



# Highway 62 Corridor Project

**Date:** November 5, 2004

**From:** Kathy Helmer, RVCOG

**Re:** **CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) MEETING  
MINUTES for October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

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**Members in Attendance:** Bill Blair; Becky Brooks; David Christian; Mike Gardiner; Mike Malepsy; Mike Montero; Richard Moorman, Bob Plankenhorn; Susan Rachor, Don Riegger, Dale Shaddox; Nanci Watkins, Paige West.

**Members Absent:** Curt Burrill and Wade Six.

**Location:** Conference Room, Rogue Valley Sewer Services, 138 W. Vilas, Central Point.

**Guests:** Six members of the public; Mark Gibson of the Project Development Team.

**Staff Present:** Debbie Timms, Gary Leaming, Jerry Marmon and Mike Arneson of ODOT; Jamie Snook of URS; Jim Hanks of JRH; John Morrison and Kathy Helmer of RVCOG; Nick Fortey of FHWA.

## 1.0 Introductions

John Morrison convened the third meeting of the Highway 62 Corridor Project CAC at 6:00PM. He welcomed the CAC members and reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. The objectives were: 1) to recap the two scoping meetings; and 2) to gain an understanding of Traffic Issues, Analysis Objective and Alternatives Evaluation processes in regard to Highway 62.

No corrections to the minutes were suggested. Dale moved to accept them as written and the CAC voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **2.0 Agency Scoping and Public Open House Meetings**

John Morrison updated the CAC on the two scoping meetings held since they last met. The purpose of the agency scoping meeting was to ensure that agencies were aware of the NEPA process underway. Agencies include: Dept. of Land Conservation and Development, US Fish and Wildlife Service, OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers, Division of State Lands, and OR Dept. of Transportation. During this meeting, led by Terry Kearns, they discussed environmental analyses, including endangered species, eagles, wetlands and vernal pools. Participants also had the option of making a site visit after the meeting to a vernal pool and vegetation site. Jerry Marmon was impressed with the turnout for the meeting and with the discussions that occurred.

John then described the Public Open House held in the White City at the Family Resource Center. This was a self-guided tour, organized around a set of stations that featured information panels regarding specific topics. Each station was staffed so that members of the public could get answers to their questions and the project could receive public input. John referred the CAC to the report in their meeting packet which included comments heard from the public at the Open House. A total of 17 people came to the Open House.

## **3. Traffic Issues Presentation**

Jim Hanks made a power point presentation to the CAC on the Objectives of Traffic Engineering Analysis. The slides were included in the meeting packet. Jim noted that he had been a traffic engineer for 35 years and that he had played a management role in both the South Medford and North Medford Interchange Projects.

The presentation covered several topics, including but not limited to, measures of congestion, factors related to highway capacity, safety analysis, and forecasting growth with a regional model. He explained the modeling process, as well as how evaluations are evaluated.

After the presentation, several questions and points were made by CAC members. Paige West spoke of the importance of including bikes in the analyses, especially as it affects capacity in the future. Nick Fortey asked Jim to discuss the issue of “induced demand”. Jim Hanks explained that capacity improvements can result in higher than projected demand, since persons who now avoid a highway will decide to use it. The highway becomes more attractive to use. Another example of induced demand is that highway improvements make it easier to live in more distant locales due to lowered commute times. David Christian asked how people find a balance between differing desires for fast growth and slow growth.

## **4.0 A Look Ahead**

Debbie Timms noted that the next meeting would be held in the Jackson County Public Works Auditorium at 6:00 PM, on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. That meeting will be dedicated to understanding the importance of the Purpose and Need Statement in the overall project process. Gary Leaming will create a map to the Auditorium for CAC members.

## **5.0 Public Comment**

Gordon Draper, a BioMass manager, said he would like the highway improvements to go all the way to Avenue G. His company is concerned with the Ave. G stop light. Getting trucks through that light is a real safety issue.

## **6. Comfort Check**

John asked CAC members to share their reactions to the meeting. People expressed their appreciation for Jim Hanks' presentation. Paige West said that Jim's approach to answering questions was excellent. Nanci Watkins said that she had learned a lot.

## **9. Adjournment**

Mike Montero adjourned the meeting at 8:00.