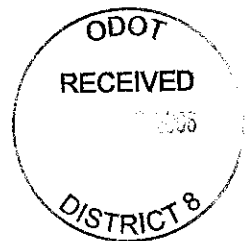


Josephine County Board of Commissioners
*Dwight F. Ellis, Chair * Jim Raffenburg, Vice Chair * Jim Riddle, Commissioner*

March 10, 2006

Art Anderson
Oregon Department of Transportation
100 Antelope Road
Medford, Oregon 97503



Re: Hwy 199 proposed improvements

Hello Art,

As promised, on March 7th, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners discussed ODOT's proposed improvements to Hwy 199 between Midway Ave. and Tussey Lane. The following is the formal position of the Board of Commissioners.

The Board understands that current funding levels will allow the R.O.W. acquisition, the mitigation of impacts to property owners and businesses and associated construction costs of the following:

- 1) A median on Hwy. 199 between Midway Ave. and the entrance to Rogue Community College
- 2) Necessary improvements to Hubbard Lane and Demaray Dr.
- 3) The removal of two traffic lights, one at the entrance to the Josephine County Fairgrounds and another at the intersection of Redwood Ave. and Hwy. 199.
- 4) Installation of improvements to allow safe U-turns at both Allen Creek Road and Ringuette St.
- 5) The rerouting of Redwood Ave., extending Allen Creek Road and constructing a new slip-ramp exit from Hwy 199 westbound to the new, proposed intersection of Redwood Ave. and Allen Creek Road.

The Board wishes to point out that due to the work outlined in numbers 3 and 5 above, there will be significant impacts (including R.O.W. acquisition,) to Josephine County real property and Fairgrounds operations due to these above listed improvements. With the understanding that all of these impacts will be mitigated to the satisfaction of Josephine County, the Board of Commissioners supports these improvements.

Regarding the proposed new frontage road improvements between Allen Creek Road and Tussey Lane, the Board recognizes the need to address the serious traffic flow impacts on Hwy. 199, but is willing to

COURTHOUSE

500 N.W. Sixth Street, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526 Phone: (541) 474-5221 Fax: (541) 474-5105

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accept your request to postpone further discussion on the subject of *how and where* a new frontage road should be built (to mitigate these impacts), until ODOT's planning efforts begin on the much larger improvements needed for the upcoming South "Y" Project, anticipated for the 2010-2012 timeframe.

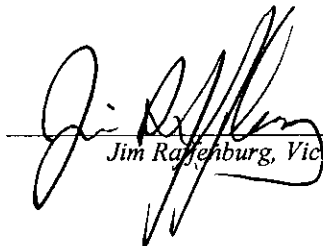
Be advised that the Board of Commissioners does not endorse the current options for this frontage road.

Please let the Board of Commissioners know when ODOT is ready to discuss the R.O.W. acquisition and other impacts to Josephine County's real property. When the impacts to our Fairgrounds operations are ready to be addressed, the Board of Commissioners will invite the Fair Board to participate in those discussions also.

Thank you.

Board of County Commissioners


Dwight F. Ellis, Chair


Jim Raffenburg, Vice Chair


Jim Riddle, Commissioner

Cc:

Fair Board Manager
City of Grants Pass
City of Cave Junction
Duane Schultz
Jason Atkinson
Gordon Anderson
Dennis Richardson