Tillamook US101/OR6 Traffic Improvement Project
December 1, 2015 Open House Summary

Overview

ODOT held a public open house from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the Tillamook 911 Center in Tillamook. The purpose of the open house was to:

- Provide the opportunity for impacted and interested stakeholders to be updated with the latest construction schedule and information, learn about downtown streetscape improvements, the design of the U.S.101 bridge, and other related city projects; and

- Answer questions and provide an opportunity for participants to share ideas and concerns with the project team.

About 60 people attended the event. The open house was advertised by an announcement posted on the project website (October 27); a postcard notice mailed to the project interested parties list and to property addresses within the Tillamook downtown core (731 addresses, mailed November 19); a press release issued by ODOT Region 2 (November 16); display ads placed in the Tillamook Headlight Herald (November 11 and 23) and Tillamook County Shopper (November 24); and an email to the 178-person interested parties list (November 17). On November 20, the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce also used the Tillamook Revitalization Association to hand deliver approximately 200 flyers advertising the event to downtown businesses.

Meeting Format

The event was structured as a drop-in style open house with no formal presentation. Participants could provide comments and feedback via comment forms. Staff from the City of Tillamook were available to answer questions about the City’s role in downtown improvements, particularly pertaining to streetscape and the Crosstown Connections project. Station areas included:

- Welcome – Attendees were greeted and encouraged to sign in. Participants were given an overview of the event layout. Informational handouts and comment forms were available for participants to pick up. 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 Overview** – The display boards were intended to give an overview of the project purpose, history and next steps. A construction phasing diagram provided a high level overview of the project’s next steps.

• **Project Area: North** – Boards showed the project area and the latest design renderings for the replacement U.S. 101 bridge over Hoquarton Slough. A rendering of The Hoquarton city park was also shown.

• **Project Area: South** – Boards showed the southern project area, renderings of streetscape improvements, options being considered for a new plaza to the north of Pioneer Museum, and a new multi-use path between Hoquarton and Goodspeed Parks.

• **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 who were identified with nametags: **ODOT** - Ken Kohl, Lou Torres, Tim Potter; **Quincy Engineering** – Karen Tatman, Russ Norton; **JLA Public Involvement** – Kalin Schmoldt, Sarah Johnson; **Tillamook** Mayor Suzanne Weber, City Manager Paul Wyntergreen, and City Planner David Mattison. **Chamber of Commerce** Executive Director Justin Aufermauer and project liaison Jeannell Wyntergreen were also in attendance.

**Feedback Summary**

Ten comment forms were submitted during the open house. Written comments and conversations during the open house indicated that many of the attendees were excited about the proposed changes to downtown Tillamook.

Several respondents expressed concerns about traffic flow and access to the Shell gas station under the new roadway configuration. At least two commenters were concerned about the lack of flood mitigation. Several visitors wanted to know more details about the construction process and about specific property impacts. One suggested that compressing the construction timeline instead of pausing during the summer might be easier on downtown businesses. Some attendees expressed concerns about preserving the plantings in the Pioneer Museum plaza.

Several attendees were complimentary of the open house format and materials, though two respondents said that they had a difficult time identifying open house staff. Several said that more having more detailed information would have been useful.

Full comments are included below.
Full Comments

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

- Surprised that we have not been contacted since this project directly affects our property. [Commenter was contacted after the open house to better understand this comment.]

  ODOT representatives not clearly distinguished from crowd.

  No real information about how project is affecting properties or any plans to mitigate the disruptions.

- Re: 2nd Street Plaza - I think this will be a wonderful feature in downtown Tillamook!

  Re: Pioneer Museum Plaza – I am very happy with the plan. Hope you can keep the beautiful rose garden or transplant the roses to another location in the new plaza.

  Re: Hoquarton Park – this will be so lovely! I think it will be so popular we will need more parking!

- Please allow northbound access to Shell station.

- Project timeline is upsetting to many small business owners → why stop and pause after phase 2? Seems like a state/ODOT cash flow problem and they should wait until they can focus one year on this instead of taking a break and leaving small business owners in lurch.

- The plan is to demolish the motels and restaurants but leave the gas station in the middle of the intersection? Is this the best idea? Am I correct in the assumption that what shows on the design boards in the GAS station? Why not remove it and open the whole intersection. I can’t imagine the problems with having the gas station or anything in the middle of the intersection.

- I am afraid 1st Street between Pacific and Main is going to be confusing and accident prone. There is a long wait to get through the lights to go north from 1st Street – 3rd is just as bad when traffic is heavy.

- Look into the flooding under railroad trestle bridge – (future multiuse path) – it is the 1st area to flood.

- Keep the project moving forward. Great for total Tillamook community and tourists/visitors.

  Work out delays.

  “Short term pain – long term gain.”

- As a former farm kid, my concern is that plenty of room has been allowed for diesel trucks to be able to get into Tillamook diesel shop.
$28M of people’s money is being spent in low area that floods frequently AND no flood mitigation to reduce flooding of the Hoq[uarton] Sl[ough] on highway and commercial properties! LUDACROUS!!!

Did you find this open house useful?

- No. Have more than project overview and enough representatives to answer questions.
- Yes – very! The diagrams were easy to read and the ODOT people were very informative and friendly.
- I would like to see you address the above issue [gas station in the middle of intersection]. I have never heard what business, building or reasons for anything being in the middle of said intersection.
- It was a nice display, but could have used more people to answer questions.