Tillamook US101/OR6 Traffic Improvement Project
April 10, 2014 Open House Summary

Overview

ODOT held a public open house from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Tillamook 911 Center in Tillamook. The purpose of the open house was to:

- Provide an opportunity for impacted and interested stakeholders to learn about the preferred alignment and the project’s progress; and
- Answer questions and provide an opportunity for participants to share ideas and concerns with the project team.

Over 50 people attended the event. The open house was advertised by: an announcement posted on the project website (March 25); a postcard notice mailed to the project interested parties list and to property addresses within the Tillamook downtown core (700 addresses; March 25); a press release issued by ODOT Region 2 (March 28); display ads placed in the Tillamook Headlight Herald (April 2 and April 9); an email to the 140-person interested parties list (April 3); and a PSA submitted to KTIL radio and an interview with the KTIL Tillamook Today Show (April 4).

Meeting Format

The event was structured as a drop-in style open house with no formal presentation. Participants are encouraged to view the displays, interact with project staff and comment on the project plan. Participants could provide comments and feedback via comment forms. Station areas included:

- **Welcome** – Attendees were greeted and encouraged to sign in. Staff provided informational handouts and comment forms. A display board described the project purpose and the goals of the open house. As visitors left the open house, they were asked if their questions had been answered or their concerns addressed.
- **Project Background** – The background boards were intended to give an overview of prior project work, including features of the Preferred Alternative. A project schedule and construction phasing diagram provided a high level overview of the project’s next steps.
- **Project Area: North** – Boards addressed the replacement U.S. 101 bridge over Hoquarton Slough, prospective bridge design elements, and options being considered for improvements to Hoquarton Interpretive Park.
• **Project Area: South** – Boards addressed potential streetscape improvements and options being considered for a new plaza to the north of Pioneer Museum.

• **City Efforts** – The Tillamook City Manager was present to answer questions about the City’s role in downtown improvements, particularly pertaining to streetscape.

• **Comment Area** – A space was provided for visitors to sit and fill out comment cards.

• **Refreshments**

**Staff**

The meeting was attended by members of the project team: **ODOT** - Ken Kohl, Larry McKinley, Dave True; **Quincy Engineering** – Karen Tatman, Russ Norton; and **JLA Public Involvement** – Kalin Schmoldt; as well as by **Tillamook** Mayor Suzanne Weber and City Manager Paul Wyntergreen.

**Feedback Summary**

Thirteen comment forms were submitted during the open house. Based on the written comments and conversations during the open house, most respondents indicated that they were glad the project is happening, as it addresses significant transportation issues in the downtown. Several visitors said that they were not happy with the project, in large part because of the perceived impacts to the downtown during construction.

Specific concerns and preferences for design options are described below.
Full Comments

*Do you have any comments or questions about the U.S. 101/OR 6 Traffic Improvements Project?*

General Comments

- It's all wonderful!
- Thanks!
- I like it in general.
- Please keep us informed on who the contractors are.

U.S. 101 Bridge Comments

- Three-span bridge
- Pylons

Hoquarton Interpretive Park Comments

- Hoquarton = one-way access (no crossing of the highway access)
- I like "Option 1" on Hoquarton Interpretive Area.

Project Amenities Comments

- South: Project amenities = Option A

Suggested Project Changes

- Would appreciate a crosswalk across Highway 6/First St. at Madrona. County parking lot is across the street and it is difficult to cross the street at the back of the courthouse, especially on Friday afternoons in the summer and now there will be 3 lanes of traffic to cross.
- The project needs to include a better traffic movement at the corner of 3rd and Main.

Construction/Schedule Related Comments

- Can you consider a bonus to the contractor for early completion?
- Please consider completing the lane widening prior to the bridge work.
- Consider construction work schedule because of our excessive rain amounts.
- Please consider signage indicating that businesses ahead are open.

Concerns

- Have you triple checked the basements along 1st, 2nd and 3rd?
- Have you really kept the utilities informed? Also I have not heard in the design that provisions have been made for the utility to be attached to the bridge! The District has
easements over a lot of the properties and have not heard about any reimbursements of moving lines.
• I do not see any major benefit to the businesses south of First Street with this project.
• You are going to totally kill all business in downtown Tillamook. Two years of construction and restricted traffic flow will not be any improvement. Tourists and out of towners will discover the alternate routes to avoid Tillamook altogether. You don't have a clue!
• 1) $27 million for convoluted intersection like have now.
  2) Culturally and economically negative impact
  3) Put on ballot for voters.

Did you find this open house useful?

• I thought it was very helpful. Could have used another ODOT person to answer questions.
• I do video productions shown on Charter Cable 4 and online at tctvonline.com. I would suggest a video showing the traffic pattern as is and as it will be to give citizens a clear picture. A visual along with the explanation would show more than just looking at a map.