Highway 62 Corridor Project

Date: November 1, 2005

From: Kathy Helmer, RVCOG

Re: **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM (PDT) MEETING MINUTES for October 27, 2005**

PDT Members in Attendance: Donna Beck, Delanie Cutsforth, Brian Dunn, David Elliott, Nick Fortey, Mark Gallagher, Skip Knight, Kelly Madding, Jerry Marmon, Dan Moore and Debbie Timms.

Members Absent: Mark Gibson, Rick Levine and Mike Quilty

Location: Jackson Co. Public Works Auditorium, Mosquito Lane, White City.

Guests: Suzanne Myers, Medford Planning Department

Staff: Pat Foley, RVCOG; Nadine Lee, Martha Richards and Terry Kearns, URS.

1.0 Introductions/Agenda Review/Minutes

Terry Kearns convened the meeting at 8:35 AM. The minutes of the previous meeting had not been sent with the meeting packet, so they will be sent for review at the December meeting.

2.0 CAC Update

Terry Kearns reviewed the agenda and briefed the PDT on the CAC meeting held the previous evening. After reviewing all modeling results, the CAC recommended that the PDT drop all out of corridor alternatives. There will be no additional meetings until December; this will allow a refined modeling and design process.

3.0 Modeling Results – In Corridor Alternatives

Terry Kearns shared the modeling results for the in-corridor alternatives. Each alternative was displayed on a separate sheet, showing a map of the alternative and, to the side, a stick figure that displayed segments where traffic volumes were under or over capacity.

Terry explained that all in-corridor alternatives showed congestion to the north until they remodeled them to show a northern terminus option. The addition of a northern terminus pushes the end of the project and the congestion further to the north. Congestion in the Poplar Drive area is also a common issue. The modeling did not assume grade separation at Poplar, but it could, to get rid of the congestion. There are many transitions south of Poplar, adding complexity to the issue of grade separations in that area.

Terry reviewed the project Purpose and Need with PDT members, again underscoring that all alternatives had to pass through this first screen to continue being considered by the project.

4.0 Summation of All Alternatives

Terry then reviewed the set of out-of-corridor alternatives. He noted that the Highway 140 extension alternative could be built and many significant improvements would still be required on Highway 62.

Terry referred the group to a set of tables that showed whether or not each alternative met the Purpose and Need and whether or not they merited further study.

There was some discussion about the Northern Terminus. Nick Fortey asked what would be the end point for chasing congestion and said that he would not want to endlessly work the issue. Jerry Marmon noted that wherever the northern terminus was, capacity from there on out would likely be poor. Brian Dunn said that it was the role of the Regional Transportation Plan to deal with regional issues thirty years out.

Dan Moore asked about the idea of building a by-pass by Costco, since that is the location of much of the congestion. Brian Dunn said that that type of project would move the congestion up the road.

Kelly Madding approved of the idea of moving all the Northern Terminus options into the refined modeling process. She said that the best traffic solution might not be the best social option. David Elliott said that he wanted to keep the current alignment of Highway 62 through White City. He said that the city was already divided by the highway and he saw no reason to divide it again with yet another highway.

4.0 Motion from PDT

In conclusion, Terry Kearns shared the staff recommendation that all out-of-corridor alternatives be dropped, since they did not meet the Purpose and Need. Brian Dunn moved to do so and Donna Beck seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

5.0 Next Steps

Terry explained that the next meeting would be held in December and that this would be a joint CAC/PDT meeting to look at refined modeling results and begin an evaluation process.

Skip Knight asked if PDT discussions were being shared with the CAC and said that it would be helpful to have a joint meeting with them.

Kelly Madding noted that she would like to discuss how to involve White City in discussions of the northern terminus. Who actually controls White City is a question, since they are heading towards incorporation and have their own Planning Commission. The Board of Commissioners officially represents White City. Kelly talked strategy, asking if the project should have a citizen meeting. The alternatives will significantly affect White City. It was decided that the Project Management Team (PMT) would develop a plan for including White City in the discussion of the northern termini alternatives. Skip Knight said that the project should also talk to the industrialists in White City. Brian Dunn asked if the project had to identify its preferred route through White City and Terry Kearns responded that the overall project solution had to define improvements throughout the corridor. The project will likely be built from south to north; the availability of funds could indeed change as the project proceeded. Project implementation will likely require a phased construction approach.

7.0 Adjournment

Mark Gallagher introduced Suzanne Myers, a long range planner with the City of Medford, as his potential replacement on the PDT. He said that Suzanne already has experience with EIS processes. The group welcomed her.

Terry Kearns thanked participants and adjourned the meeting at 9:40 AM.