

Stakeholder Advisory Committee
October 27, 2009 2:00-4:00
Keizer Fire Station
661 Chemawa Road NE Keizer, OR 97303

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Members in Attendance

Pat Erlich
Cathy Clark
SuAnn Redick
Sam Brentano
Tim Potter

Staff in Attendance

Rick Kuehn, CH2M Hill
Terry Cole, ODOT
Eryn Kehe, JLA

Adrienne DeDona, JLA

Members of the public:

Cassie Ross
Phillip Hillaire
David Harding
Sandy Line
Sharlayne Garcia
Delbert Garcia
Christopher Banham
Joe Hillaire

Meeting Goals:

- Review October 14th Open House and public input
- Discuss the project's next steps

Welcome

Eryn welcomed the group, reviewed the agenda and the meeting goals.

September meeting summary –

Eryn asked if there were any suggested changes to the September meeting summary.

Pat Erlich requested the spelling of McLeod be corrected. She also suggested clarifying the characterization of the Tepper extension in future documents to avoid confusion. Pat requested clarification on page three of the notes in regards to whether or not 'it' is buildable due to the flood plain. The group agreed to change the summary to reflect that the 'alignment' might need to be mitigated.

The meeting summary was approved with the suggested changes.

Debrief on Open House

Eryn provided a written summary of the open house and public comments collected. She said that John Schaad, Pat Erlich, Cathy Clark, Jerry Lelack and SuAnn Reddick all attended the open house as representatives of the SAC. Eryn explained that there were 56 responses to the online survey and approximately 30 people attended the open house. Eryn said that generally folks were supportive of the recommendations and, of the people who participated, the majority indicated that they travel through the area.

She said that 64% of the people heard of open house/survey through the Statesman Journal and indicated a wide variety of reasons for participating, such as travel through area, owning property, or living in the area.

Eryn explained that the information at the open house and in the comment forms was presented by phase. The first phase, Chemawa widening, received 54% support and 25% support with reservations. Those with reservations indicated concerns related to safety crossing a wider street.

Sam Brentano asked where he could find a list of people's concerns. Eryn said that information could be found in the appendix of the open house summary. She felt that most people who expressed concerns about the recommendation were primarily concerned about property acquisition. Sam asked if some people are afraid that they might lose their property. Eryn replied yes, she thought some people held that concern. Terry added that there were questions about how they would be impacted by property acquisition. Eryn explained that the public information materials stated that property acquisition would be minimal; though there was not specific information about locations. Terry said there would not be a lot of property acquisition needed in most places and some areas there wouldn't be any acquisition required. He added that they might need 5 to 10 feet in some locations.

Eryn went on to explain that the recommendation for auxiliary lanes on I-5 was the most supported phase based on the feedback received. She said some comments suggested that ODOT consider more alternative modes of transportation.

Eryn said that recommendation 2C, the Tepper overcrossing, generated a lot of comments. Phase 2C was the least supported phase, but it was still generally supported. She explained that the comments received were related to the perception that this improvement would only serve Keizer Station. Some noted that opening Tepper to the west (across the railroad tracks) would make it a better east/west connection. Others said that Tepper should never be extended to the west. Many folks requested an overcrossing further to the north at Quinaby or Perkins. Terry added that an overcrossing at Quinaby or Perkins could be a future project, depending on Keizer's future growth.. He said at the open house and through the public information, they tried to emphasize that it isn't a crisis situation currently and the project is really planning for future conditions (i.e. potential congestion in 20 years).

Eryn shared some of the comments related to the relocation of the Indian School Road Intersection. Many participants indicated it wasn't needed. Eryn felt this was due to people viewing it as the need today versus 20 years from now. Cathy said that these people probably weren't turning in and out of Indian School Road very often.

Eryn said there was a lot of support for the ramps on the east side of the Chemawa Interchange. The primary concern mentioned with this element was the cost. A few

participants mentioned the need to consider more alternative modes of transportation. Terry added that there were approximately two people at the open house who promoted alternative modes of transportation and that this wasn't a common comment received.

Cathy commented that it seemed apparent that we did not do a good job explaining the Tepper overcrossing and its purpose. Eryn added that this is a challenging project to talk about in sound bytes, but that it is good we have narrowed down the element that we need to create better explanations for.

Eryn explained that a letter was distributed by the Salem-Keizer School District related to safety concerns and crossing a wider street, including driveway access at Whitaker Middle school. She said that the project team will prepare a response to this letter. Rick explained that once the project is implemented a plan would have to be put in place to design how crossing and access would occur. He said it will be discussed in the access management portion of the IAMP. Cathy said she fully supported pedestrian access to the middle school.

Eryn also explained that a Siletz Tribal Resolution related to future plans for the Chemawa Indian School was handed out at the open house.

Next Steps

Terry explained that a meeting is being coordinated with county staff, both cities and ODOT to review policies and ordinances that might relate to the project, specifically conversion of resource lands, and coordination and communication with the local jurisdictions. He said that Angelo Planning Group is the land use consultant working on this part of the project. Angelo Planning Group is currently reviewing all existing policies and will summarize and identify any gaps that might need to be addressed. Terry said that they may need to put a policy in place to update the IAMP if local policies change in the future, such as the Keizer Comprehensive Plan. He said they will also have to go through a process to identify any deviations from access management standards or alternate mobility standards or any other existing design standards. Terry said these are called draft design exceptions or deviations. He also described an additional 8 point intersection modification process that must be followed. Terry summarized that these are all of the last steps leading up to the full draft IAMP document. He said this work will take up the next couple of months up through the holiday season and when the full draft is put together, the SAC will come back at meet to discuss the draft document.

Eryn said that she had tentatively set December 17th for the next meeting. She explained that she moved the meeting to a different day due to the holidays; although the meeting might not be until January. Rick said that project team might only meet with the PMT in December to review the draft, then meet with both groups in January.

Eryn suggested eliminating the December meeting date altogether and tentatively holding January 26th for the next SAC meeting date. All agreed.

Pat asked if there would be additional meetings after January. Terry replied that there will probably be one more open house to review the draft document, then another meeting with the SAC.

Rick added that most of the technical work is done and the project team is at the point of writing and packaging the report. Terry said that he didn't anticipate any unanticipated or controversial elements to the report.

Eryn said that outreach to other organizations is still ongoing and that Rick attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting this morning. She said that she is still communicating with Dayspring Church about possibly making a presentation. Cathy said she has been talking to Countryside Christian and keeping them up to date.

Public Comment

SuAnn Reddick said that she had been the representative for the Chemawa Indian School Board on the SAC. She introduced the members of the School Board who were present at the meeting:

- Sharlayne Garcia, School board chair
- Joe Hillaire
- Cassie Ross
- Sandy Line, secretary

SuAnn explained that the Chemawa Indian School Board wanted to come to the SAC meeting in order to be sure that as many members of the school board as possible understood the significance of the project and its long-term nature. She said that she also wanted to point out that the memo received was from the Siletz Tribe, not the Chemawa Indian School Board. SuAnn went on to describe how the Chemawa Indian School represents 9 tribes in Oregon and many other tribes across the nation.

Sam Brentano asked who the appropriate representative was for the Chemawa Indian School. SuAnn replied that the new chair of the school board would be the appropriate one; though she has served as a liaison between the SAC and the school board.

Sharlayne Garcia, the School Board Chair, said that Mike Smith is the acting superintendent; though the school is run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). She said she represents Oregon Tribes and there are other school board representatives from the various states in the area, including at-large representatives. Sharlayne Garcia indicated that communication should go through Mike Smith. She said that the Siletz Tribe resolution makes it unclear how the Chemawa School Board feels about this; that a communication like this should be coming from the Chemawa Indian School Board, not individual tribes. The School Board officially stated at their board meeting this morning that they do not support the resolution that has been brought forth.

Suann explained that the Chemawa Indian School land is under ownership of the federal government which is managed by BIA. She said this makes it difficult from a legal perspective. Eryn added that she has been unsuccessful at efforts to involve the BIA consistently in the process. She is glad that the School Board and SuAnn have been helping with that communication.

Cathy said that as the SAC has worked to determine what improvements need to be made into the future, one of the things that has come up is to add safety features to the access into the school property. She said she wanted to get a sense of the group's perspective on that.

SuAnn said that historically there has been a substantial diminishment of their property over time. The less land they lose, the better. She said she would ideally like to entertain options of acquiring private property vs. school property if it's reasonable. SuAnn explained that if Indian School Loop Road is abandoned, the land should be returned back to Indian School property ownership. A signal (on Chemawa Road) into the campus would create a much safer ingress and egress to the school. SuAnn said she'd like to see a signal sooner rather than later. She has talked with both Marion County and the City of Salem about getting the light installed. Terry said the existence of the IAMP shouldn't be an impediment in getting a signal at the driveway in the meantime. He said that he fully supported the property being used for educational purposes and the possible expansion. He said that as we have looked at three or four alternatives, we haven't found any that the school can't live with. He said they will continue to look at ways to not impact the school. He said they would need to get the appropriate spacing on Chemawa Road, however.

Cathy said in terms of the south side, she fully supports the signal. She asked if there were other concerns on the south side or are the primary concerns related to the north side?

Suann said the pumpkin patch property has been historically owned by the Chemawa Indian School. She said the loop road is just north of the campus, and if that were abandoned, it would appear that it should be returned to the original jurisdiction. SuAnn said in theory, there are 2 to 3 acres that could come back into Chemawa School ownership. She added that she understood that would be a more long-term discussion. Terry responded that it wouldn't be uncommon for the property to revert back to the previous ownership.

Rick said that the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is right along the boundary of the property being discussed. He said that the new Tepper extension in that area may require it to be within the UGB based on local policy, or if it is moved outside the UGB a goal exception is needed. Rick explained that the new Chemawa driveway identified on the map is proposed and once expansion plans are determined, it could be finalized.

Suann inquired if anything new was found out about the railroad crossing. Rick said that he confirmed it was not a public crossing. The school can use it for maintenance vehicles, etc. He said that if it was needed as a public crossing, ODOT rail would need to get involved. Suann requested that Rick send their contact information to her.

Philip Hillaire thanked the group for the information they had shared. He said he was going to go to the School to familiarize himself with its layout. He explained the importance of the Chemawa School to the community. We then went on to describe the importance of the Siletz resolution. He said that as a member of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), he helped write memo. He said this was important to him because he was an alumni of the Chemawa Indian School. Phillip said he would like to see a college be established for the Tribes in this area. The closest tribal college is in Bellingham on Lummi Reservation. He explained that the National Congress of American Indians recently approved the Siletz resolution.

Eryn asked if Phillip had any concerns about the project impacts.

Philip replied that the land is sacred and is a part of their history. He said it was important to know what is going on with the land and it is always dwindling away. Terry clarified the long-term nature of the project and that phase one might be 10 to 15 years away. He said they were hoping to put the project plans in place in order to get in the queue for funding and get in front of the problem. He said there would be plenty of time to determine a plan for the school property.

Eryn adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:40 PM.