

Salem River Crossing Project

June 2008 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. While some of the early milestones occurred later than originally scheduled, the project is on schedule to develop the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) through the end of 2008 and to publish the document during the early part of 2009.

Activities in June 2008

CETAS Briefing

A CETAS briefing on the Range of Alternatives was held from 1:45 to 2:15 pm on Tuesday, June 17. The primary topic discussed was the following:

- ◆ Salem River Crossing EIS - Update on Range of Alternatives.

*No significant comments on the change to alternatives for the EIS were made by CETAS members.

Project Management Team Meeting

A Project Management Team Meeting was held from 9:00 to 11:30 am on Wednesday, June 18. The primary topic discussed was the following:

- ◆ CETAS
 - Meeting Debrief
- ◆ TSM/TDM Subcommittee
 - Review list of TSM/TDM measures
 - Review role of Subcommittee and outline for meetings
 - Discuss preparation and timing for subcommittee meetings with engineering refinement work
- ◆ Project Schedule Review
 - Revised schedule showing engineering refinement efforts and the dependant kick-off of the technical reports

FHWA Coordination Meeting

A FHWA Coordination meeting was held from 8:30 to 10:00 am on Monday, June 23.

The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Updates
 - Project schedule
 - Rights of entry
 - CETAS Briefing - updated Range of Alternatives
- ◆ Tolling the existing bridges discussion

- ODOT understanding of FHWA's position on tolling the existing facilities is that tolling can only occur under these two scenarios:
 - 1) Physical improvements are made to the existing facilities or
 - 2) Tolling is implemented as part of a congestion pricing program.
- This was confirmed at the meeting by FHWA. FHWA staff indicated it may also be possible through approval of an exception to the SEP 15 agreement.
- ◆ Transit funding questions
 - 1) What are the sources of funding for transit and if we cannot spend Federal Highway funds on these types of things, then where do other projects normally get funding for transit types of improvements?
 - 2) When including transit improvements in a transportation (FHWA) project how does financial constraint, funding, and timing of these types of improvements come into the process?
- ODOT to send list of proposed transit improvements for this project to DOJ and DOJ to look into the possibility of using tolling funds for transit improvements. Also to look at Oregon tolling statute and if there are any constitutional restrictions?
- Also FHWA stated that some Federal funds have been moved to FTA for transit improvements in the past.
- Current Federal statute also allows for some transit improvements?
- ◆ Detail to address TSM/TDM in NEPA document discussion
 - We already know that TSM/TDM measures as a stand alone alternative will not solve the identified problem. To what level of detail do we need to include in the NEPA document?
 - Need to document transit/TSM/TDM modeling, assumptions, and decisions on what we are moving forward with. Need this in the NEPA document and for the Goal Exception process.