

ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 28, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Goldstein, Karen Bodner, Tom Poage, Jody Ogle, Jack Radabaugh.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rex Redmon, John Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Marsha Miller, Bill Morgan, Celia Barry, Mark Bernard, Howard Schussler,

OTHER: Liaison Bobby Green not present

Radabaugh called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Tom Boyatt, City of Springfield, 225 5th Street, Springfield OR 97477. Tom said he came to the meeting because he thought tonight was a hearing for making a recommendation on the ODOT Earmark Request List. Boyatt stated project No. 6/Franklin Blvd from Ferry Street Bridge to Springfield bridges was strategically placed on the request list even though he is certain ODOT will not put this project on their Federal lobbying list. Boyatt's hope is that if anyone such as DeFazio's office were to ask if they had tried to get the project on ODOT's list, they can show that they did. Boyatt says the \$25 million is a placeholder, as the project is an ultra-visionary 21st Century 100-year project that could ultimately cost a \$100 million. Boyatt stated Springfield is working on a concept for the Springfield side of the I-5 Bridges to come up with a concept for Franklin Blvd. based on the multi-way Blvd approach. Boyatt stated they will be asking for the whole \$100 million on the United Front List. Boyatt stated they lobbied heavily with ODOT and staff to promote the Gateway-Beltline project. Radabaugh asked if there are any joint proposals to Lane County with Eugene and Springfield to push for these projects or is Springfield going at each one individually. Boyatt responded that they are still united in Federal lobbying. Radabaugh said Boyatt being here tonight suggests he wants to work with Lane County. Boyatt said Eugene is supporting these projects, but that's separate from taking Springfield's priorities to the Oregon Transportation Commission. Additionally, Lane County has the responsibility to take all of Lane County's priorities to the Oregon Transportation Commission, which is why he is here tonight explaining why some of these projects are on the list.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Goldstein asked that the minutes from June's meeting include all of staff's comments regarding the Bernhardt Heights Road discussion.

Motion: Ogle moved to approve the minutes as amended; Goldstein seconded. All present voted in favor and motion carried.

III. ODOT EARMARKS REQUEST LIST – Celia Barry

Barry stated this is an opportunity for the Roads Advisory Committee to submit a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on the Priority List. Barry said the memo, priority list, and board packet have been posted to the web, sent out to all cities including mayors, public works directors, community development managers, transportation staff, and planners. Barry said there is a metro area staff level committee composed of Eugene, Springfield, Coburg, Lane County, and LCOG staff for the Metropolitan Planning Organization area. This organization gets to set their own priorities for the statewide transportation improvement program (STIP). Roads Advisory has made recommendations on the STIP in the past. Barry explained the Earmark Process is very much related to that because it's associated with the Federal Highway Bill, which includes money for transit, but ODOT doesn't ask us about transit. Barry stated the Federal Highway Bill is up for reauthorization in 2009 and is called "Safety Lieu" and it sends money to the STIP. Because of that, ODOT is getting ready to go to Washington D.C. to get money out of that bill. Roads Advisory commented on the policy a couple months back and we did not like the ODOT earmark policy because ODOT was trying to ensure they had control over it. The Board forwarded the RAC's comments to ODOT and ODOT did make some changes to their policy by softening their language on whether we could use the earmark if it was obtained for a local match. Barry said now that they are having this process, we should participate with them putting their list together and we usually meld in rural projects, which is

what we did with HWY 126 west/Veneta to Greenhill Rd. Barry said we listed this project as number five is because we've been told it's unlikely that more than four to five projects will be recommended from OTC onto the Earmarks List. The RAC needs to decide if they want to move it from number five or leave it as proposed. Radabaugh asked if the RAC is supposed to offer a motion supporting this list to be sent to the commissioners. Barry responded yes and/or changing the list as far as the prioritizing HWY 126 project on the list. Barry passed out testimony received from Mark Robinowitz. Barry said Mark's concerns are peak oil, overbuilding, and vehicle miles traveled is going down for the first time in history etc. Barry reviewed the HWY 126 project with the group. Goldstein asked how much of the funding comes from gas tax; general discussion ensued. Radabaugh asked if we had a motion for the list. Ogle requested that if the group agrees, we request HWY 126 moves in front of the Franklin Blvd. project, swapping #7 for #6 on the list.

Motion: Ogle moved to approve the list and include our comments. Goldstein seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

IV. REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN IN THE MPO AREA - Celia Barry

Barry said this update is for information purposes and is focused on the metro area vs. county-wide. Barry said right now cities are working on separating their urban growth boundaries and decided to separate their transportation plans, and that it gets more complicated because there's the MPO area- which is a federal designation based on census tracts. Barry summarized by saying Transportation Planning covers the Eugene Springfield metro area, while the State Transportation Planning requires we consider the MPO areas. Therefore, staff is working on a work plan for the Board, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, and City of Coburg. Radabaugh clarified by asking if the group is just receiving information and no requests or actions being asked of the committee. Barry responded correct, and this is just an opportunity to provide input. Bodner asked if any of this involves creating more room for car travel, or is it more concentrated on encouraging people to ride the bus. Barry responded this is more about MPO's pursuit of planning different transportation plans and won't be emphasizing cars.

V. PROJECT STATUS UPDATE – Bill Morgan.

Morgan handed out a status update report and reviewed Bob Straub Parkway, Bolton Hill Road, Heather Glen Affordable Housing, Armitage Park, Harvey Road, Asphalt Overlays, OTIA III Bridge Projects, and LTD EmX, as well as a variety of 40 non-CIP projects from 2007 through 2008 they are working on. Ogle asked about the EmX flyer for 5th & 7th street. Barry responded that was for the second phase. Radabaugh asked if there is any engineering work we can be doing for ODOT/Eugene/Springfield. Morgan responded yes and we presently are including various utility companies, working with Veneta on possible projects, Gateway right-of-way work, and the on-call right-of-way contract with ODOT etc. Goldstein asked if Morgan was aware of a jurisdictional dispute on Coastguard Road off Rhododendron Drive. Morgan said he was not familiar with details on the matter. Goldstein said there are irate residents threatening lawsuits because of the realignment issue and not knowing if the city or the county will be taking over that part of the road. Barry asked if Goldstein is talking about jurisdiction over Coastguard Road or Rhododendron Drive. Goldstein responded he wasn't sure. Barry said she will check on the status of Rhododendron Drive, as she thought the section questioned was now under the city. Poage asked if our striping crews will be switching to Thermo-Plastic. Barry responded they are looking at a variety of options, as Thermo-Plastic requires all new equipment and there are some other durable paint options they are looking into that won't require all new equipment.

VI. VEGETATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE – Marsha Miller

Miller said the Board considered four options for how to handle the Vegetation Committee and decided to continue with the committee as-is, but that they will meet less often. General discussion ensued.

VII. NEXT MEETING – September 24, 2008

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS –

Goldstein requested staff keep him up-to-date on any Collard Lake Road Issues. There's a development of 60 houses there and the county does and does not maintain it. Goldstein says we need to ensure some monies goes into a fund to take care of this road due to all of its issues. Barry responded this issue is about 20 years old and we do have direction from the board and the board does not want to maintain it. Barry added a lot of extremes lead to that decision. When the road was developed it was represented as being for summer homes. The county pushed to get it built to standards but developers pushed back. The Board then allowed the developers to build it not to standards so the county said we are not taking it into the county road system. The last direction we received from the board was to work with the neighbors to help them figure out a way to set up a home owners association. We had the meeting with them and we are no longer working on issues beyond that. Goldstein asked if we are going to continue to allow more homes to be built there. Barry said there are zoning issues but she is not familiar with specifics. Barry added that there is a land-use process where we get a referral and we review the proposal against our code and then may make requirements for that development.

Barry said we have contracted with someone to work on System Development Charges and will be reporting updates to the committee. Secondly, ODOT would like us to host an open-house at the October/November meeting.

Miller said she will want to engage this committee to brainstorm more revenue sources in the near future.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Christy Mosier
Transcribing Secretary