

Salem River Crossing Project

June 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 June 2009

Project Management Team Meeting

A Project Management Team Meeting was held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, June 10. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ NEPA Documentation and Process
 - Preferred Alternative Process Discussion – follow-up on comments received
 - Questions arose around goal exceptions and alternative selection
 - Discussion also occurred around screening criteria for selection of the preferred alternative
 - Photo-simulations – locations and timing discussion
 - Need simulations for public hearing(s), but will likely need them sooner
 - Further analysis of what view sheds or photo points are most important is needed
 - ODOT, City, and Consultant to coordinate on identifying those key areas
- ◆ FHWA Coordination
 - Tolling Form – level of effort
 - Consultants to fill out the form
 - FHWA and/or ODOT to make contact with FHWA in Washington DC
 - Draft Tolling Form due by next PMT Meeting – July 8
- ◆ General Project Data
 - Review of Alternatives – comments due 6/12
 - Comments being received on the alternatives figures – some clean-up of graphics is being done
 - Project Schedule – review current schedule
 - Everything still points to the DEIS being out in April 2010
 - Consultant to schedule a 4(f) meeting with the City
- ◆ Action Items List Review
 - Identify new items to add to list
 - Update on Open Items

Section 6(f) Meeting

A Section 6(f) Meeting was held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Update on where we are with data gathering
 - All Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) materials have been located for the 3 LWCF funded projects found within Wallace Marine Park. (*Note: These were all obtained directly from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.)
 - ODOT placed agreement and right of way (ROW) information files on ODOT FTP site for consultants to make sure that they have these files.
 - Transfer deeds from Polk County to the City of Salem for Wallace Marine Park will be needed to produce the official amended 6(f) Boundary Map for the package of materials that the City will produce for OPRD in their preparation of the 6(f) conversion request (post NEPA approval stage).
- ◆ Do we have the information to determine who (ODOT or City) owns what?
 - Doesn't look like we have all the information in hand at this time.
 - Consultants will conduct the Title Search for the easement for the boat ramp parking area (ODOT) and boat ramp (City of Salem).
 - Consultants will also put together a Boundary Map for the 6(f) materials. The Boundary Map is basically a tax lot map that shows the official boundary of the park, all exclusions via existing and planned easements (utilities, roads, etc.). The draft Boundary Map will be reviewed by the City Parks Department to confirm the park boundary lines. Coordination with OPRD and the National Parks Service (NPS) will be crucial in the production of the Boundary Map.
- ◆ Start discussion on potential replacement (i.e., 'new park' per the regulations) properties.
 - Potential replacement properties were discussed, but will be looked at in more depth at our next meeting.
 - Discussion of the potential to use condemnation for replacement resulted in the understanding that: we would seek a willing seller for the replacement. Condemnation is used only if no other alternative replacement properties are available that can meet the requirements.
 - Potential new park property options included: properties acquired as part of this project that would be economic remnants and adjacent to the park and adding to Cascade Gateway Park or other urban parks within the City of Salem. (Areas mentioned included Claggett Creek Natural Area off of Bill Frey Drive.)
 - If the property is replaced somewhere other than Wallace Marine, the park would need to be of the same status (city wide) and attract the same user population.
 - If the lost (impacted) recreation values are relocated within the Park boundaries, those newly displaced recreation values will be included in the conversion request (and the replacement property will need to cover both conversions, in both recreation and fair market values).
- ◆ Path forward
 - Another internal meeting will be scheduled once the following has occurred:

- 1) Consultant identifies impact areas for each alternative to Wallace Marine Park and identifies properties that may have the potential to be mitigation for 6(f).
 - 2) Consultant pulls all the Title Report information together for Wallace Marine Park and prepares the Boundary Map of Wallace Marine Park.
- After the internal meeting a meeting needs to be scheduled with the OPRD and the NPS to discuss the potential 6(f) impacts to Wallace Marine Park, potential mitigation properties, and our path forward with 6(f) and the NEPA process.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Meeting

An FHWA Coordination Meeting was held from 7:30 to 9:00 am on Tuesday, June 23.

The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Tolling Form Follow-up
 - Yes, tolling form submitted by ODOT directly to FHWA office in Washington D.C.
 - Send draft to FHWA Division Office for review prior to submittal
 - CC - copy of final tolling form to FHWA Division Office
 - Critical - that all tolling impacts be in the DEIS
- ◆ Update on Alternative Modes Study (TSM/TDM Parallel Process)
 - Alternative Mode Study has been started
 - 1st Stakeholder Meeting was held on June 22, 2009
 - Alternative Mode Workshop has been scheduled for July 1, 2009 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in the Anderson Room at the Salem City Library
- ◆ Alternatives Analyzed But Dismissed Document. Does FHWA Division want to review?
 - FHWA Division Office would like to review the Alternatives Analyzed but Dismissed document
 - ODOT will send "final" version after DOJ reviews the document
- ◆ Follow-up on FHWA to check files for old Salem Bridge Study documents (1970's)
 - FHWA stated that it is unlikely that they would have any of the documentation on file since it is so old
 - Suggested ODOT try EPA if we can come up with the Federal EIS Number

Upcoming Meetings

- ◆ July 8, 2009 - PMT Meeting
- ◆ July 15, 2009 - Goal Exception Meeting
- ◆ July 27, 2009 - FHWA Coordination Meeting