

## MEMORANDUM



To: Attendees of the OR 140 Bly Mountain Open House

From: Project Staff, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

Date: June 12, 2009

RE: Response to Comments Received at the Open House

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Dear stakeholder:

The Oregon Department of Transportation appreciates your attendance at the May 7<sup>th</sup> project open house. We received a number of comments at the meeting that will help us to ensure that our project serves the needs of the Bly Mountain community. The purpose of this memo is to summarize the comments we received and our responses to them. If your concerns have not been adequately captured, please let us know by contacting Mike Redd, Project Leader, at 541-883-5781 or [George.M.Redd@odot.state.or.us](mailto:George.M.Redd@odot.state.or.us).

**Comment:** Adjust the radius at the Bly Mountain (Bonanza) cutoff intersection to accommodate large fire truck (20-foot wheel base).

**Response:** The project engineer, Allen Hart, will be working with the Fire Chief to ensure that the project design meets the needs of the fire department.

**Comment:** Snow removal problems are occurring at the Bly Mountain cutoff intersection.

**Response:** This comment will be relayed to the ODOT maintenance department. Note: Part of this problem may be due to having both ODOT and Klamath County involved in snow removal at that intersection.

**Comment:** Need flashing light telling on-coming cars that fire trucks are entering roadway.

**Response:** That is a good comment. However, currently, there isn't enough traffic on the roadway to justify this kind of signal; therefore, it will be difficult to get the necessary funds for its installation. The ODOT design team will investigate the possibility of adding warning signs before and after the intersection. This will be during the design phase of the project.

**Comment:** Consider a potential natural site/pond at the quarry location. This might also be a good location for a heliport.

**Response:** The wetlands and biology technical reports will discuss impacts to this property, if any, as part of the Environmental Assessment phase of the project. If it is an appropriate location for wetland mitigation, it will be discussed in the wetland technical report. Other uses for private property would not be considered in association with this

project. Other uses for the publicly-owned quarry would be consistent with the reclamation plan for this site and would occur once its use as a quarry is complete.

**Comment:** Need to ensure access to side streets for emergency vehicles.

**Response:** The project engineer will ensure that all intersections with side streets are up to standard for emergency vehicle use.

**Comment:** Eastbound trucks entering OR 140 at Bly cutoff must climb the grade to the east; need to consider passing lanes.

**Response:** The projected traffic over the next 20 years does not justify the expansion for passing lanes and thus is not currently included as part of this project.

**Comment:** Add acceleration and turn lanes at Bly Mountain cutoff road.

**Response:** The projected traffic volumes do not support the cost of constructing these lanes at this time. The new project should help by providing better vision of oncoming traffic, and the shoulders will be widened to 6 feet to facilitate entering traffic. A left-turn lane is scheduled for the Bly Mountain intersection for vehicles exiting OR 140.

**Comment:** The existing weather station is in a poor spot (south-facing slope). This is the first road section to thaw.

**Response:** The weather station is at this location because that's where there is power. If it is moved as part of this project, ODOT will take this comment into consideration.

**Comment:** Extend the project to Sprague River Road.

**Response:** At this time, there aren't funds available to extend the project beyond Deer Run Road.

**Comment:** Commemorate the Old Redball Stage Line at Wayside State Park.

**Response:** This isn't something that ODOT could pay for as part of the highway project, but it's a great comment for the Southern Oregon Historical Society. If the commenter would like to pursue this possibility, the Historical Society phone number is 541-773-6536.

**Comment:** It appears that one of the accesses to properties at 9151 and 9145 Hwy 140 will be lost. How will this be mitigated?

**Response:** Accesses to properties will be looked at in a comprehensive way in the Access Management Strategy. We don't know for sure yet what will happen to each property, but will note your concern as we move forward into the Access Management Strategy.