



Task Force Meeting #3

ATTENDEES:	Russell Beaton/Land Use, Mark Becketl/Salem Public Works, Warren Bednarz/Downtown Business, Betsy Belshaw/Parks, Tom Clark/West Salem businesses, Gene Clemens/Polk County Public Works, Bob Cortright/DLCD, Scott Erickson/West Salem residents, Leon Fisher/Freight, Glenn Gross/City of Salem Community Development, Glen Hadley/Salem-Keizer Transit District, Sam Litke/City of Keizer, Doug Parrow/BTA, Tim Potter/ODOT, Lorraine Pullman/Grant Neighborhood, , Cindy Schmitt/Marion County Public Works, Darlene Strozut/Highland Neighborhood,
UNABLE TO ATTEND:	Mark Brown/natural resources, Mike Jaffe/SKATS, Ismael Perez/Hispanic interests, Mitch Teal/Economic Development
STAFF PARTICIPANTS:	Dan Fricke/ODOT, Julie Warncke/Salem, Rod Thompson/ODOT, Tim Burkhardt/CH2M HILL, Linda Girard/CH2M HILL, Marcy Schwartz/CH2M HILL, Dave Simmons/CH2M HILL
GUESTS:	Carl Goodman/West Salem neighborhoods, Moya McKeehan/alternate for Darlene Strozut, Fred Harris/Highland NA Land Use Chair, Councilor Rick Stucky/City of Salem
DATE:	November 15, 2006

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment

Tim Burkhardt welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda for the evening. He noted that Task Force members' names and affiliations would be posted on the public web site and asked if they would also like to have their contact information listed. The group agreed they did not want contact information made available on the web site. The agenda for the evening consists of a further review of the draft project purpose and need statement (continued from the previous meeting) and a Task Force endorsement of the statement which can be forwarded to the Oversight Team for their November 21st meeting.

There were no public comments.

Review of Draft Project Purpose and Need Statement

A substantive discussion about the wording of the Purpose and Need Statements resulted in the Project Purpose being amended to read:

"The proposed action would improve mobility and safety for people and freight for local, regional, and through travel to and across the Willamette River in the Salem-Keizer metropolitan area while minimizing congestion on the Marion and Center Street bridges

and on the connecting highway and arterial street systems.” The Task Force felt that this more appropriately reflected the scope and nature of the purpose of the project.

Questions and comments about the Need Statements included:

- What about “connectivity” in the first two statements? We don’t want to force the alternatives to improve all the facilities for bike, ped, and transit but rather to be sensitive to the connections.
- What about integrating neighborhood livability? The Purpose and Need Statement is only about transportation needs. The next step in the process, which establishes goals and objectives, will address neighborhood livability.
- Shouldn’t the need addressing financial feasibility really be included in the goals and objectives? Tim responded that while not a transportation need, including it in the “need” listing is a way of keeping the financial issue in the forefront as the project will need to evaluate alternate revenue sources (e.g. tolling, public/private partnerships, etc).
- Where does the notion of cost/benefit enter? Marcy explained that during the evaluation exercise, the process of weights and measurements help to sort out the question of whether a solution is worth the cost. If a public/private partnership were proposed there would definitely be a cost/benefit study.

Based on the discussion, the project Need Statements were amended to read:

- “Improve existing and future vehicle mobility and safety”
- “Improve existing and future freight mobility and safety”
- “Improve existing and future public transportation reliability”
- “Improve existing and future pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety
- Minimize traffic disruptions and enable emergency vehicle response in the event access to the existing bridges is restricted and/or closed due to an emergency or other incident.
- Develop a financially feasible solution

The Task Force agreed, by consensus, to adopt the Statement of Purpose and Need and recommend it to the Oversight Team.

Introduction to Evaluation Framework

Marcy then presented the outline for an evaluation framework for the project and explained the usefulness of this tool in collaborative decision-making. Major steps in an evaluation framework are:

- Define purpose and need

-
- Develop threshold criteria, goals and objectives, and performance measures
 - Identify concepts and screen with threshold criteria
 - Develop alternatives for feasible concepts
 - Evaluate alternatives using goals, objectives and performance measures
 - Select alternatives for Draft EIS
 - Consider results of Draft EIS and select preferred alternative

Marcy explained that threshold criteria represent minimum requirements in relation to the Purpose and Need Statement, they are used to identify fatal flaws. Goals and objectives are then developed which reflect a full range of stakeholder values, relate to topics that “really matter,” are measurable and well-defined. They are used to differentiate among feasible alternatives and identify trade-offs. Performance measures are then applied to each objective and the objectives are weighted by the Task Force. This results in a ranking of alternatives which offers a comparison of how well alternatives meet the values of stakeholders and provides a basis for informed discussion and justification of choices. The next meeting will be a workshop to develop objectives and performance measures.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be:

Wednesday, November 29, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (dinner will be served)
Pringle Hall, 606 Church Street SE, Salem

Public Open Houses:

Wednesday, December 6, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Roth’s Hospitality Center

Thursday, December 7, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Salem Public Library, Anderson Rooms

Task Force members are encouraged to attend one of the meetings.