

Maupin Lauds ODOT At Riverfest



Normally, celebrating wild fish and wild water on the Lower Deschutes River doesn't include asphalt, sidewalks and ODOT Director Matt Garrett. But this wasn't an ordinary celebration.

This year's Riverfest in Maupin did feat the usual, but took time out this year to say "thanks" ... thanks for a big project in the little town on US197.

The project started out like most others, as an idea. The particular idea was to improve the

sidewalks and bike paths. But as folks started talking, especially ODOT District 9 Manager Sam Wilkins and Maupin Mayor Dennis Ross, the project grew and grew.

Eventually, all involved settled on a plan to repave the highway, improve the sidewalks, install new lights, and generally spruce up the entire downtown, which has come to depend on tourism for much of it's annual income.

Some 6 months and about 4 million dollars later, downtown Maupin has been transformed. The new asphalt is smooth, the new lights are tall, the sidewalks are smooth and inviting...and people are turning out to enhance their downtown.

It wasn't easy. There was some early opposition. But now, at the end of the project, folks are so pleased they invited Director Garrett to hear how happy they are about the project.

From Mayor Dennis Ross, to Public Works Director Mike Miles, to real estate developer Meedy Gantz, everyone is singing the praises for what ODOT has done. Miles says "there's a big pride" in the town now, and Gantz describes the work as "really special"...and said "we're happy" about the job. And as Director Garrett was introduced, a round of applause



rang out from all the folks gathered along the Deschutes River. Well done,
ODOT!