



# Columbia County Transportation System Plan Update

## Transportation Road Advisory Committee (TRAC) Meeting #5

### Summary

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	September 22, 2016
<b>MEETING TIME:</b>	10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
<b>MEETING LOCATION:</b>	Columbia County Road Department, 1054 Oregon Street, St. Helens.
<b>MEETING PURPOSE:</b>	The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss the Draft Transportation System Plan and any changes to projects or policy recommendations since the last TRAC meeting. We will also discuss input received through the public open houses held this summer, as well as our anticipated schedule moving forward.

#### TOPICS

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### 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.
- Kevin Chewuk- DKS Associates
- Ken Shonkwiler- ODOT
- Michael Greisen - TRAC Member
- Pat LaPointe- TRAC Member
- Rosemary Lohrke- TRAC Member
- Scott Jensen- 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 Technical Memorandum #12, involving transportation projects to address system deficiencies. We also discussed upcoming public outreach efforts to gain further input on the recommendations.

Since then, we've hosted our second public open house meeting series and have been working on and provided the TRAC with the Draft Transportation System Plan.

This is our final TRAC meeting. The project team will incorporate feedback from TRAC members into the Adoption Draft TSP. The project team will attend public hearings with the Planning

Commission and Board of County Commissioners on the Adoption Draft TSP during the next few months.

## 2. Input from Public Open Houses

The project team noted that the second open house meeting series for the TSP was held in May. The meetings were held in Clatskanie and Scappoose and about 15 people attended. Key feedback included the following:

- 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 the 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); Scappoose TSP (2016); 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.

The project team noted that the US 30 / Johnson’s Landing Road intersection was reviewed during the recent Scappoose TSP update and a traffic signal was not warranted at this time. However, with development expected to occur around the Scappoose Airport and with Project #67 evaluating the need for an alternate route in this area, improvements may be needed at this intersection in the future. Any improvements will need to be determined through future studies.

The project team noted that a path along US 30 would be difficult to implement, but that Project #46 will be modified to say that it could include a path along the US 30 corridor.

## 3. Overview of the Draft TSP

The project team gave an overview of the TSP. They noted that the TSP is broken into two volumes. Volume 1 is intended to be user-friendly by providing a high level summary of the TSP process and including recommended transportation projects and standards. The content was primarily taken from prior Technical Memorandums. Volume 2 includes all background Technical Memorandums and technical data from the TSP process and includes no new content.

The project team then walked TRAC members through each section of the TSP Volume 1. The TRAC had the following feedback:

- The cost estimate for Project #67 should be increased to \$10 million.
- Wayfinding should be one word (page 10).

- Modify Project #46 to say that the project could consider the opportunity to provide a shared-use path along the US 30 corridor.
- A TRAC member asked if we need Project #23 and where the crossing could be located. The project team noted that we should acknowledge the need for the bridge project and the it could occur anywhere in the corridor, even in Portland. The TRAC noted that US 30 will be used more due to increased congestion along the I-5 corridor. Drivers (and trucks) will attempt to avoid bottlenecks in Portland and instead travel via the Lewis and Clark Bridge and US 30. Therefore, a new bridge in Portland could help with congestion in Columbia County.
- Add an asterisk to Project #23 to note that the project is a large portion of the \$460 million worth of transportation investments.

## 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 the Draft TSP. Comments should be returned to Lonny Welter by Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The project team will incorporate feedback from TRAC members into the Adoption Draft TSP.
- The project team will attend public hearings with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners on the Adoption Draft TSP during the next few months.