

ROADS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 27, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Anderson, George Goldstein, Jack Radabaugh, Karen Bodner, Tom Poage, Rex Redmon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jody Ogle

STAFF PRESENT: Ollie Snowden, Bill Morgan, Celia Barry, Shashi Bajracharya, Howard Schussler,

OTHER: Liaison Bobby Green Present

Chair John Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Anderson moved to approve the minutes as amended of January 23rd 2008. Radabaugh seconded. All present voted in favor and motion carried.

III. ODOT DRAFT EARMARK POLICY –

Barry gave a brief presentation on the draft policy highlighting two key phrases that staff thought would be of concern and invited comments from the RAC. Radabaugh expressed the following: "If ODOT wants local input, but wants this policy, what is the point of all the local processes to provide input; it's contradictory-they should delete the problematic phrases." Commissioner Green agreed, stating the draft policy makes the local processes appear to be just an exercise. In addition, he noted, it flies in the face of the reality of what counties are facing with regard to the loss of Secure Rural Schools funding. He wondered where ODOT thinks local matches will come from if locals cannot use federal earmarks as local matching funds. Snowden noted it appears from the policy that ODOT would expect matching funds to come from local budgets.

Motion: Radabaugh moved that the following phrases be stricken from the draft policy; all present voted in favor, motion carried:

From the last paragraph, page 2 of 3: A local agency that secures earmark funding for a project not on the official OTC Earmark Requests List takes on the role of the project's sponsor. The local agency must provide matching funds and cover any funding shortfalls for the project.

From page 3 of 3: Local agency earmarks will not be counted toward local contributions to projects unless the local agency receives prior approval from the ODOT region.

IV. ROAD FUND BUDGET UPDATE –

Snowden shared an update of the budget process and stated while he doubts we will get a four-year reauthorization for Secural Rural Schools Funding, he is hopeful for a one-year. Snowden explained we will use the \$32 million road fund balance to sustain current levels of service until legislative review to avoid massive layoffs in July with possibility of bringing people back afterwards if funding is received.

V. CIP REVIEW –

Barry summarized the packet provided and reminded the group that tonight's hearing requires no action. Barry reviewed each change she made to the CIP list per the committee's requests at the last meeting. Bodner requested more detail about solar panels for the school flashers and maintenance issues. Barry indicated the county's electrical staffing for traffic control was cut to one person for the entire county and we are currently providing an inadequate level of maintenance. Goldstein indicated the City of Florence uses solar and he would contact Mike Miller at the city to see what he could find out. Anderson requested additional analysis detail about speed flashing and its effectiveness.

VI. JUNCTION CITY HWY 99 REFINEMENT PLAN & TSP UPDATE –

Barry introduced Petra Schuetz from LCOG and Kay Bork with Junction City. Petra shared the Draft Refinement Plan and summarized the needs originally identified in 2000 and how the plan has evolved. Petra explained the preferred alternative, the challenges with consolidating railroad lines, and other aspects of the document and process. Commissioner Green asked how much of the refinement plan will accommodate the state hospital. Petra responded when the project began, there were no guarantees for the hospital, but has since been guaranteed and is going through a separate transportation analysis at the state level and will be coordinated with the city. Additionally, they did modeling for a jail (not knowing the extent of the facility) however; both the hospital and jail will be identified in the recommendation. Today we have accurate modeling for the State's evaluation. Barry interjected that the public outreach by the consultant was very good. All property owners that would be affected by the project were contacted directly with few exceptions their concerns were addressed. Petra provided additional explanation about access management issues, public open house meetings, the technical advisory committee and the citizen's advisory committee. Petra said the project estimate is \$84.7 million in today's dollars and she believes it's a low number. Petra stated tonight they are requesting a recommendation from Roads Advisory Committee to the Board of Commissioners to adopt the refinement plan, which is a refinement to the TSP, which is a refinement to the comp. plan, which is co-adopted by Lane County. Bodner asked does it mean we agree with everything in it if we adopt the recommendation. Petra responded no, but as a group we need to recognize the process. Petra concluded they hope to have all work sessions and public hearings complete by the end of the fiscal year. Petra stated there are no known financial contributions to this plan at this time. Goldstein asked if we could approve this list based on technical merit and not on budgetary? Snowden explained we are only making a recommendation on the plan-not on the budget for the improvements.

Motion: Radabaugh moved to approve the proposal as-is and to be accompanied by comments made at our meeting tonight. Poage seconded. All present voted in favor.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING/2009-2013 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM–

Anderson opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. and gave a brief overview of the process.

Barry gave a presentation and reviewed the proposed projects, funding available, and interested parties. Barry stated the Roads Advisory Committee has two purposes to fulfill tonight; the first is to allocate limited financial resources to projects with the greatest return, and the second is to provide the most efficient scheduling and allocation of staff and resources.

Chair Anderson requested comments:

PUBLIC COMMENT –

- **Sonny Chickering**, ODOT- 644 A Street, Springfield OR 97477: said they support the \$1.5 million request from the city of Coburg to back-fill County matching funds for the I-5 Interchange project and the use of Senate Bill 994 Funds.
- **Warren Weathers**, Mayor, 29 South Alder St, Lowell OR: stated he is in support of St. Vincent de Paul's Housing Partnership and reviewed the history of the First Street Project that includes affordable housing and access to First Street.
- **Sandra Belson**, City of Florence, 250 Hwy 101 Florence OR: They'd like our support from Senate Bill 994 Funds for the Rhododendron Drive/Coast Guard Road Intersection. The city has been working on this scenic route to include bike and pedestrian plans. The intersection is challenged because it does not have a 90 degree angle, causing a safety issue and the Coast Guard not being able to get their vehicles in and out of that intersection, creating a longer emergency response time. The subdivision has donated land to make the intersection more functional, now they need funding.
- **Chuck Spies**, City Administrator, PO Box 490, Lowell 97452: He wants to add the St. Vincent de Paul project to the 2009 CIP Project list with a max of \$325,000 or at the very least, a minimum of \$76,000 to reimburse Lowell for making the road fund whole.

- **Phillip Farrington**, Peacehealth 123 International Way, Springfield OR 97477: requested that Senate Bill 994 provide standard improvements around the Riverbend/Gateway area by “filling in the gaps” where Peacehealth’s work extends and where the county’s work ended in order to provide multi-use pathways providing connectivity, tying in through the neighborhood, including necessary signage.
- **Anne Williams**, St. Vincent de Paul, PO Box 24608 Eugene, OR: stated their support for the request of \$325,000 to complete the Lowell Housing Project or a minimum of \$75,000. This will have significant impact on gentrification with 20 starter homes to be built by the families, and all homes to open at once. She stated this will increase school enrollment and balance the demographics in Lowell.
- **Ken Vogeney**, Springfield City Engineer-225 5th Street, Springfield OR 97477. Ken provided a signed letter by the Mayor in support of both the CIP & Senate Bill 994 lists. There are three projects listed that will greatly benefit the city of Springfield (Hayden Bridge Way Improvements, Laura Street Project, and 31st Street Improvements).
- **Rick Ingham**, City Administrator, PO Box 458 Veneta OR 97487: Rick stated he’s here to advocate for the CIP to include as a local project, the remainder of Bolton Hill Road to be completed. The RAC has advocated for it during the last CIP including 2/3 of the project and he’d like our support in finishing the remaining 1/3 of the project by adding it to the CIP.
- **Petra Schuetz**, (LCOG) representing the city of Coburg, 91079 N. Willamette St. Coburg OR 97408 Planning Department. They’d like support by replenishing the county’s original match of \$1.3 million of the \$2.5 for the I-5 Interchange project. The two primary benefits include the regional employment center of 3,500 employees to be affected, and the second will be funding for phase two.

Anderson closed the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

- IX. NEXT MEETING – March 19, 2008
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS –
none.
- VIII. Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Christy Mosier
Transcribing Secretary