Woodburn Interchange Gateway design to be unveiled at open house April 24

WOODBURN— The Woodburn Aesthetic Advisory Panel will display the Woodburn Interchange Gateway design at a public open house at the Estates (formerly Senior Estates) Clubhouse on April 24 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The Estates Clubhouse is located at 1776 Country Club Road in Woodburn.

The presentations about the Gateway design package will take place at 4:45 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. but the public is welcome to stop by at any time during the open house to view renderings of the complete package and meet the citizen panel who generated this distinctive, unique Woodburn gateway design.

In the summer of 2011, the City of Woodburn and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) appointed a panel of community members to advise the project team on aesthetic upgrades to the I-5 interchange design. Over the course of the fall and winter, the panel met four times to discuss Gateway design themes and evaluate various treatments for the interchange including special lighting and landscaping. The panel also provided design guidance on the look of noise walls, streetscape and storm water retention facilities. The community-led vision for the overall gateway package was selected by consensus of the panel members at their April 4 meeting.

The panel supported the Gateway package for: its earth tone colors; connection to the hills of the Willamette Valley; its open, unique and modern design; use of lighting; and ease of maintenance. The panel felt that the design provides a more open, friendly pedestrian experience across the bridge and also offers a unique bridge for travelers to pass under while traveling along I-5. In addition, the panel recommended aesthetic upgrades to adjacent intersections, sound walls and storm water retention facilities that are all part of the project in order to make them integral to the redesigned interchange. The panel took full advantage of the
opportunity to create a community asset by conceiving aesthetic upgrades which are not normally included on interchanges.

The aesthetic upgrades are part of the overall design effort to address the traffic congestion at the I-5/Oregon 214 interchange in Woodburn. ODOT is currently working through the preliminary engineering process to replace the interchange. The aesthetic upgrades were included in the Environmental Assessment process that was completed in 2005. As part of the process, the public weighed in on the decision to select a partial cloverleaf interchange to replace the existing diamond interchange. The replacement interchange will improve daily traffic flow, widen the bridge, improve intersections on both sides of the bridge and construct a transit facility adjacent to the interchange. Construction is expected to begin in 2013 and extend through three construction seasons.

For more information:
www.woodburninterchange.com

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