

# Public and Agency Coordination

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## Introduction

This section describes the ongoing coordination with the public and agencies, including different committees that were formed for the project, outreach that was conducted, and public meetings that were held.

## Stakeholder Coordination

### Stakeholder Interviews

The PMT developed an interview strategy to elicit information on project issues and general project approach from Woodburn/I-5 interchange project area stakeholders. Data from interviews were used to develop a public involvement and agency coordination plan to detail outreach activities that were conducted during the project. The plan defined activities to be conducted throughout the project, expected timing in relation to decision points and project milestones, and participating roles, commitments, and lead-time requirements for decision makers and other participants. Measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the public involvement activities were also identified. The plan provided recommendations concerning membership of the SWG.

### Committees

Three committees were formed to provide direction and input on the project: PMT, the SWG, and the Local Access Committee (LAC). The PMT consisted of lead ODOT and consultant team staff assigned to manage the project components as well as FHWA, city, and county staff who are responsible for planning and transportation policy within their jurisdictions. PMT meetings were held the first Tuesday of each month during the project.

The SWG consisted of representatives from local business, emergency services, residential communities, cultural communities, outlying communities, and other appropriate interest groups. The role of the SWG was to be advisory to the PMT on values, ideas, and concerns of the broader community. SWG meetings were held as follows:

- SWG Meeting #1 Chartering, March 20, 2003
- SWG Meeting #2, April 10, 2003
- SWG Meeting #3, April 24, 2003
- SWG Meeting #4, May 8, 2003
- SWG Meeting #5, June 12, 2003

- SWG Meeting #6, June 26, 2003
- SWG Meeting #7, July 24, 2003
- SWG Meeting #8, April 22, 2004
- SWG Meeting #9, June 3, 2004
- SWG Meeting #10, February 17, 2005

The LAC functioned as a work group of the SWG. All property owners located immediately adjacent to the interchange and property owners who rely on access to or from Oregon 214/219 between Country Club Road and Woodland Avenue were invited to participate on the LAC. The purpose of the LAC was to recommend an access plan as a part of the recommended set of improvements to the Woodburn/I-5 interchange. The access plan together with the favored alternative was forwarded to the PMT from the SWG.

LAC meetings were held as follows:

- May 1, 2003 – held jointly with SWG
- May 15, 2003
- June 5, 2003

## Outreach

### Newsletters/Postcards/Fact Sheets

A fact sheet was developed in March 2003. A project newsletter was distributed to all property addresses and property owners within the projects area in May 2003. Two project postcards were distributed to the same mailing list and through the informational displays – the first in late May 2003, and the second in mid-June 2003.

### Informational Displays

To reach the traveling public, cultural communities, and the surrounding community, informational displays were constructed at locations within and around the project area, including the Woodburn Company Stores, Wal-Mart, the Woodburn Public Library, Woodburn City Hall, and the community center at Senior Estates. The informational displays were in both English and Spanish and included maps, background information, issues to address, how to provide input, and a schedule postcard for participants to take home.

### Media

Press releases were issued that announced process steps and opportunities for involvement. Press releases were distributed through ODOT's communications office. Display ads were used to advertise public meetings in the *Woodburn Independent* and the City of Woodburn's *Quarterly Newsletter*. The *Woodburn Independent* covered the process on a regular basis, with articles appearing weekly. Public meetings were covered by the papers mentioned above, as well as by television media and the *Daily Journal of Commerce*.

## Website

A project website was maintained that provided information on the status of the project, alternative development, upcoming meetings, past meeting notes, and contact information.

The website address is:

[http://www.odot.state.or.us/region2public/Woodburn\\_Interchange/](http://www.odot.state.or.us/region2public/Woodburn_Interchange/)

## Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held to introduce the project to the public and discuss alternatives being studied, as follows:

- Open House 1 – May 29, 2003, 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM – United Methodist Church, 700 North Cascade Drive, Woodburn

The purpose of this meeting was to provide participants an overview of the project. It also provided opportunity for the public to give input regarding issues that should be addressed in the project and potential ideas to be included in the alternatives. Thirty-six people signed as participants.

- Open House 2 – July 10, 2003, 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM – United Methodist Church, 700 North Cascade Drive, Woodburn

The purpose of this meeting was to provide maps of the alternatives under consideration, the recommendations from the SWG, and the project goals, and to gather input on outstanding issues to address. Forty-three people signed in as participants.

