provides an overview of the project and alternatives that have been tested. Scenario maps were posted on the wall. He noted that study participants include ODOT, Deschutes County, Bend MPO, and City of Bend staff and consultants. The study goals are to decrease local trips on state highway system, and to better coordinate projects in the NE Bend area. Nick summarized the five study scenario:

1. Local corridor scenarios, use county roads, city streets – enhance local corridors with additional lanes or intersections.
2. Local system extensions – broad extensions to the local system – major in scale.
3. Highway oriented – highway crossings and connections.
4. Enhanced highway extensions – new interchanges and intersections.
5. Transportation demand management – system management. Enhanced transit, parking, car pools. Staggering shifts – working with employers.

Nick said that the City is in the process of reviewing the scenarios with ODOT and Deschutes County staff. Findings will be presented next week to the Oregon Transportation Commission, and to the project steering committee the following week.

Nick said that there are lots of connections between the scenarios; a single scenario won’t emerge through this process. More likely, pieces of each will be incorporated. He said that a balanced use of the system leads to better functioning.

Wayne Schnur noted his understanding of peak hour and off-peak traffic. He asked if a property could be tied with a requirement that businesses schedule their work shifts around off-peak hours. Nick said that there are policies or methods of for this sort of requirement, including through land use restrictions. For instance, the City owns Juniper Ridge, and can place these requirements on properties. Wayne asked how the requirements are administered. Nick said that one method would be to develop a “transportation management area” – where businesses would be jointly held to common rules as a requirement to use the system. Mike Schmidt pointed out that there are other major employment centers in the city, and asked if the model is looking at other areas that could impact the overall street system. Nick said that they are not yet looking beyond the study area, but that the model looks for connections between areas of the city.

Mike Schmidt noted the grid system that is proposed on scenario #4, and said that grids tend to be more fuel efficient. He asked why the Juniper Ridge master plan does not contain a grid road system. Nick said that the roads follow land contours. A precise grid is not needed, as long as you have sufficient connections.

Jeanne Newton said that the new Deschutes National Forest headquarters will lead to an estimated 1,300 daily trips from Deschutes Market Road to Butler Market Road. Forest Service officials said that the traffic study shows failure at intersections regardless of their actions. Jeanne asked how the City considers and assimilates all of these sorts of additions. Nick replied that the model assumes growth in UGB, but does not identify specific growth. He said that he is not sure if National Forest HQ was considered in modeling. The regional model is high-level and broad.

Linda Perelli Wright asked how the study relates to the UGB options; is this supposed to support the UGB expansion? Nick said that the Oregon Transportation Commission asked if improvements to the local road network can take traffic off the highway system. Bend city councilors have asked the same question related to Juniper Ridge. This study begins to look at this question. There are many planning processes going on currently, and the intent of this study is to determine if improvements can increase linkages on the system to address this question. Neil Bryant noted that the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting agenda includes an update on the North End Transportation Study and Juniper Ridge. He asked if this study will be included in the update. Nick answered that it will be, and Commission members will receive a one-page overview.

Rick Williams noted how this study impacts our project. He said that the Empire/3rd Street/Highway 97 area is difficult to solve within this process. The NE Bend Transportation Study could result in identifying other options to improve the area. It may also delay when an intersection improvement is needed, which could help select an alternative. The study could also impact how an alternative can be phased.

Environmental Justice Studies

Rick Williams said that the mobile home park surveys confirmed that they are an Environmental Justice community. ODOT is working on designs to minimize impacts to the mobile home parks, and are currently analyzing a handful of options. They are looking at interchange locations and locations of alignments. He said that they do not have any options that avoid impacts entirely; all alternatives and options have at least indirect impacts.

Neil Bryant asked if the highway is behind cemetery, can impacts be avoided. Rick said that it is hard to say if there would be noise impact. Change to access is also an impact. He said that the Environmental Justice law is an exercise; it does not say that you cannot impact these communities,

but you do need to consider not impacting, show why you need to impact, and show how impacts are mitigated. Rick noted the possibility that the UGB expansion may result in the mobile home parks entering the UGB, which may then lead to owners selling property. Michel asked what would happen to tenants in that scenario. Rick said that the Environmental Justice law would not apply if the transaction was not within a federal project.

Michel Bayard asked if 3rd Street could be extended to Juniper Ridge. Rick said that the avoid option has considered a number of 3rd street alignments and connections. Bill Smith asked about the possibility of moving the mobile home park into Juniper Ridge. Rick said that if a road goes through any portion of the park, it will take out either the water or septic field. If it is located within the City, then water and sewer would not be affected. So we are waiting on how the UGB expansion is resolved. We could move tenants to Juniper Ridge, but we cannot move the mobile homes because many are too old and don't meet code.

Rick said that the project team completed the business survey. 330+ surveys were distributed to businesses in the Nels Anderson area, Jamison Road, Empire, and Clausen area. The survey contained Environmental Justice questions.

Neil Bryant asked about the status of the options submitted by SEMA. Rick said that they are still being evaluated, and that modeling work is under way. Neil said that they are meeting with ODOT on September 3 to discuss preferences, and that it will be hard to do without more information. Rick said that they are looking at the options from the perspective of phasing to identify which can be done in buildable phases.

Rick said that they are also working on identifying the need for goal exceptions. The West A alternative needs 4 goal exceptions, while the East A needs 2. It will be difficult for DLCD to approve the alternative that requires more goal exceptions. He said that there are still 3 options, but information is starting to show that the West alternative is the least viable of the three. The others have pluses and minuses, but nothing to separate them. He said that they may be prepared to recommend one alternative in a few weeks.

Bill Smith asked when the Northeast Bend Transportation Study will impact this process. Rick said that the study won't result in identifying the specific locations of improvements; rather, the study will result in general improvements, recommendations, and high-level suggestions that may not aid in making a selection. The project team will work toward incorporating the plan into whatever option is selected.

Tim Larocco asked how much time and detail is mandated for design efforts to minimize impacts for mobile home parks. Rick said that there are not specific mandates. He said that they have not yet modeled the "avoid" option because they see no reasonable option that meets the project Purpose & Need and Goals & Objectives while avoiding all impacts to the EJ communities. ODOT is focusing current efforts on minimizing impacts. Tim asked how the ability to phase an option is weighted. Rick said that it is not weighted; the phasing helps identify what we can do to allow the project to be built.

Stew Bennett asked if mobile home residents are renters or owners. Rick said that 60-70% of mobile home residents own their homes. Many have been there 20+ years.

Linda Perelli Wright asked about differences in project cost estimates. Rick said that costs are concepts only, so are not perfectly accurate yet. They have not been engineered, so there could be 40-50% difference.

Michel Bayard asked if the Oregon Transportation Commission discussions could influence the work on this project. Rick said he didn't know, but noted that there is not a lot of time on the agenda for policy detail discussion. Neil Bryant said that Jon Heacock will provide an update on project on the 21st at 12:30.

Rex Holloway said that we will be reconvening focus groups over the next couple months, including Hunnell, Clausen and the mobile home parks. He said that we are looking to mix groups in common vicinities and with common issues. He said that more information will be sent out once the focus group meetings are scheduled. He also said that September 25 is targeted for the next open house. By early September we should know what options will be included in the environmental impact study.

Next Meeting

Neil Bryant asked if the CAC can see NEPA alternative analysis information. Rick said that the report on how we got from 26 options down to three will be available. He said that the analysis on "tweaks" to alignments may be ready as well.

Jeanne Newton asked when the CAC will see design work on the Empire interchange, noting that Amy Pfeiffer had indicated last month that it was being worked on. Rick said that the design is looking like a "single-point diamond" where all of the ramps come to one point. He said that the real problem is 3rd and Empire. He said that Amy should be able to provide the information at the next meeting.

Mike Schmidt suggested that the CAC hear about the Oregon Transportation Commission discussion on the project. Rick suggested that Mike will get an update though Steering Team meetings, and may be better suited to provide the update. Mike also announced that the "Build a Better Bend" forum will have a presentation on the Economic value of transit on September 18 at 6:30 PM at St. Charles.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.