Woodburn City Council approves interchange gateway design

WOODBURN--The Woodburn City Council approved a gateway design package for the Woodburn Interchange Project at its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11. The unique interchange look was developed and recommended by a 13-member citizen panel appointed by City Council to give the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) design direction. Several panel members addressed the City Council and strongly urged Council to adopt the design package.

The design reflects well on the Woodburn community and is an eye-catching, inviting viewpoint for travelers on I-5. It also complements the Woodburn business promotion concepts presented to the Council last night by the Woodburn Chamber of Commerce.

The gateway design package features a unique bridge screen shown in the attached (concept) graphics instead of the protective cyclone fencing ODOT normally provides. The design was inspired by the hills bordering the Willamette Valley and has an open, unique, modern feel. Other design elements of the bridge include earth tone colors, landscaping at the ends of the bridge and night-time accent lighting. The citizen panel also recommended aesthetic upgrades to adjacent intersections, sound walls and landscaping around storm water retention facilities as part of the design package making them integral to the redesigned interchange.

“Members of the panel expressed to Council how rewarding it was to work on this project. We had a remarkable group of citizens,” said Alan Fox, Project Leader with the Oregon Department of Transportation. “I feel fortunate to have had the privilege of working with each of them.”

“While ODOT helped facilitate the process and provided technical guidance, it was the City of Woodburn and its citizen volunteers that ultimately decided what the new interchange is going to look like,” Fox said.
The Woodburn Interchange Project includes a variety of improvements to address both traffic flow and safety concerns in the busy interchange of I-5 and OR 214/219. Some on-the-ground preparation work will occur this fall, with major construction beginning summer 2013. Please visit the project web site at www.WoodburnInterchange.com for more project information.

The design package fulfills a promise made in the interchange project’s earlier Environmental Assessment (EA) that established the aesthetics goal of the project, which is to: “Create a gateway entrance to Woodburn.” The EA also states that ODOT will “Design gateway intersections at I-5 as community enhancement areas with features appropriate to community urban design goals.”

ODOT