

US 101/OR 6 Project Open House #5 Summary

PREPARED FOR: ODOT
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Overview

ODOT held a public open house from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at the Oregon Department of Forestry in Tillamook. The purpose of the open house was to:

- Share refined designs for project alternative including changes to the design that extends Pacific Avenue north of 1st Street and the design that maintains current traffic patterns south of the Hoquarten Slough.
- Gather input about whether both designs or just the design that extends Pacific Avenue north of 1st Street should be advanced to the environmental assessment.

The open house was advertised through an announcement in the project's monthly email update, the project web site, notices sent to the *Headlight Herald* and *Coast River Business Journal* and a postcard mailed to all households in the Tillamook zip code. About 40 people attended the meeting and 15 completed comment forms.

The following information was provided:

- Project timeline and overview
- Illustrations of both project designs
- Summary of key tradeoffs between designs
- Figure showing plan and bridge profile for the design that extends Pacific Avenue north of 1st Street
- Environmental Assessment content and process descriptions

Comments received

Attendees were asked to complete a comment form indicating their preference to study only the design that extends Pacific Avenue north of 1st Street or to continue to study both designs. The comment form also asked participants if they had concerns related to the new bridge design.

Design to study further

When asked about the design that extends Pacific Avenue north of 1st Street to the new Hoquarten Slough bridge, six participants suggested continuing to study both designs while 4 participants suggested studying only the alternative that extends Pacific Avenue north. Those who favored continuing to study both designs were generally opposed to the project.

New bridge design

When asked about concerns related to the new four-lane US 101 bridge over the Hoquarten Slough (that would maintain access to businesses near the Slough and be built above the 100-year flood elevation), the open house attendees generally agreed that the new design was acceptable. Some participants indicated a continued concern about business impacts. Specific comments included:

- Concerns that floods are not mitigated adequately.
- Concerns that bikes are incorporated into the design.
- A desire to see art included in the design.
- Concerns that the new design blocks access to adjacent businesses.

Other comments

Other comments and concerns noted on the comment forms included:

- Alter Highway 101 to bypass Tillamook; widen the highway.
- Move forward with a decision and hold a vote.
- Consider providing RV parking in downtown. Most “crashes” are attributed to RV mirrors.
- Increase traffic safety on 1st Street between Pacific and Main avenues, as well as a widening Main Avenue.
- Concern about business effects and proper compensation for property and income loss.
- Use advanced signal technology to keep traffic moving smoothly based on traffic volumes.
- Minimize negative effects of tourism; currently tourism is negatively affected when summer traffic backs up on Pacific Avenue.
- Mitigate and control floods, possibly by designing road surface that allows water to pass through.
- Hire locally for the construction of the project.

There were several comments about the lack of “need” for this project, due to the expected cost and the severity of traffic problems. Many said that the intersection was fine, expect in the summer. There was also a concern about the appropriate use of federal and state funds, when there is a budget deficit. One individual asked about the source of funding for the project and timeframe for construction. Some were concerned about with the impact to local businesses.

Public involvement program input

Input about how people heard about the open house and how they would like to be involved in the future indicates that continued coverage by the local newspaper and future public open houses will be important to continued successful public involvement.

How did you hear about this open house? (responses indicated in red)

7 Newspaper Ad

4 News Article

3 Email update

3 Word of Mouth

2 Postcard

How would you like to be involved as the project moves forward? (responses indicated in red)

6 Read a news article

5 Attend an open house

3 Read a newsletter or postcard

2 Visit a booth at another location

1 Go to a booth at the farmer's market

1 Read an email update

1 Visit the website to learn more and submit comments

1 Other: Vote on a ballot, not committee decision

