



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Southwest Oregon Public Affairs

*Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson and
Josephine Counties*

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Phoenix business owners invited to Fern Valley project meeting

PHOENIX — Phoenix businesses are invited to attend a Feb. 15 meeting to discuss the \$40 million Fern Valley Interchange project that will be held at the Phoenix High School cafeteria, 745 North Rose Street, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

“We understand the business owners’ concerns,” said Area Manager Art Anderson. “Similar concerns were voiced in Jacksonville and Grants Pass when state highway projects appeared on the horizon.

“We welcome the feedback and suggestions. ODOT projects in Jacksonville and Grants Pass received national awards in part because of our strong partnerships with the local business communities.”

Groups of local stakeholders—a Citizens Advisory Committee and a Project Development Team—have met regularly since March 2004 to develop conceptual alternatives for the Interstate 5 interchange (exit 24). An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be used to formulate project alternatives and reach a preferred alternative. Construction is scheduled to start in 2008.

The EA is a federal document that is prepared for a project where the significance of the social, economic and environmental impacts is not clearly established.

“We’ve heard from many stakeholders, including the Phoenix Association of Business and Property owners,” said Project Leader Debbie Timms. “We saw the need for a separate meeting just for the local business community.”

ODOT will host a second event, an informal open house, on March 1 at the Phoenix High School cafeteria, 745 North Rose Street, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. That event will provide a general project overview.

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“The project goal is to address the needs of Phoenix as well as the needs of people traveling to Medford for jobs, for shopping and for other services,” Timms said. “We’re a long way off from construction. Now is the time for stakeholders to help us develop the final design.”

According to Timms, information is also available on the project web site:

www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region3.

“Emotions are running high right now and understandably so,” said Timms. “The Feb. 15 meeting will help address concerns we’ve heard from Phoenix business owners.

“This project development process is both collaborative and transparent. Of course, the process takes years to complete. That’s why it’s so important we maintain open communication with all stakeholders.”

Meeting accommodations

For the Feb. 15 meeting with Phoenix business owners and the March 1 open house for the general public, accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities. Alternate formats are available upon request. If a sign language interpreter is needed, please call Public Information Specialist Gary Leaming (541) 774-6388 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

##ODOT##

