



**Oregon Department of Transportation**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Region 1** *Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas  
and Hood River Counties*

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Regional Projects Website: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1)

## **Delta Park I-5 widening project citizen committees recommend preferred alternatives; environmental assessment due this fall**

The Delta Park Citizen Advisory Committee and Environmental Justice Working Groups have made their final recommendations to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on the Interstate 5 widening project between N. Victory Boulevard and N. Lombard Street.

### **Committee Recommendations to ODOT**

1. Take action to resolve transportation problems identified in the project Purpose and Need statement for the I-5: Delta Park to Lombard project
2. Undertake the widening of I-5 to three lanes southbound between Delta Park and Lombard, which is a fundamental part of the four studied Build Alternatives
3. Eliminate Alternatives 1 and 3 as preferred alternatives for the Columbia Blvd interchange area
4. Identify **both Alternative 2 and Alternative 4 as preferred alternatives** for the Columbia Boulevard interchange area with the following additional recommendations for Alternative 2:
  - ◆ Both the Denver Avenue bridge over Columbia Blvd and the Denver Avenue bridge over the Columbia Slough should be reconstructed as a part of this project, with bicycle and pedestrian facilities
  - ◆ Negative impacts to the community should be mitigated

Seven committee members recommended Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative; five committee members recommended Alternative 4 as the preferred alternative. Two members abstained.

“We truly appreciate the vision, dedication and sacrifice of the working groups in reaching this major milestone,” said Kate Deane, ODOT Project Manager for the Delta Park project.

## Next Steps

- ◆ ODOT is completing an Environmental Assessment document for the I-5: Delta Park to Lombard project. All four Build Alternatives and a No Build Alternative will be included in the Environmental Assessment
- ◆ ODOT expects to publish this document and hold a public hearing on the Environmental Assessment and the project advisory committee recommendations in October 2005. There will be a 45-day public comment period on the Environmental Assessment and the public hearing is expected at the end of October
- ◆ After consideration of the public comments, ODOT will select a final preferred alternative. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval is expected in the spring of 2006 and construction is anticipated to begin in 2008
- ◆ **A community meeting to discuss the proposed community enhancement fund for the project will be held 5:30—8:30 p.m. Monday, June 20, 2005 at the Salvation Army Moore Street Corps Community Center, 5325 N Williams, Portland, OR**

## Project Background

Southbound I-5 between Delta Park and the Columbia Boulevard interchange is a two-lane section of freeway. This segment creates a bottleneck for southbound traffic and causes congestion due to its location between three-lane sections of freeway. Four alternatives were developed from meetings of the project's Citizen Advisory Committee and the Environmental Justice Work Group, public input at open houses 2003 and a design workshop in 2003. Each of the four alternatives provide for the widening of southbound I-5 to three lanes. The alternatives differ in how they provide improved access between Columbia Blvd. and I-5. Details are online at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/I-5DeltaPark/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/I-5DeltaPark/)

## Project Timeline

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| ◆ Identify issues, develop/refine alternatives  | 2003—Summer 2004        |
| ◆ Select alternatives for further study   | Summer 2004             |
| ◆ Analyze alternatives  | Fall 2004               |
| ◆ Document findings of potential impacts  | Spring 2005             |
| ◆ Public Review of findings (open house)  | Spring 2005             |
| ➤ <b>Citizen Advisory Committee and Environmental Justice Working Group recommend preferred alternative to ODOT</b> | <b>NOW</b>              |
| ◆ Public hearing on Environmental Assessment and draft recommendations  | Fall 2005               |
| ◆ FHWA Approval   | Spring 2006             |
| ◆ Final design, right-of-way acquisition  | Spring 2006—Winter 2007 |
| ◆ Construction (pending approval and funding)   | Summer 2008 (estimated) |

**##ODOT##**