Carl Hosticka





METRO PEOPLE PLACES OPEN SPACES

Carl Hosticka represents District 3, which includes portions of Washington and Clackamas counties and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville.

Five alternatives for the I-5 to 99W Connector Project



The I-5 to Highway 99W Connector Project has entered a new phase of analysis and evaluation. In fall 2006, more than 600 citizens from Wilsonville, Sherwood, Tualatin and Washington County participated in community forums to express their concerns and share ideas for how to address the transportation issues facing the southwest metro region. These suggestions were considered and, in late August, a report was presented to the Project Steering Committee that documents the planning process up to this point, lays out the project timeline and approves the range of alternatives that will be investigated as possible

futures for the transportation system in the southwest quadrant.

Five alternatives are currently under consideration:

1) No-build alternative, which consists of maintaining the existing system, plus following through with all currently programmed projects.

2) Transportation system management / Transportation demand management (TSM/TDM) alternative targets ways to improve the performance of the current transportation system. This alternative addresses congestion though transportation system management and transportation demand management methods such as coordinating traffic light timing, and enhancing transit service, parking, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It also supports transportation management association programs that promote carpooling and alternatives to driving.

3) Enhanced existing system alternative expands on the TSM/TDM options in conjunction with some smaller-scale physical improvements targeted to significantly enhance the existing transportation system.

4) Connector(s) within the urban growth boundary (UGB) alternative proposes the construction of a major roadway, including one or more corridors for a new limited-access highway or high-capacity parkway linking I-5 and Highway 99W. The entire corridor would exist within the UGB.

5) Connector(s) outside, or partially outside the UGB alternative is the same as alternative 4, except that the corridor is substantially outside the UGB.

It is important to remember that no decision has yet been made as to which alternative will be implemented. The options are still being considered. When choosing among these five alternatives, we must consider how each will address the mobility needs in this growing quadrant of the region. All options will be investigated as equally viable possibilities.

Analysis of the alternatives will continue in an effort to fully understand how each of them would perform. A key step is the development of evaluation criteria, since they will determine how each alternative is considered and eventually eliminated or selected. On Sept. 25, the Metro Council reviewed the evaluation criteria. Later this fall, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will vote to finalize the criteria. The PSC will *continued*

I-5/99W alternatives

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judge each alternative not only for how it may improve transportation, but also how the resulting changes will impact the region in other ways. The evaluation criteria will be published soon, and I hope you will send in your comments, suggestions and concerns relating to the criteria, as well as the project as a whole.

The Metro Council believes that it is critical that all alternatives be weighed along the same dimensions. We also need to view project alternatives in the context of all transportation projects in the region.

At the end of this process, the proposed solution will be presented to the Metro Council for amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan. Local jurisdictions will also have to approve any changes in their transportation plans. For this reason, the participation of citizen stakeholders is crucial to not only help the Steering Committee compose a comprehensive recommended corridor solution, but to keep each stakeholder group fully informed and participating.

To take part in this discussion or for an update on the evaluation criteria or project, you are welcome to attend any meeting of the Stakeholder Working Group or Project Steering Committee. The meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are posted on the project website, www. i5to99w.org, where you can also view updates, join the project newsletter and send in your comments. You can also send e-mail to info@i5to99w.org or call (503) 595-9915. Your input is important to me.

— Carl Hosticka

Regional Transportation Plan open for public review

One of Metro's key regional roles is to lead the discussion on transportation planning and allocating limited funding for transportation projects. The longrange blueprint for this effort is called the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is going through a once-every-four years update right now. From October 15 through November 15, the public will have the opportunity to weigh-in on the part of the plan that must fulfill federal requirements.

Metro asks that residents and businesses either provide feedback on the information posted at www.metro-region.org/rtp, or attend one of four public open houses to have questions answered or submit testimony. Your input will help the Metro Council make major decisions about transportation investments that will have a profound impact on our region's economy and quality of life.

Comments may be submitted via a comment form on the project web page, by e-mail to rtp@metro-region.org, or by US mail to RTP Comments, Metro Planning Department, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. Hard copies of the draft plan are also available from the Planning Department.

Four public open houses/hearings are scheduled:

Oct. 25 - Clackamas County Chamber, Public Service Bldg., 2051 Kaen Road, Oregon City Open house at 4 p.m.; hearing at 5 p.m.

Nov. 1 - Metro Regional Center 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland Open house at 1 p.m.; hearing at 2 p.m.

Nov. 8 - Hillsboro Civic Center Auditorium 150 E. Main St., Hillsboro Open house at 4 p.m.; hearing at 5 p.m.

Nov. 15 - Metro Regional Center 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland Open house at 1 p.m.; hearing at 2 p.m.

For technical questions about the transportation priorities process, programs or projects, call Kim Ellis, RTP project manager, (503) 797-1617. For questions about public involvement, call Pat Emmerson, (503) 797-1551.

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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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October 2007 dch/final Printed on recycled paper