5 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

This chapter summarizes the efforts taken to engage the public and federal, state, and local agencies within the Tillamook US 101/OR 6 Project. This chapter also summarizes the permits, approvals, and coordination that would be needed to construct the Build Alternative.

5.1 Public Involvement Process

The Project Management Team (PMT) guided the project’s public involvement process. The PMT consists of staff from ODOT, City of Tillamook, Tillamook County, and ODOT consultant project managers. PMT responsibilities include:

- Management of project scope, schedule, and budget
- Direction, production, and quality assurance of technical work and of public and agency involvement work
- Assurance of an open, transparent process that incorporates full consideration of public input

5.1.1 Goals of the Public Involvement Process

In consultation with the PMT, ODOT established a structured public involvement and decision-making process for the project that:

- Provides an open and transparent decision-making process
- Provides early and ongoing opportunities for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns
- Meets all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures
- Provides public involvement opportunities in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines (e.g., preliminary Section 4(f) de minimis Impact Finding, 23 CFR Part 650 related to encroachments into a floodplain)
- Informs and encourages the participation of all stakeholders
- Builds widespread community understanding of findings and decisions
- Addresses and incorporates public involvement goals of Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT’s) Environmental Justice guidelines (USDOT Order 5610.2(a) – see Section 3.4.2.2 for more information on the project’s environmental justice compliance)
5.1.2 Elements of the Public Involvement Process

This subsection summarizes the elements of the public involvement process, which includes the following methods:

- Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Open houses
- Project Web site and newsletters
- Briefings of property owners, the public, and elected officials and participation in community events

5.1.2.1 Stakeholder Advisory Committee

ODOT established the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) to advise the PMT on key decisions. ODOT appointed the members to the SAC at the beginning of the US 101/OR 6 Alternatives Study.

The SAC represents key stakeholders in the project study area. Stakeholders include agency staff representatives, representatives of local and regional business groups, advocates for key interests, environmental representatives, and representatives of civic groups. See Appendix F for the SAC members list.

Responsibilities of SAC members include the following:

- Representing constituent perspectives
- Communicating project progress to constituents
- Preparing for and attending SAC meetings and public outreach events
- Working to develop recommendations at each step in the decision process

SAC members include representatives of the following agencies:

- ODOT
- Tillamook County
- City of Tillamook
- Tillamook Urban Renewal Agency

SAC members also include representatives of the following local and regional business groups, advocates for key interests, environmental representatives, and civic groups:

- Business owners
- Emergency services
- Freight interests
- Local residents
- Tillamook Chamber of Commerce
- Tillamook County Futures Council
- Tillamook County Transportation District
- Tillamook Creamery Association
- Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
- Tillamook Planning Commission
- Tillamook Revitalization Association
The SAC provided consensus-based recommendations to the PMT at key milestones. At the following four meetings, the SAC provided input and recommendations on the alternative designs and the Build Alternative design to evaluate in this AA Report:

- April 25 and September 27, 2010 – The PMT updated the SAC on alternative designs and the SAC provided the PMT with their input.
- January 25, 2011 – The PMT updated the SAC on the revised designs for the Build Alternative. The SAC provided input and recommended that ODOT evaluate one Build Alternative design in this AA Report.
- December 7, 2011 – The PMT held a briefing for the SAC to present the preliminary findings of the environmental consequences of the No-Build Alternative and the Build Alternative.

A summary of findings in this AA Report will be presented to the SAC at a meeting on June 7, 2012. The SAC will be provided the opportunity to recommend a Preferred Alternative to the PMT at a meeting on July 16, 2012, after the comment period. As summarized in Section 2.1 (Screening and Selection Process), the PMT will then recommend a Preferred Alternative to ODOT. The PMT will base the recommendation on the SAC’s recommendation; the effects of the Preferred Alternative to the transportation system and the natural and community environments; and public and agency comments on this AA Report.

5.1.2.2 Open Houses

During the US 101/OR 6 Alternatives Study, three open houses (in January and June 2009, and January 2010) were held to share information about the project and to gather input and comments from the public (see Section 2.2 [Alternatives and Options Previously Considered]).

ODOT held two public open houses during the Tillamook US 101/OR 6 Project:

- **Open House 1.** The first open house was held on October 5, 2010, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Tillamook 911 Center. Approximately 50 people attended. The purpose of this open house was to share information about the refined alternative designs being evaluated and to gather input on the possible option of reducing bridge height of the alternative designs.

- **Open House 2.** The second open house was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Oregon Department of Forestry building in Tillamook. Approximately 40 people attended. The purpose of this open house was to share the refined alternative designs and to gather input on which alternative design to evaluate in this AA Report.

After publication of this AA Report, ODOT will hold a combined public hearing and open house where interested persons will have an opportunity to learn more about the project, ask questions, and offer comments on this AA Report. For the date and location of this combined public hearing and open house, please see the cover page of this document or access the project Web site.
5.1.2.3 Project Web Site and Newsletters

The project Web site (http://www.tillamooktraffic.org) was established when the project was initiated and it contains up-to-date information on the current status of the project, background information, opportunities for public involvement, and next steps. Materials from public open houses and the SAC meetings are posted on the Web site. Translation of project material into Spanish is provided upon request.

ODOT distributed email messages with project updates and sent notifications for project open houses via U.S. mail. The project Web site was updated regularly to inform the public and stakeholders about the project.

5.1.2.4 Briefings of Property Owners, the Public, and Elected Officials, and Participation in Community Events

During the Tillamook US 101/OR 6 Alternatives Study and the Tillamook US 101/OR 6 Project, members of the PMT provided briefings to property owners, the public, and elected officials, and participated in various community events to inform and discuss project information. Members of the PMT provided briefings to the following organizations:

- Downtown Tillamook Revitalization Organization
- Tillamook Chamber of Commerce
- Tillamook City Council
- Tillamook County Board of County Commissioners
- Tillamook County Futures Council
- Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
- Tillamook Kiwanis Club
- Tillamook Planning Commission
- Tillamook Rotary Club

ODOT also participated in interviews for a local radio station and attended the Tillamook Farmers Market to provide project information and updates.

5.2 Agency Coordination

ODOT coordinated with federal and state agencies and tribes throughout the Tillamook US 101/OR 6 Project by:

- Starting in July 2010, ODOT Region 2 and FHWA Oregon Division staff conducted regularly-scheduled coordination meetings (typically held monthly) to discuss issues at hand, progress on project activities and deliverables and the project’s schedule.

- Informing federal and state resource agency liaisons through the Collaborative Environmental and Transportation Agreement for Streamlining (CETAS) process. The CETAS process establishes a working relationship between ODOT and 10 federal and state transportation, natural resource, cultural resource, and land use planning agencies. The PMT presented project information at the December 9, 2009. CETAS elected not to track this project.

- Coordinating with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). ODOT met with the NMFS liaison on February 18, 2011,
to discuss ESA coordination. Formal consultation with NMFS was initiated on December 2, 2011.

- Coordinating with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation.

- Coordinating with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), through the City of Tillamook, for a proposed Local Government Grant Program exemption from conversion of use at Hoquarten Interpretive Trail Park.

- Engaging the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians by initiating consultation on July 17, 2009. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation with these tribes since that time has been ongoing.

In addition to meeting with federal and state agencies, ODOT coordinated with:


- Tillamook County at PMT meetings (10 meetings between April 2010 and December 2011) and Board of Commissioners briefings (April 21, 2010, and February 23, 2011).

- Port of Tillamook Bay regarding acquisition from the Port of Tillamook Bay right-of-way south of Hoquarten Interpretive Trail Park.

- Tillamook People’s Utility District (TPUD) regarding utility effects, maintaining access to existing easements, and a proposed new TPUD overhead transmission line in the Hoquarten Slough area.

- City of Tillamook Fire Marshall regarding emergency response.

5.3 Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Needed

No federal, state, or local permits or approvals would be needed under the No-Build Alternative because no actions would be undertaken.

If ODOT selects the Build Alternative as the Preferred Alternative, ODOT would initiate the NEPA process with FHWA. ODOT would first prepare documentation to help FHWA classify the project under NEPA (based on the environmental analysis to date, FHWA has classified the proposed project as a Categorical Exclusion). After FHWA classifies the project under NEPA, ODOT would prepare and submit NEPA documentation for FHWA review and comment. FHWA approval of the NEPA documentation would complete the NEPA process and allow ODOT to initiate the right-of-way acquisition, final design and construction phases of the project.

The Build Alternative might need the federal, state, and local permits, approvals, and coordination identified in Table 5-1. Additional permits and approvals would be identified during the final design phase.
### TABLE 5-1
Build Alternative Permits, Approvals, and Coordination Needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Permit, Approval, or Coordination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal</strong></td>
<td></td>
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| Federal Highway Administration      | National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Approval  
|                                     | Section 4(f) *de minimis* Impact Finding  
|                                     | Environmental Justice Compliance Finding  
| Federal Emergency Management Agency | Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management Compliance  
| National Marine Fisheries           | Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act Consultation; Biological Opinion  
|                                     | Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Consultation  
|                                     | Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Coordination  
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers        | Section 404 Permit: Clean Water Act of 1977 Compliance  
| U.S. Coast Guard                    | Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and General Bridge Act of 1946 Bridge Permit  
| **State**                           |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Oregon Department of Environmental Quality | Clean Water Act Section 401: Water Quality Certification  
|                                     | Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Review  
|                                     | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program Construction Stormwater Discharge Permit  
| Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife | Incidental Take Permit  
| Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development | Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency Certification  
| Oregon Department of State Lands    | Removal-Fill Permit or General Authorization  
|                                     | Pre-Construction Assessment Permit for In-water Work  
| Oregon Department of Transportation | Highway Design Manual (HDM) Exceptions (2)  
|                                     | Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) Alternate Mobility Target Adoption  
|                                     | Access Spacing Deviation  
|                                     | Freight Mobility Review  
| Oregon State Marine Board           | Recreational Waters Coordination  
| Oregon Parks and Recreation Department | Local Government Grant Program conversion of use exemption approval  
| **Local**                           |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| City of Tillamook                   | Floodplain Development Permit  
|                                     | Conditional Use Permits (2) (for construction activities in Hoquarten Interpretive Trail Park and Sue H. Elmore Park)  
|                                     | Hoquarten Interpretive Trail Park site plan amendment  
|                                     | Permanent maintenance easement in Hoquarten Interpretive Trail Park  
|                                     | Temporary construction easements in Hoquarten Interpretive Trail Park and Sue H. Elmore Park |