

Salem River Crossing Project

July 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.

The project schedule is available online at 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 July 2009

Project Management Team Meeting

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

- ◆ NEPA Documentation and Process
 - Preferred Alternative Process Discussion – relationship between funding and preferred alternative process
 - Goal Exceptions and Selection Criteria were briefly discussed and what needed to come out of the Goal Exception Meeting scheduled for July 15
 - Funding options (packages) need to be discussed with the Oversight Team and funding/tolling decision process needs to be worked out with ODOT Director and Deputy Director
 - Photo-simulations – finalize locations
 - Discussion occurred around location decisions
 - E-mail discussions followed
- ◆ FHWA Coordination
 - Tolling Form – update
 - Draft to be out next week
 - Tolling Form will not be submitted to FHWA until the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) makes recommendations on how to proceed with tolling
- ◆ General Project Management
 - Fatal Flaw Review – follow-up
 - Comments on Alternative figures
 - Alternative figures will be clearer and simpler for DEIS
 - Geo-Tech issues have been raised about bridge piers near the gravel ponds and floodway/wetland areas
 - Managing Change – discussion
 - Discussion centered around how to manage changes to scope and processes that may be taking longer than originally anticipated (Ex. 6(f))
- ◆ Action Items List Review
 - Identify new items to add to list

- Update on Open Items
- Web page update discussion

Goal Exception Meeting

A Goal Exception Meeting was held from 1:30 to 4:00 pm on Wednesday, July 15. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Goal Exception vs. UGB Amendment
 - The purpose of this discussion was to explore whether amending the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) was a feasible alternative to a Goal Exception
 - Discussed potential uneconomic remnants, stormwater facility needs, and 6(f) mitigation needs
- ◆ Thresholds for Goal Exceptions
 - This discussion was focused on exploring what might be relevant thresholds for goal exceptions in the event that one of the alternatives that goes outside the UGB is the preferred alternative
 - Started discussion on possible threshold criteria to use to aid in the selection of the preferred alternative
- ◆ Next Steps and Action Items
 - Preparation of a UGB map with the alternatives overlaid on it
 - Calculate acreage outside the UGB for the various alternatives
 - Prepare initial draft thresholds

Upcoming Meetings

- ◆ August 12, 2009 - PMT Meeting
- ◆ August 17, 2009 - Oversight Team Meeting
- ◆ August 24, 2009 - FHWA Coordination Meeting