



Columbia County Transportation System Plan Update

Transportation Road Advisory Committee (TRAC) Meeting #4

Summary

MEETING DATE:	February 18, 2016
MEETING TIME:	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
MEETING LOCATION:	Columbia County Road Department, 1054 Oregon Street, St. Helens.
MEETING PURPOSE:	The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the recommendations from Draft Technical Memorandum #12, involving transportation projects to address system deficiencies. We will also discuss upcoming public outreach efforts to gain further input on these recommendations.

TOPICS

I. Intro

Project staff and TRAC members in attendance introduced themselves. The following were in attendance:

- Dave Hill- Columbia County Road Dept.
- Lonny Welter- Columbia County Road Dept.
- Julie Wheeler- Columbia County Road Dept.
- John Bosket- DKS Associates
- Kevin Chewuk- DKS Associates
- Bill Johnston- ODOT
- Pat LaPointe- TRAC Member
- Rosemary Lohrke- TRAC Member
- Scott Jensen- TRAC Member
- Rodney Moore- TRAC Member
- Troy Tindall- TRAC Member
- Karl Webster- TRAC Member

The project team provided an overview of the agenda and project schedule. Last time the TRAC met we discussed the recommendations from Draft Technical Memoranda #10 and #11, involving transportation funding options and standards through which the County can manage the transportation system so that facilities serve their intended function. We also began the discussion about Transportation Solutions.

Since then, we've been working on and provided the TRAC with the Draft version of Technical Memorandum #12, involving transportation projects to address system deficiencies.

The next TRAC meeting is expected to be during the spring. The next public open house is expected to occur during the next few months.

2. Overview of Transportation Solutions (Tech Memo #12)

The project team gave a brief overview of the process for developing the Aspirational projects (projects which the County supports and would like to implement), and noted that the projects are not all new ideas; some of them came from a variety of prior planning studies. The project team then highlighted the format and information included in Table 1 (Aspirational Project List) of Technical Memoranda #12. Project staff then walked TRAC members through each project in the Aspirational Project List. Key projects and feedback included the following:

- A TRAC member questioned if the project list was locked in. The project team noted that it is not, and can be amended later to add new projects should something arise.
- The County noted that several of the projects were along less traveled roadways, with low traffic volumes, and were lower priority. The project team agreed to add average daily traffic information to Table 1 to help illustrate that point.
- The TRAC noted that they would like to see the evaluation scoring. The project team agreed to send the evaluation rankings to the TRAC members.
- The project team expressed a desire to be involved with the design process for project 43, which involves improvements to US 30 between Old Portland Road and Millard Road. They noted the heavy vehicles need to be able to access this location, especially the Bennett Road intersection.
- The TRAC questioned why Scappoose was proposing a traffic signal at the Wikstrom Road intersection with US 30. They wondered why the County was not able to have one at Bennett Road. The project team stressed that it was only proposed, and that the area surrounding the Scappoose airport is expected to have a lot of employment growth.
- The TRAC questioned if Project 50, at the Johnsons Landing Road intersection with US 30, should be more than just a rail improvement. The project team noted that this location was being looked at in the Scappoose TSP, but it has low traffic volumes and likely will not have a recommended intersection improvement project.
- A TRAC member noted that heavy trucks have a difficult time turning onto US 30 from Larson Road. The project team noted that Project 20 would help alleviate this issue, by improving the Old Rainer Road intersection with Apiary Road. This would allow trucks to utilize Health Road to access US 30.
- The County noted that the shoulder improvement projects are rural bike projects for the County. The project team noted that these projects also benefit other modes.

3. Upcoming Public Outreach Efforts

The project team noted that the second open house meeting series for the TSP is upcoming. The project team will be meeting with the Board of County Commissioners before determining when and where the public open house events will take place.

4. Questions/Comments from Public Attendees

There were no public attendees at the meeting.

5. Next Steps

- The TRAC has one week to provide comments on Draft Technical Memorandum #12. Comments should be returned to Lonny Welter by Friday, February 26th.
- The project team is meeting with the Board of Commissioners on March 16th.
- The second public open house event will occur over the coming months.