

Project Advisory Committee

Meeting #1 - Summary

October 11, 2010 5:30 to 7:30 pm

City Hall – 104 SE Kibling, Troutdale

Attendees:

- Andrew Johnson /ODOT
- Todd Juhasz /ODOT
- Carl Springer/DKS
- Les Perry/ General Citizen
- Rich Faith/ City of Troutdale
- Kathryn Kelly/City of Gresham
- Malcolm McCann/ Comfort Suites Inn
- William Roper /Chevron
- Dan Walsh/ Walsh Trucking Company
- Brandy Steffen/CH2M HILL
- Dawn Parker/CH2M HILL

Not in attendance: Steve Nagy/Port of Portland and Erna Harvey/Factory Outlet Mall

Welcome & Introductions

- Andy introduced the team members and their roles:
 - Andy is the current ODOT Major Projects Manager, and is representing ODOT in this effort.
 - Todd is taking over for the former senior planner as Project Manager for this project.
 - Carl is the Project Manager with DKS.
 - CH2M is the Public Involvement consultant for DKS.
 - Rich is representing the City of Troutdale.
 - Kathryn Kelly is representing the City of Gresham.
 - Malcolm, William, Dan, and Les are representing the local businesses and citizens.
- Brandy reviewed the agenda items (*see attached agenda*) and desired outcomes of this meeting:
 - Build common understanding of PAC's purpose, roles, and responsibilities.
 - Review project purpose and schedule.
 - Discuss issues along South Frontage Road.
 - Review goals and objectives.

Committee Goals & Protocols

- Brandy reviewed committee protocols (*see attached PAC Purpose & Protocols*):
 - The group did not have edits and approved the document.

Project Overview and Q&A

- Andy reviewed project background:
 - The previous TSP process resulted in:
 - Impacts which were too great.

- Options that were feasible, but did not have enough public support.
 - A good partnership between the City, Port, and ODOT.
 - We are not looking at a replacement of the existing interchange, which would be too expensive.
 - We are doing this IAMP (Interchange Area Management Plan) to avoid an interchange failure; so that money set aside for these improvements will be protected.
 - There have been multiple changes to this intersection (S. Frontage Road & 257th).
 - We have many options but we will need to weigh the benefits and impacts, as well as costs of improvements, for each.
 - Focus of this committee is on South Frontage Road. North Frontage operates better because it has fewer driveways.
- The purpose of the Advisory Committee:
 - Advise ODOT and the City of Troutdale on how to proceed with improvements in the area.
 - Avoid a failure of interchange; create short and long term improvements.
 - Help form a plan (IAMP) for the next 20 years, with short and long term improvements.
- The group discussed South Frontage Road issues:
 - A new Fed-Ex facility is built and more capacity is planned in the future.
 - Each facility on S. Frontage Road is self-contained, without other entrances/exits. Will look to see if it is possible to connect lots on S. Frontage Road.
 - Traffic generally stays in the right lanes, causing blocked entrances/exits and back up.
- Question & Answer:
 - Multiple projects have been identified in this area. Are there funds that would remain after these earmarked projects are finished? Yes. The Marine Drive project (with lengthening off ramps, turn lane extensions, and lane widening is a possible project that would result after the identified and funded projects are completed. However, more information is needed).
 - We heard at the last open house that this will coincide with an overpass rebuild. The two projects were designed together for a short time to ensure that they were coordinated for construction, but they are no longer on the same schedule.
 - What percentage of traffic is freight vs. auto? We guess it to be about 15% freight.
 - To clarify, the stakeholders in this process, who use the S. Frontage Road are:
 - People who live and work here (commuters)
 - The N. Frontage Rd operators/businesses
 - The S. Frontage Rd operators/businesses and customers

Project Goals for S. Frontage Road

- Needs and Objectives
 - We need a 2-way turn onto Marine Drive that also addresses the problem of traffic back up on the highway.
 - We are hoping for a 25% reduction in delay.
 - Re-route trucks to Marine Drive. A comfortable turn will be important.
 - Widen S. Frontage Road to alleviate congestion under the highway (onto 257th).
 - Lengthen and widen the ramp for left turns off the highway.
- Goals for addressing the issues
 - Identify 5-20 years of needs and objectives.
 - Advise ODOT and the City how to move forward.

Existing Conditions

- The group discussed Problems/Opportunities:
 - Switchbacks near the airport and Wendy's is dangerous for freight trucks.
 - No room to turn left onto 84E split.
 - Commuters are getting caught in the right lane closest to the driveways and get in the way of the freight trucks and customers trying to enter driveways.
 - Trucks have to go either North or East to get to companies/destinations.
 - Left lane remains open, while the right lane is congested blocking trucks from exiting (S. Frontage Road).
 - Hotel guests have to keep circling and cannot enter.
 - Bike/Ped route has inadequate access to the 40 mile trail. There is no shoulder or sidewalk and people have to walk their bikes on 257th under highway.
 - The Sandy River bridge will be widened to include pedestrian and bike facilities.
 - The weaving of cars and trucks accessing driveways is the biggest problem on S. Frontage Road. Cars have traveled under freight trucks (highly dangerous).
 - Cars are not making the tight left turns on North frontage road (near the fence). The island confuses drivers and some have tipped over or driven off the road.
 - Long wait to go left onto N. Frontage Rd, causing drivers to run the light.
 - Low ground drainage issues on the North side (and in the whole area) make it impossible to move the truck facilities and gas stations to N. Frontage Road.

Next steps

- Actions
 - We will take these issues to the project team.
 - Email PAC the summary from this meeting.
- Actions for Next Meeting
 - Discuss past options and their impacts.
 - Draw on maps to brainstorm ideas for short and long term solutions.
 - Dan and Malcolm both offered rooms for future meetings.
 - Next meeting will likely be in early November.
 - Afternoon meetings are best for the group.
 - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings are conflicted.
 - Malcolm is out the first week of November and Les is out the first week of January.
 - Report on the number of accidents, causes and locations.
 - Information on what the costs of the southern bypass (that was looked at 1 ½ years ago) and what it would do. What were the property impacts?
 - Show funded projects on the maps (which we will use to collect new ideas and solutions during the next meeting).
 - Need to see more of the map to the North.
 - Andy will bring past project work options and saved models.
 - Materials for the next meeting will be sent out one week ahead of the meeting.

Close

- Brandy thanked the group for attending, and asked them to call her or email with any questions or comments.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

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- Discuss issues along South Frontage Road
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5:30 p.m.	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Review desired outcomes• Review agenda	Andrew Johnson, ODOT Brandy Steffen, CH2M HILL
5:35 p.m.	Committee Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a common understanding of the group's goals. Committee Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting ground rules• How group recommendations will be made• Communication protocols• Process for public input	Brandy Steffen
6:00 p.m.	Project Overview and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purpose of project• South Frontage Road issues	Todd Juhasz, ODOT Carl Springer, DKS Associates
6:30 p.m.	Project Goals for South Frontage Road <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Needs and Objectives• Goals for addressing the issues	Brandy Steffen
7:00 p.m.	Existing Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problems/Opportunities	Brandy Steffen
7:25 p.m.	Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actions• Next Meeting	Brandy Steffen
7:30 p.m.	Close	Andrew Johnson

PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE AND PROTOCOLS

Group Purpose

The purpose of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) is to offer community-based input to the Project Management Team (PMT) on key topics related to the I-84 257th Avenue Interchange Amera Management Plan; specifically the issues along South Frontage Road.

Role

- The role of the PAC is to learn about, discuss, review, and offer written and verbal feedback to the PMT.
- PAC members will not make group recommendations based on consensus or a majority vote; rather, the product of the meetings will be a record of discussion that includes all points of view and documents any general points of agreement.

Structure

- The PAC is structured as an informal advisory committee.
- Members were invited to attend the meetings.
- The PAC will meet four (4) times during the project to provide advice to the PMT.
 - The first meeting will focus on the long-term solutions, prioritization questions, issues on South Frontage Road, and problems/opportunities for the area.
 - The second meeting will focus on alternative ideas for the South Frontage Road, that are less expensive solutions to the problems identified in the first meeting.
 - The third meeting will discuss the evaluation of the ideas from the second meeting and discuss how this information will be shared with the public at the first open house (tentatively scheduled for December).
 - The final meeting will review the draft IAMP and cover any outstanding issues.
- PAC meetings may be structured as group discussions.
- The general public will be provided 10 minutes of each meeting to make comments to the group.

Meeting Guidelines

- Meetings will be announced by email at least 3 weeks in advance. Meeting materials will be emailed to members one week in advance of the meeting. If a member cannot attend the meeting, a representative from the same organization/company can attend in their place.
- Meeting outcomes will be a documentation of discussion. All individual opinions and input will be documented.
- Meetings will begin and end on time. If agenda items cannot be completed on time, the group will decide if the meeting should be extended or if an additional meeting should be scheduled.
- Meeting summaries will be prepared and distributed to participants by email one week after the meeting.

- By participating in the meetings, PAC members indicate their agreement to:
 - Share the available speaking time
 - Be respectful of a range of opinions
 - Focus on successfully completing the agreed upon agenda
 - Put cell phones on silent
 - Avoid side discussions when others are speaking
 - Voice concerns and complaints at the meeting, rather than outside the meeting
 - Work inside and outside of the meetings in ways that are supportive of the process of designing a project that meets community needs
 - Direct media and public inquires to Andy Johnson, ODOT.