



Stakeholder Advisory Committee, Meeting #8

DATE: April 26, 2010

ATTENDEES: Mark Elston, Mark Labhart, Mayor Robert McPheeters, Carolyn Decker, Claudine Rehn, Doug Henson, Don Hurd, Shirley Kalkhoven, Gus Meyer, David Mattison, Larry McKinley, Norm Myers, Jan Stewart, Willard Berry, Matt Mumford, Tony Snyder, Ingrid Weisenbach, Norm Rauscher, Mark Gervasi, Butch Parker, Liane Welch, Joanna Ridgway, Kristin Hull, Linda Girard

GUESTS: Mike and Niki Sheldon

LOCATION: Oregon Dept. of Forestry Conference Room, 5005 3rd Street

Welcome and Introductions

Kristin Hull welcomed the group and asked for self-introductions. She briefly summarized the agenda which will include reviewing the alternatives being studied in the environmental assessment and providing an update on the status of the environmental assessment.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee Comment

Jan Steward said she had heard several comments in favor of the no build alternative. Tony Snyder will provide project updates at the Planning Commission on May 8 and the City Council on May 17. Larry McKinley attended the April 21 Board of County Commissioners.

Questions About Alternatives Under Study

Kristin reviewed Alternative #1 (replace US 101 bridge). She was asked how far the widening will go and Tony responded that widening will stop at 4th avenue. She was also asked how wide the lanes on Main and Pacific will be and she told the committee they will be 12 feet in width.

Kristin then reviewed Alternative #2 (extend Pacific Avenue North). Mark Labhart said the reason Alternative #2 is being carried forward is because a series of meetings with business owners indicated support for this option. Access to the Shell Station will be maintained. Liane

Welch said that according to ODOT, the existing bridge is in acceptable shape. Doug Henson said one lane going west would be lost and traffic would back up. He is also concerned about parking removal on 3rd street. Jan said that the owner of MarClaire likes Alternative #2 but that keeping the MarClaire located downtown may be important to promote tourism in the downtown core. There is no site to replace the MarClaire in downtown. Doug said that the four-way stop at the Bank of Astoria has cleaned up the traffic on 3rd. Mark Labhart said the City should continue to consider a parking structure as we move forward.

Environmental Assessment Update

Kristin told the group that the project team was continuing to work on the EA and that it would be available for public review in early 2011.

Public Comment

Mike Sheldon said he was still concerned about access to the Shell Station with Alternative #2.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Kristin told the group that the next SAC meeting would likely not be until fall when the team could report on the early EA results.