

# Salem River Crossing Project

April 2009 Project Status Report



This status report provides a brief explanation of the major activities that were conducted for the month and what is scheduled for the following month, along with a review of the overall project schedule. Detailed information on the project activities can be found on the project website:

[www.salemrivercrossing.org](http://www.salemrivercrossing.org).

The project schedule is available online at [www.salemrivercrossing.org/schedule.aspx](http://www.salemrivercrossing.org/schedule.aspx). The project will develop the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) through the end of 2009 and publish the document during the early part of 2010.

## Activities in April 2009

### Project Management Team Meeting

A Project Management Team Meeting was held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, April 8. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ 6(f) Methodology Discussion
  - Policy interpretation
  - Defining impacts – discuss relative to alternatives
  - Defining mitigation
    - Very much a Right-of-Way (ROW) process
    - Need to identify the impacts and possible mitigation and put into the DEIS
    - Early coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Parks Service (NPS) is important to this process
    - \*Action Item #1: City of Salem and CH2MHill to gather up all the information on Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) and park and highway ROW
    - \*Action Item #2: Meeting between City and ODOT to get common understanding of who owns what and who has “supreme rights” – this meeting should include ROW staff
    - \*Action Item #3: Make decision on park impacts and determine possible mitigation to include in the DEIS
- ◆ Engineering Refinement Status
  - W&H is refining the alternatives now – no big changes seen so far
  - Tony Woody (CH2M HILL) has been appointed to conduct quality control on the traffic analysis work
- ◆ General Updates
  - Coordination with FHWA
    - General discussion on the list of things we need to get information on and decisions from FHWA during our coordination meeting scheduled for the end of the month
  - LUSDR update
    - Draft memo out on LUSDR model run
    - May conduct a scenario through the statewide model

## Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Coordination Meeting

An FHWA Coordination Meeting was held from 8:30 to 10:00 am on Monday, April 27.

The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Right-of-Way (ROW) requirements for NEPA
  - The requirement to interview all landowners that will be impacted by the full-take of their property as part of this project will occur prior to the FEIS, but after the DEIS (after the Preferred Alternative is chosen).
- ◆ Discussion on Traffic Noise Analysis (2-D Contour) for DEIS
  - \*After the meeting, discussion occurred with Carole Newvine (ODOT Acoustical Specialist) on process being pursued in the Newberg-Dundee EIS for this same subject. Consultants are currently addressing FHWA Headquarters Noise Specialist comments and looks at this time like they are getting things worked out. If FHWA Noise Specialist approves their noise study approach then we will incorporate it into our projects methodologies.
- ◆ Corridor Tolling
  - \*Action Item: Chris Woods (FHWA) to provide link to Form we need to fill out to send to FHWA in Washington DC to get their decision on corridor tolling.
- ◆ Preferred Alternative in the DEIS.
  - Tim B. and Marcy S. (CH2MHill) will be preparing a decision process that will outline what key things need to be addressed, decided on, etc. for us to choose a preferred or recommended alternative.
- ◆ NEPA Document Layout/Format
  - Document will be one column with the use of text boxes or graphics to aid the reader, physical tabs/dividers will be used on hard copies and tabs will match the electronic versions bookmarks, and the document will be electronically filed pdf in one complete document and as separate sections, so that readers can choose to read the entire document or find and read only the sections they want to review.
  - Also the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences will be combined into one chapter.

## Land Use Scenario Developer (LUSDR) Model Results Meeting

A LUSDR model results meeting was held on Wednesday April 29. The primary topics discussed were:

- ◆ Mike Jaffe reported on the results of LUSDR model runs for No-build and Alternative 4C
- ◆ Mike will do future runs on Alternatives 2B and 4A
- ◆ TPAU is currently testing the most recent version of the statewide integrated land use/transportation model (SWIM2). He is going to conduct a test of the model inserting an additional river crossing in the Salem area. Results will be used to validate the model – but may be made available to the project team if they are determined to be valid.