Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Meeting #13

DATE: July 16, 2012

SAC MEMBER ATTENDEES: Alene Allen, Mark Elston, Shirley Kalkhoven, Mark Labhart, Larry McKinley, Gus Meyer, Claudine Rehn, Shawn Reiersgaard, Jan Stewart, Tom Weber

PROJECT TEAM ATTENDEES: Bill Johnston, Leon Skiles, Kristin Hull, Dave Simmons, Darren Muldoon

GUESTS: Tilda Jones, Deborah Bowman, O. Chadwick, Mary Wells Sims, Dennis Wine, Lisa Phipps, David Mattison

LOCATION: Oregon Department of Forestry (5005 3rd Street, Tillamook)

Welcome and Introductions

Kristin Hull welcomed the group and asked for self-introductions of SAC members and guests. She briefly summarized the agenda which included welcome and introductions, review of SAC role and protocols, public comment, summary of public comments received during the Alternatives Analysis Report comment period, SAC recommendation, and the selection process and next steps.

SAC Role and Protocols

Kristin summarized the role of the SAC, which is to provide a recommendation to the Project Management Team (PMT) on a preferred alternative (No-Build Alternative or Build Alternative). The PMT, consisting of ODOT, City of Tillamook, and Tillamook County staff, would then make a recommendation to ODOT staff at its meeting on July 17. Kristin stated that a 2/3 majority was needed from the SAC members present at the meeting to be an official SAC recommendation to the PMT. Kristin stated if there was no majority consensus, minority and majority reports will be prepared and a quorum was not required.

Public Comment

Two individuals made comments. The following summarizes the comments.

- Tilda Jones expressed concern that the project would acquire approximately two acres of privately-owned property, would potentially displace approximately 55 jobs, and would reduce the property tax base. Ms. Jones questioned the need to spend money to construct a project that in her opinion would not improve safety or mobility and would not remedy floodplain issues north of Hoquarten Slough. Ms. Jones stated that the project should be put on the ballot and is not best for the community.
Deborah Bowman requested more information on the construction impacts. Ms. Bowman also commented that the intersection of Main Avenue at 1st Street is not safe for pedestrians and the existing transportation network is unsafe.

**Summary of Public Comments Received**

Kristin summarized the public comments received during the comment period for the project’s Alternatives Analysis Report (AA Report). The comment period extended from June 4 to July 6, 2012. The comments received were provided to the SAC in a handout that included the public involvement process. In general, the comments in support of the No-Build Alternative were related to business displacements and construction impacts of the Build Alternative. Comments in support of the Build Alternative generally identified that the project area was unsafe as is and the Build Alternative would improve mobility and safety conditions.

A member of the public asked if any of the comments were from business owners. Kristin stated several business owners attended the open house/public hearing and that one employee of an impacted business submitted a comment. Bill Johnston stated that ODOT would fairly compensate property owners and help with relocation assistance. Another question was asked how the project would affect flooding. Kristin stated that the project as currently designed would slightly reduce the 100-year water surface elevation, but reducing flood impacts was not a purpose of the project.

**SAC Recommendation**

Before opening up the preferred alternative discussion, Kristin clarified that the SAC would be making a recommendation to ODOT and the SAC is not a decision-making body – ODOT has sole authority to select the preferred alternative but will consider the SAC’s (and PMT’s) recommendation when it does.

Kristin requested each SAC member identify their recommendation on the No-Build Alternative or Build Alternative. All SAC members present at the meeting endorsed the Build Alternative. Because all SAC members present recommended the Build Alternative, per adopted SAC protocols, the SAC officially recommended the Build Alternative to the PMT as the project’s Preferred Alternative.

The following SAC members provided additional information:

- Alene Allen stated she endorsed the project – and she preferred that the project extended to 12th Street.
- Mark Labhart stated he endorses the Build Alternative because it would provide construction jobs, design and safety improvements, and would aesthetically improve and revitalize downtown. Mr. Labhart stated that the Tillamook Board of Commissioners supported the project by a 2-1 vote.
- Tom Weber stated that he is concerned about business impacts and construction impacts, but the project would provide a benefit overall to locals and the state, and supports the project.
- Shawn Reiersgaard stated that he had discussed the project with the CEO of TCCA and received authorization from both the CEO and board of directors to vote in favor of the build option.
Jan Stewart stated that she supported the build alternative. She noted that the loss of the MarClair and the inability to relocated it in the City was an important issue to pay attention to.

Kristin asked if the SAC had any recommendations for ODOT to consider during design and construction if ODOT selected the Build Alternative. The SAC identified the following recommendations:

- Minimize construction impacts to downtown Tillamook.
  - Larry McKinley summarized that ODOT would work with businesses to minimize impacts, phase construction, conduct construction activities during the night to minimize impacts, and maintain access to businesses during construction.

- Maintain community involvement to identify what is needed during design and construction.
  - Larry stated that ODOT would have regular and ongoing meetings with the contractor to identify how construction would be staged. Larry stated that the project would have timing restrictions for certain construction activities, such as the in-water work period, and ODOT could limit construction during holidays, local events, etc. to minimize constraints. Paving and earthwork would occur during the summer months.

- Avoid impacts during the summer to tourist-oriented businesses.

- Treat property owners as fairly and reasonably as possible.

- Maintain public safety during and after construction, including for truck travel.

- Consider improving visual aesthetics by putting utilities underground for safety and aesthetics.

Kristin asked if any of the guests had public comments:

- One person stated that businesses rarely relocate after being acquired for transportation projects and the real estate appraisal process inflates the cost of land.

- One person had a question about the awnings downtown. The project team answered that the awnings that extended more than 4 feet from the existing curb would be impacted. The project team had conducted a preliminary assessment, but final determination of awning impacts would be conducted in more detail during final design.

- One person asked if the sidewalks on 3rd Street between Main and Pacific Avenues would be rebuilt. The project team stated that only restriping would be conducted on this block of 3rd Street and the project, as currently designed, would not rebuild the sidewalks.
• One person asked about the island on Front Street at Main Avenue. The project team stated that truck turning templates were used to develop the design, but ODOT would revisit the design of this island during the final design process.

• One person asked if the gas station between at the Main Avenue/1st Street intersection would stay. The project team stated that it would not be displaced.

**Selection Process and Next Steps**

Kristin stated that the PMT, consisting of ODOT, City of Tillamook, and Tillamook County staff, would consider the SAC recommendation of the Build Alternative and the other SAC recommendations at its meeting on July 17 before making a PMT recommendation to ODOT. ODOT staff would then make a decision by the end of the month and the decision will be posted on the project website and an email will be sent to the SAC and project stakeholders. Larry stated that ODOT would consult out the design work and the contract would be awarded by late fall or early winter. At that time, ODOT would begin to identify a plan for public involvement including meetings and business outreach.

Kristin stated that this was the final SAC meeting and thanked the group for their commitment during the 5-year planning process.