



Columbia County Transportation System Plan Update

Open House Meeting Series #2 Summary

MEETING LOCATIONS:

Monday, May 23rd, 2016. I.O.O.F. Hall, 75 South Nehalem Street, Clatskanie, 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 24th, 2016. Scappoose Public Library, 52469 2nd Street, Scappoose, 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Columbia County is in the process of updating its Transportation System Plan (TSP). The TSP provides a long term (20-year) plan for how to best meet transportation needs of community residents, workers and businesses. The plan evaluates the current transportation system and determines how it could be improved to make travel in Columbia County better.

As part of this planning process, the TSP team (staff and consultants) facilitated two open houses for Open House Meeting Series #2, to review work completed to date on the project, discuss transportation system investments recommended to accommodate future travel in Columbia County, and solicit public feedback on what projects are the most important. This second series of Open House meetings included information about recommended transportation investments in Columbia County through 2035, maps showing projects in each quadrant of the County, and interactive stations for drawing, writing, and talking.

The open houses were held at the Clatskanie I.O.O.F. Hall (in the north end of the County) and at the Scappoose Public Library (in the south end of the County). Approximately 15 people attended the open houses, which had open, “drop in” formats, consisting of four stations. The participants included staff from Columbia County and the Cities of Clatskanie, Scappoose and St. Helens, residents, property owners, and members of the consulting team.

The TSP team informed people about and encouraged them to participate in the open houses through a variety of means, including:

- Announcements on the project and County websites.
- Press release via local news papers
- Advertising flyers placed in public areas
- E-mail announcements to County Commissioners, Transportation Road Advisory Committee members, and other stakeholders.

The open houses featured a series of activities that included:

- A sign-in sheet was used to keep record of who attended the open house events.
- A handout packet, including information on the TSP update background and process, as well as a list of transportation projects and maps, was provided for attendees to offer written comments.
- Four stations that each presented a poster map of transportation projects in each quadrant of the County. Staff from Columbia County and the consultant team were at each station to engage the public attendees and answer questions.

For those who were unable to attend the open houses, all materials were available via the project website and were offered upon request in Spanish. Each venue was accessible by transit, however, the limited service hours of the transit system may have made attendance challenging if dependent on this mode of travel.

The following is a summary of public feedback received from the meetings.

- Install a new traffic signal on Highway 30 at Johnson’s Landing Road – citing a growing number of employees and trucks using the intersection and safety concerns. This comment was accompanied by a petition with 217 signatures.
- Construct a bike/pedestrian trail between St. Helens and Scappoose (likely along the Highway 30 corridor). The current route along the Highway 30 shoulders is too dangerous. A new trail would support public health and economic vitality, and would complement that waterfront redevelopment in St. Helens. Such a trail would be supported by the following plans: St. Helens Parks and Trails Master Plan (2015); St. Helens TSP (2011); Tourism Plan (2007); and Statewide Trails Plan (2016-2025). Three separate comment forms requested this project.
- Project #46 (Study for the feasibility of improved roadway connectivity along the west side of US 30, between Scappoose and St. Helens) should also include funding for increased bicycle and pedestrian safety.