

# Salem River Crossing Project

August 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 middle of 2010.

## Activities in August 2009

### Project Management Team Meeting

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

- ◆ NEPA Documentation and Process
  - Photo-simulations – finalize Work Plan
- ◆ Oversight Team Meeting Preparation
  - Review agenda and discuss handouts
  - Review draft progress report
- ◆ General Project Management
  - Schedule Review
    - DEIS out June 2010
  - Traffic Analysis Status
    - \*ODOT has decided to put CH in charge of QA for the traffic analysis and CH will report progress to TPAU and the PMT
- ◆ Action Items List Review
  - Identify new items to add to list
  - Update on Open Items

### Oversight Team Meeting

An Oversight Team Meeting was held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, August 17. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Updates on Draft EIS
  - Technical Reports out in October – November 2009 and the DEIS published and out for public review in June 2010
- ◆ Funding Discussion
  - Background and context
  - Recommendations on timing – General agreement was heard for the need to assess financial feasibility in parallel with the DEIS. However, several OT members felt it might be good to wait until the DEIS is published so that people have the

information on the alternatives before beginning discussions about funding scenarios

◆ Next Steps

- The next meeting of the Oversight Team will be in early 2010 to present the preliminary findings of the DEIS
- At the next OT meeting we will again discuss the timing and scope of the financial feasibility work

### **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Coordination Meeting**

An FHWA Coordination Meeting was held from 8:30 to 10:00 am on Monday, August 24.

The primary topic discussed was the following:

◆ NEPA and Financial Constraint

- The City of Salem is considered a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) based on its population size and therefore is required to have a Region Transportation System Plan (RTSP).
- For FHWA to sign a Record of Decision (ROD) for the EIS the project must be in the RTSP. The RTSP is a 20 year plan and consists of two parts - the financially constrained portion (funded projects) and the illustrative portion (unfunded projects). For FHWA to sign the ROD the project or a phase of the project must be on the financially constrained list and the remainder of the project must be on the illustrative list.
- A second requirement is the project or a project phase must be in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) for FHWA to sign the ROD. The STIP is a 4 year plan that includes all the projects that have funding that will be worked on or constructed by the State during that 4 year period.