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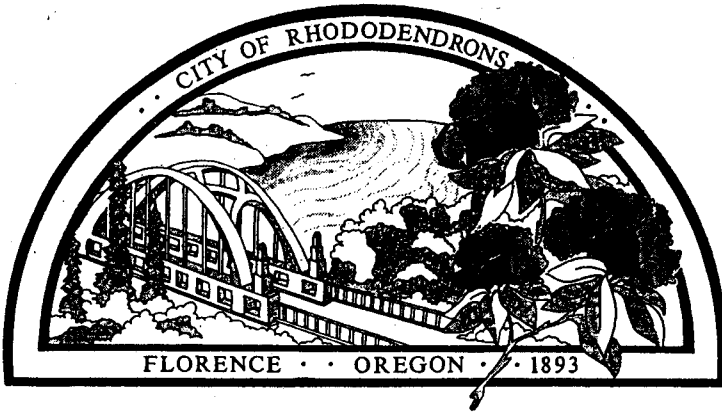
JUN 08 2005

ODOT Region 2
City of Florence

Mayor and Council

250 Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439-7628

Voice/TDD: (541) 997-3437
FAX: (541) 997-6814



June 7, 2005

Mr. Jeffrey Scheick, Region 2 Manager
Oregon Department of Transportation
455 Airport Road SE, Building B
Salem, Oregon 97301-5395

Dear Mr. Scheick:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 2005 in which you ask whether the City Of Florence supports designation of certain segments of Highway 101 as Special Transportation Areas (STA) or Urban Business Areas (UBA). Your timing is particularly appropriate. Such designation has been the topic of recent discussions of the Florence City Council.

The Florence City Council recently adopted a resolution, a copy of which I shall attach to this letter, which urges the designation of Highway 101 as an STA from the intersection of Highway 126 (9th Street in Florence) to the Siuslaw River Bridge. Your letter indicates your recommendation that the STA cover Highway 101 from 8th Street to the Bridge. We have reviewed the City's *Downtown Plan* with regard to planned projects and with current uses in this area. We find that the majority of the community's interest in future enhancements lies with the 8th Street intersection and from there south to the Siuslaw River Bridge. With this knowledge in hand, we concur with your recommendation of the STA.

The City had not previously given thought to the UBA designation. We had to look at the outlined purposes in order to learn its benefits. It seems that the core principal of either the STA or the UBA is the creation of a partnership between ODOT and the City to deal with the interface between the Highway and urban activity. We are attracted to the notion of having a voice, along with ODOT staff, in the management of the Highway.

We take special notice of the portion of your inclusions that describe characteristics of UBAs, especially that which says "bicycle/pedestrian accommodations to address safe and accessible pedestrian movement along, across and within the commercial area". Inasmuch as we have identified strong concerns with pedestrian safety at the intersection of 9th Street and Highway 101 and the text of your letter includes this crossing in the UBA, we are likewise attracted to your suggestion. The City concurs with your recommendation of the UBA in Florence.



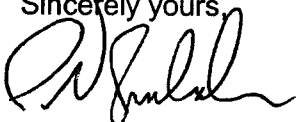
Mr. Jeffrey Scheick, Region 2 Manager, ODOT
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The City's first preference would be to have the STA and the UBA have a common boundary at the Highway 101 / Highway 126 intersection. The transportation planning partnership idea is so attractive that we would like to have a seamless area to deal with. Regardless of the boundaries of the segments, we are pledged in any case to work with ODOT on the management of the highway system.

Thank you again for your letter and for your consideration of the City of Florence. We are encouraged by your invitation to collaborate with ODOT on the management and development of Highway 101 in Florence. It bears comment that we enjoy working with your staff, among them Tom Boyatt. He has been helpful and available to answer questions and make suggestions as we have pondered highway management.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Florence's City Manager, Rodger Bennett. He can be reached at (541) 997-9755.

Sincerely yours,



Philip N. Brubaker
Mayor

Copies: City Council
Rodger Bennett

Enclosure: City Council Resolution