

Public and Agency Coordination

The identification and subsequent selection of the Build Alternative as the Preferred Alternative occurred after a public hearing was held on the Environmental Assessment and comments received during the public comment period were considered by ODOT.

A Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee were formed to develop the *Draft Willamina-Grand Ronde Corridor Refinement Plan* in 1998 (now called the *H.B. Van Duzer – Steel Bridge Road Corridor Refinement Plan*). The Steering Committee meetings were open to the public and often attended by members of the community. Members of the Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee are listed below.

Steering Committee

- Polk County Planning Department
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Willamina City Council
- Yamhill County Public Works
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- City of McMinnville Commissioner
- Regional Problem Solving Committee
- Polk County Planning Commission
- Mid Willamette Valley Council of Governments
- Area business owners

Technical Advisory Committee

- Polk County Planning Department
- ODOT, Preliminary Design
- ODOT, Transportation Operations
- ODOT, Planning
- Yamhill County Public Works
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- ODOT, Environmental
- ODOT, Transportation Analysis Unit
- Mid Willamette Valley Council of Governments

Public Hearing

ODOT held a public hearing on November 7, 2002, at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Governance Center. The purpose of the public hearing was to present the project

Build and No Build alternatives, as well as the updated design at the ORE 18/Fort Hill Road intersection, answer questions from the public, and provide project information to those requesting it. Persons attending the public hearing were invited to provide written comments and/or oral testimony.

The public hearing was advertised through the local media and invitations were sent to property owners in the area. Approximately 100 people attended the hearing to discuss the project and provide oral and/or written testimony.

Public Comments on the Environmental Assessment

The public comment period occurred between October 19 and November 18, 2002. Approximately 100 people attended the public hearing to discuss the project and provide oral or written testimony, or both. A total of 12 comments were submitted to a court reporter as oral testimony at the hearing, the transcript of which is included as Appendix D to this REA. In addition, 14 comments were submitted in writing at the hearing, with another 35 comments submitted in writing at some point during the comment period. Of these 35 comments, 31 were from members of the public and four were from resource agencies. Summarized responses to comments are provided as Appendix B to this REA. Comments from the public are included as Appendix C, and comments from resource agencies are included as Appendix E.

Public comments, including testimony provided by the court reporter, written comments submitted at the public meeting, and written comments submitted to ODOT during the comment period, were compiled and reviewed by the Steering Committee. Appendix B contains summarized responses by the Steering Committee to comments.