

# Salem River Crossing Project

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

The project schedule is available online at [www.salemrivercrossing.org/schedule.aspx](http://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 September 2008

### Joint Task Force and Oversight Team Meeting

A Joint Task Force and Oversight Team Meeting was held from 5:30 – 8:30 pm on Wednesday, September 3. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Refinements to Alternative 2 (discussion continued from July 23, 2008 Meeting).
- ◆ Task Force Recommendation and Oversight Team Decision regarding new Alternative 2.
  - Decision was made to move forward with new Alternative 2 approaches – Alternative 2A (Small existing bridge improvements) and 2B (New alignment between the Marion Street and Union Street Railroad Bridge).

### Project Management Team Meeting

A Project Management Team Meeting was held from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm on Wednesday, September 10. The primary topic discussed was the following:

- ◆ TSM/TDM Measures
  - Address and discuss outstanding policy and regulatory questions with TSM/TDM methodology – follow up from 8/27/08 PMT.
  - Discuss implementation details to move forward with TSM/TDM methodology.
- ◆ Tolling Approach
  - PMT decided to recommend 100% electronic tolling for purposes of DEIS analysis. A letter will be sent to Oversight Team seeking their concurrence.

### Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Coordination Meeting

A FHWA Coordination Meeting was held from 8:30 to 10:00 am on Monday, September 22. The primary topics discussed were the following:

- ◆ Tolling Existing and New Bridges – Continued Discussion
  - The PMT will submit a proposal for FHWA approval asserting that a new bridge in any location serves the same corridor as the existing bridges. Our understanding is this is one of the tests that need to be met to allow tolling of existing capacity.

- Anthony Boesen indicated that FHWA's approval of that proposal will have to occur in Washington D.C.
- Congestion Pricing
  - If FHWA determines that the existing bridges do not serve the same corridor, then we may have to consider congestion pricing for some alternatives.
  - Using higher tolls during peak periods (time-of-day tolling) will likely be considered, although the specifics of a tolling program do not need to be included in the EIS. We do not expect to pursue pure congestion pricing unless this is the only alternative to tolling the existing bridges.
- Waiver Process
  - FHWA SEP-15 Program – Does this apply or work for this project (as it relates to tolling existing bridges), why or why not?
  - Bonnie Heitsch reviewed the existing SEP-15 agreement between ODOT and FHWA. It is specific to design-build aspects of the previously identified potential public-private partnership projects and could not be amended to include the Salem River Crossing project.
  - Anthony Boesen indicated that a SEP-15 agreement may be necessary to implement a corridor tolling concept. This could be a recommendation coming from FHWA as a result of the corridor tolling proposal. If needed (based on FHWA review of PMT proposal), then PMT would want to know by when it would be needed.
- ◆ Tolling – 100% Electronic Assumption
  - Reviewed PMT recommendation to Oversight Team regarding 100% electronic tolling. Bonnie reminded team that tolling 100% electronic would be an OTC policy decision. Dan to run proposal up the ladder to confirm support.
- ◆ Further discussions on percentages used as non-auto mode share in modeling for DEIS
  - At last meeting, Chris and Anthony indicated they were OK with the proposed approach to analyze Transit/TDM/TSM Options. PMT requested that Anthony send an email confirming in writing that FHWA is OK with this proposed approach.

## Project Management Team Meeting

A Project Management Team Meeting was held from 9:00 – 11:30 am on Wednesday, September 24. The primary topic discussed was the following:

- ◆ TSM/TDM Measures.
  - City/SKATS follow up from last PMT – the PMT reviewed the final draft of the transit/TDM/TSM methodology memo. Julie has discussed with City management and they have agreed to the proposed methodology.
  - Dan has submitted the methodology memo to Glen Hadley at Salem-Keizer Transit and will set up a meeting to discuss and obtain District concurrence in the approach before taking it to the transit/TDM/TSM sub-committee.
  - Review travel demand model implementation methodology.
  - Review proposed adjustments in methodology for technical reports.
  - Review draft schedule for engineering work.