

Meeting minutes

Meeting: **Tualatin Valley Highway Steering Committee meeting**

Date/time: Thursday, July 14, 2022 | 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Place: Virtual webinar meeting held via Zoom

Members, Alternates Attending

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Co-chair
Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal, Co-chair
Councilor Marc San Soucie
Commissioner Nafisa Fai
Commissioner Jerry Willey
Councilor Rick Van Beveren
Mayor Jeffrey Dalin
Chris Ford (alternate)
JC Vanatta
Bryan Pohl
Ernesto Olivia
Maria Dolores Torres
Maria Caballero-Rubio
Karmen Chavez-Sam

Affiliate

Metro
Metro
City of Beaverton
Washington County
Washington County
City of Hillsboro
City of Cornelius
ODOT
TriMet
City of Forest Grove
Unite Oregon
Adelante Mujeres
Centro Cultural
APANO

Panelists Attending

Eryn Kehe
Malu Wilkinson
Yuliya Lee
Tanja Olson
Tom Shook
David Aulwes

Affiliate

Metro
Metro
Metro
Metro
HDR
TriMet

Welcome and introductions (Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro)

Co-chair Councilor Gonzalez called meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Councilor Gonzalez noted that there wasn't any traffic incidents or fatalities on TV Highway since the committee's last meeting.

He inquired if any members of the public wished to provide a comment. No public comment was provided.

Councilor Gonzalez reminded members of the committee of the project's goals, which included:

- The project improves the travel experience for transit riders, in particular communities of color and low-income communities

- The project advances adopted state, regional, and local goals and objectives related to land use, transportation, equity, and climate
- The project is supported by the community, in particular transit riders and communities of color
- The project is feasible to fund, construct and operate
- The project is able to move into the next phase, Project Development

Co-chair Councilor Gonzalez introduced Mr. Tom Shook, HDR, Inc. (HDR), to present on TV Highway project's cost estimate.

Presentation: Magnitude cost estimate (Tom Shook, HDR)

Mr. Tom Shook, HDR, started presentation with a brief description of the work that was done to provide the most updated cost estimate for the TV Highway project. He shared key assumptions for the project, which included:

- Transit (stations, vehicles/charging, signal priority, Merlo Garage upgrades)
 - 111 individual BRT-style platforms, approximately 1/3 mile spacing
- Traffic modifications (illumination, signals, signs/stripes, fiber)
 - Pedestrian lighting within station area/crossings, no additional street lighting
 - New signals with cross section changes
- Access features (sidewalk, ADA ramps/buttons, Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons, crossings)
 - 150 feet of sidewalk infill approaching platforms
 - New ADA improvements at stations and new signals
- Railroad fencing
- Reconstruction of some roadway and intersections as required
- Allowances (stormwater, site work, landscape, ROW, utilities, engineering, etc.)
- Contingency and escalation

Mr. Shook stated that potential transit corridor project cost, from Beaverton to Forest Grove, estimated around \$500-600M. In conclusion, he added that concept design will provide more clarity on cost ranges.

JC Vanatta, TriMet, inquired about a more refined cost estimate, what would that entail and what percentage of design can HOPE grant cover.

Mr. Tom Shook responded that as project design progresses, it would reflect a more detailed and refined cost estimate. He also added, that the goal is to cover 5-10% of the design cost with HOPE grant funds.

Mr. Bryan Pohl, Forest Grove, asked if project staff foresees any issues working with Union Pacific Railroad. Mr. David Aulwes, TriMet, acknowledged challenges working with the railroad that will need to be addressed, however, he also stated that those challenges have been accounted for to the best of the project's staff ability.

Councilor Rosenthal, Metro, inquired if the corridor has been divided into segments, having each section reflecting its own specific characteristics. Mr. Shook responded that the corridor was divided into 8 sections, and it helped to identify and prioritize improvements and costs for each segment.

Mr. Chris Ford, ODOT, inquired if current ODOT investments were taken into account in the provided project cost estimate. Mr. Shook responded that at this time, the total number provided is a basic overall cost for this project without including planned projects.

Commissioner Jerry Willey, Washington County, asked for a copy of materials that were shared during TV Highway Bus Tour and inquired if the committee can take a closer look at costs for each segment of the corridor to better understand the overall cost of the project. Co-chair Councilor Gonzalez responded that next presentation will address parts of this question and suggested to discuss it later on.

Presentation/Questions: Implications for Small Starts (David Aulwes, TriMet)

Mr. David Aulwes, TriMet, gave an overview of Small Starts project grant eligibility, which included:

During Get Moving 2020

- Maximum Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project size - \$300 M
- Maximum federal contribution - \$100 M
- Determined project was cost effective at \$200 M

Recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill

- Maximum FTA project size - \$400 M
- Maximum federal contribution - \$150 M
- The project size needs to be reanalyzed to determine cost effectiveness

Mr. Chris Ford noted that there are other investment strategy opportunities to use federal funds in local funding match to offset the overall cost of the project.

Ms. Malu Wilkinson, Metro, commented that, as the committee and partners work together in finding a way to fund this project, many other needs identified in the corridor will have to be addressed and funded also.

Discussion (Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro)

Councilor Gonzalez asked the committee members to reflect on and comment on the following questions:

- What data and information would you like brought to this group to help us solve our funding challenge?
- My staff has told me that other cities have been successful getting two Small Starts grants – subsequently, not consecutively – to build a longer corridor. Is this something to explore?

Commissioner Jerry Willey, Washington County, commented that the committee’s work would be looking at the funding opportunities and aligning them with the prioritized needs in the TV Highway corridor.

Ms. Maria Caballero-Rubio, Centro Cultural, inquired if the committee can get additional information on the various segments of the corridor that already have existing jurisdictional plans for improvement. She noted that such information can assist with local funding and prioritization.

JC Vanatta, TriMet, stated that he would be interested in finding out more information about getting two Small Starts grants. He also commented that the committee members and project staff should explore any possible opportunities for the funding.

Councilor Rick Van Beveren, City of Hillsboro, inquired if HOPE grant would cover the cost of the project's design to uncover enough details to assist with better understanding which segments are in the most need and how to get them funded.

Co-chair Councilor Rosenthal raised question if the committee should review sections of the corridor that were identified in previous studies as those in need from the standpoint of community, equity and safety.

Councilor Marc San Soucie, City of Beaverton, echoed other committee member's concerns about working around rail proximity and requirements. He inquired if the committee can get more information concerning which segments of the corridor are the most readily available to implement improvements. Councilor Marc San Soucie added that it might be worthwhile to look for alternative ways to connect destinations in the corridor.

Commissioner Nafisa Fai, Washington County, welcomed additional details and information about the segments of the corridor to engage Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and Washington County Coordinating Committee (WCCC) to ensure informed feedback is provided concerning funding. She also inquired if project staff can provide information on equity and equality. Commissioner Fai expressed interest in hearing more about examples of getting two Small Starts grants.

Ms. Karmen Chavez-Sam, APANO, reiterated comments concerning getting additional information about existing plans for improvement. She emphasized the need to look for alternative solutions to fill in the funding gaps to ensure the needs are addressed, specifically for the elderly and communities of color.

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin, City of Cornelius, highlighted the importance of addressing safety in the corridor and expressed concern about some of the communities having to wait for years to see improvements in their segment of the corridor.

Mr. Bryan Pohl, Forest Grove, echoed comments made by Councilor Marc San Soucie, and expressed hope the committee would find balance among implementation-ready segments, equity, and prioritized needs.

Co-chair Councilor Gonzalez, Metro, emphasized the importance of making data-driven decisions to ensure the needs of communities that are reliant on transit are met. He also noted that the timing of this project aligns with the region's desire to invest in itself, therefore adding possibilities to additional funding opportunities.

Mr. Ernesto Oliva, Unite Oregon, inquired about additional information on student ridership in the corridor, current transportation projects in and near Washington County, and how equity lenses are applied in gathering data.

Co-chair Councilor Rosenthal, Metro, noted potential cross connections, specifically South Hillsboro and any areas that are likely to be developing.

The committee members commented on the success of the TV Highway Bus Tour.

Public comment

Ms. Carina Solis, Unite Oregon, applauded project staff for being inclusive in planning and decision making for the TV Highway project.

Next steps (Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Metro)

There being no further business, co-chair Juan Carlos Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yuliya Lee, TV Highway Steering Committee Recorder

Attachments to the Public Record, TV Highway Steering Committee meeting, July 14, 2022

Item	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DOCUMENT No.
1	Agenda	7/14/2022	07/14/2022 TV Highway Steering Committee meeting agenda	071422TVHSC-01
2	Document	7/14/2022	05/12/2022 TV Highway Steering Committee meeting minutes	071422TVHSC-02