



LEGAL DEPARTMENT
TELEPHONE 541.416.5342
FAX 541.416.5454
david.r.gibson@lesschwab.com

LES SCHWAB TIRE CENTERS

P.O. Box 5350 - Bend, Oregon 97708-5350
20900 NE Cooley Rd. - Bend, Oregon 97701

05-10-12 10:52 IN

May 9, 2012

Rod Thompson
Salem River Crossing DEIS Comments
ODOT Region 2
455 Airport Rd. SE
Building B
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Comments on Salem River Crossing DEIS

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for providing us with information pertaining to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Salem river crossing project. Les Schwab Tires strongly supports the City's, and State's, efforts to ease traffic congestion and improve safety on the corridors affected by this project. However, we do not believe you have adequately considered the negative impacts on business that two of the alternatives will have.

We oppose alternatives 2A and 4B because these alternatives go too far in their impact on local businesses. Each of these proposals involves widening Wallace Road to six lanes at its southern end and installing an impassable center median. This would eliminate the ability of commuters and business people to make a left turn east onto what used to be Marine Drive and which now serves as an important point of entry for numerous businesses, including ours. We understand that there is another point of access off of Taggart, however this would be over a 20 foot wide internal driveway that was not built and is not maintained to handle the traffic that would be diverted there.

In particular, these alternatives will have a significant negative impact on the business of Les Schwab Tires. Most of our customers, including almost all of our commercial business, make a left turn into our store from Wallace Road or turn left when leaving. The internal access driveway is not constructed to a width or manner that will handle larger commercial vehicles and larger motor homes. Blocking these left turns from or onto Wallace Road will likely result in the loss of a major portion of our business.

We support Alternative 4D for several reasons.

First, we do not believe the Draft EIS adequately accounts for the likely significant benefits to be derived by both downtown and West Salem businesses, as well as some East Salem neighborhoods, from implementation of Alternative 4D. This alternative adds an important new means of East-West connectivity. Adding this bridge will greatly reduce traffic congestion in the important downtown business area and in the West Salem business district. This will likely

result in an increase in business traffic because with less congestion customers will be more likely to frequent the area. Additionally, by diverting from the downtown area much of the traffic that travels through West Salem to access I-5, this will alleviate the increasingly negative impacts thru-traffic is having on some eastside neighborhoods.

Second, the proposed extension of Marine Drive along the water front north of the existing bridges is critical to the success of any plan because it will effectively divert most of the through traffic around Wallace Road with connections to both Glen Greek and Orchard Heights. This will greatly improve the flow of traffic involving many West Salem neighborhoods which will also increase the safety of our road system and for pedestrians in the business district.

Third, we believe this alternative has the lowest amount of impact to either side of the river, including that of Alternative 1 – no build.


Fourth, we believe that if funding were to remain an issue that Alternative 4D could be accomplished in discrete phases.

Again, we support Alternative 4D because of its ability to improve connectivity for the region, improve traffic flow in the West Salem and downtown business districts, and because we believe it will facilitate business prosperity in those areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Please continue to keep me apprised of all developments pertaining to this project.

Cordially,

Les Schwab Tire Centers



**David R. Gibson
Corporate Counsel**

cc: Lyle Mordhorst

Web Comment – Walling Sand & Gravel

Your recent Statesman Journal article regarding the addition of a new bridge crossing the Willamette River into West Salem is causing great concern. This is a concern that needs to be brought to your attention immediately.

Although we understand the need for an additional route into West Salem, we fail to see how one of your proposed routes—which would severely disrupt an 80 year old locally owned business—would be considered, as it would directly impact an already highly congested area.

In addition, this latest proposal would route the bridge traffic through our mining operation, which would directly impact a significant number of construction companies who use our material for road and highway paving, parking lots, curb and gutter, and, ironically, bridge construction.

In the immediate Salem area there are a very few gravel mining operations with enough capacity to provide the necessary materials for major construction projects. Should your plan be accepted, builders and construction companies would be forced to source material outside the Salem area, which would impact local businesses and their employees.

We encourage you to take great care in your decision making process rather than eliminate acres of opportunity for the local economy.

Thank you,

Mike Walling

Owner



Wallace Bridge™

June 11, 2012

Mr. Rod Thompson
Salem River Crossing DEIS Comments
ODOT Region 2
455 Airport Road SE
Building B
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Salem River Crossing DEIS Comments

Dear Mr. Thompson:

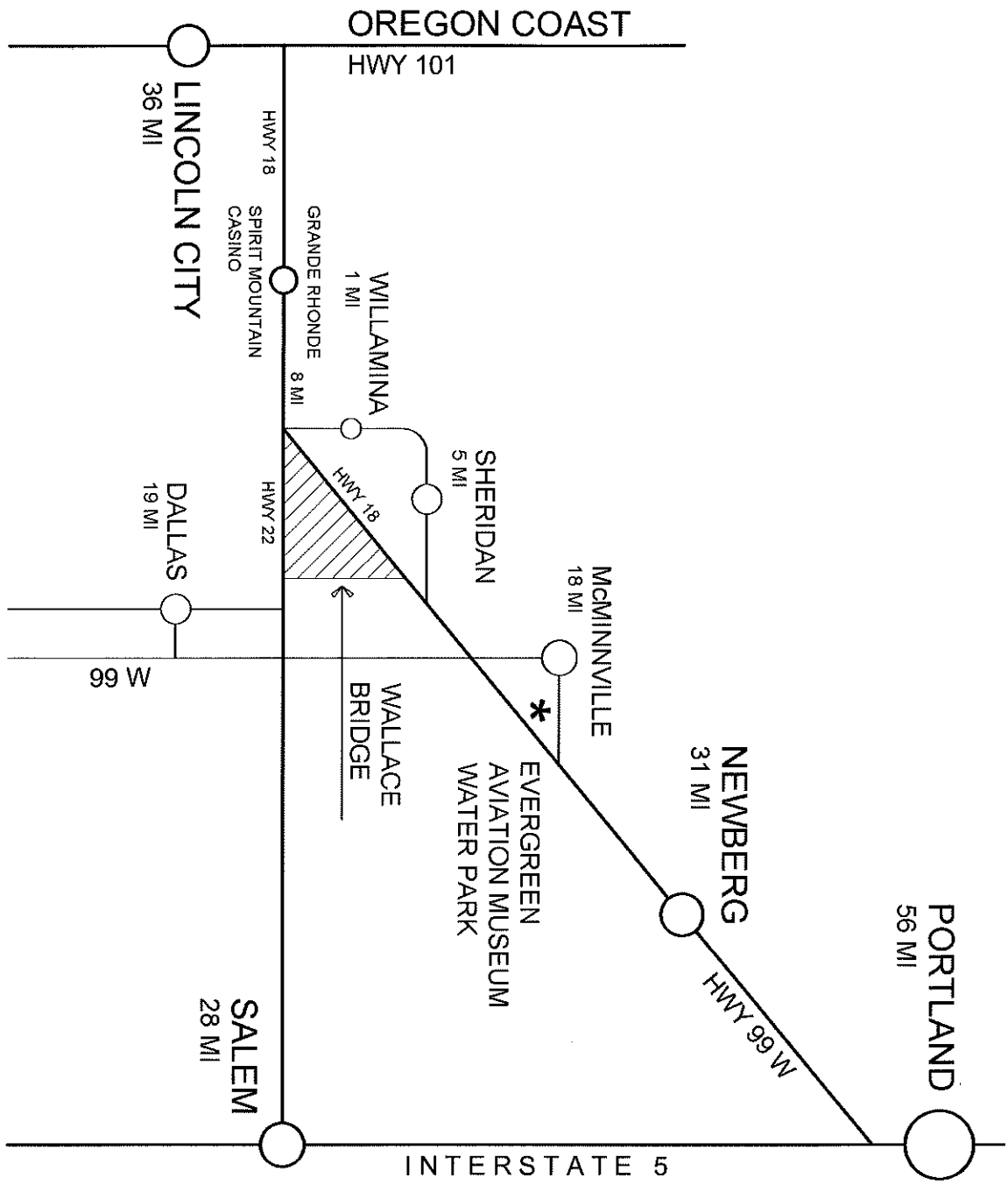
I am planning to construct an international equine competition venue on property in Polk County on property located between Highway 22 and Highway 18. This venue will provide a major economic stimulus to Polk and Marion Counties and surrounding areas. To facilitate the movement of large horse trailers, farm equipment and spectators attending the event it is necessary that direct access to Highway 22 be maintained. For this reason I urge you to select Alternative 4C, 4D or 4E all of which provide direct access to Highway 22. The current access is slow and will be difficult for large vehicles to navigate. This alternative will greatly expedite traffic flow.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JW Millegan
Wallace Bridge
Carlton LLC



WALLACE BRIDGE SITE LOCATION



	Title: Wallace Bridge Date: 04/13/2013 Author: [Name] Project: Wallace Bridge
	Project: Wallace Bridge Date: 04/13/2013 Author: [Name] Project: Wallace Bridge
Drawing Title: WALLACE BRIDGE SITE LOCATION Drawing No: [Number]	