

**Region 2:**

<b>Location</b>	<b>People Attending (excluding ACT/ODOT hosts)</b>
Veneta .....	16
Florence .....	42
Springfield .....	17

There were numerous other outreach presentations to city councils, county commissions and other groups.

**AREA 5**

**VENETA**, October 25, 2004.  
16 attendees.

**Letters Received:**

- Cyndi and Tony LaMorticella of Elmira want Territorial Highway to be widened between Elmira and Clear Lake Road. It is heavily traveled and extremely dangerous. A shoulder is needed on both sides of the road.
- Mayor Tim Brooker of the City of Veneta requests that the STIP include safety and capacity improvements on OR126 between Greenhill Road and Territorial Road.
- Jim Petty of Elmira asks that shoulder widening or bike path work be done on Territorial Hwy from Elmira to Clear Lake Road for bicyclists and people in wheel chairs.

**General Comments:**

- Six people said that OR 126 West has very heavy traffic and needs to be widened.
- Three people said preliminary design should start in the STIP to address congestion issues on Highway 126 between Greenhill Rd and Territorial Highway.
- One person expressed the need to consider widening Highway 126 between Eugene and Veneta. There are a lot of environmental issues but time is costly. Look at elevating two lanes – this won't impact the environment.
- Until the West Eugene Parkway is implemented, it would be foolish to designate Highway 126 as a freight corridor. Let's be proactive and improve the serious Highway 126 traffic problems FIRST! Please modernize Highway 126.
- Carol Petty of Elmira requests widening Territorial Highway between Elmira and Clear Lake Road to create a shoulder. The wider shoulder would benefit bicyclists but also increase the driving car safety to have some leeway to prevent potential accidents.
- Four people thought that railroad transportation for freight should be given more importance in the STIP and by ODOT.
- A person suggested that the West Eugene Parkway be placed in a location that does not go through wetlands.

- One person suggested that Roosevelt be used for traffic, as an alternative to building new roadway as a part of the West Eugene Parkway.
- Several people stated that, no matter where the West Eugene Parkway is built, traffic will still have a bottleneck west of Eugene. That piece needs to be dealt with before the West Eugene Parkway is built.
- Four people stated that OR 126 at Fisher Road is a high accident area and needs to be looked at. Can Lane Transit District move the bus stop away from the intersection? (Bob Pirrie, the Area 5 Manager, will get this suggestion to Lane Transit District.)
- One person suggested that a signal be installed on OR 126 at Huston (in Veneta). (This comment will be given to ODOT's Traffic Management engineers for review.)

### **Discussions:**

- There were many comments and questions concerning the proposal to put the designation of "freight route" on OR 126 West.
- There were many questions about the West Eugene Parkway, its location, and whether it would be access controlled. (Bob Pirrie and Tom Boyatt, the Area 5 Manager and Planner respectively, responded with the current plan for the project. Even if the City has jurisdiction over a portion of the new roadway, it would remain access controlled.)

### **E-mail Comments Received:**

- Kathleen Witney supports widening Territorial Highway between Elmira and Clear Lake Road, a stretch of 3.4 miles of narrow, shoulder-less road with HEAVY traffic. A bike lane or shoulder would solve the problem.

**FLORENCE**, November 15, 2004.

42 attendees.

### **Letters Received:**

- Alan Burns, Mayor of Florence, supports improvements to the State highway system in and around Florence, especially the section of OR126 between Florence and Mapleton.
- Marv and Laurie VandeStreek, owners of the Edwin K Bed and Breakfast, request that the work to be done on the Siuslaw River (Florence) Bridge on Highway 101 not be scheduled for 24 hours a day because the noise will be devastating to their business and their personal quality of life. (Mr. VandeStreek attended the meeting and brought this issue up for discussion. The Area Manager, Project Leader, and City Manager responded with the history of trying to time the project for the benefit and convenience of both the motorists and the residents living nearby.)
- Earl and Donna Gray of Florence state that Highway 126 between Florence and Mapleton needs to be fixed soon. The dips and rough spots increase the dangers of a curving, two-lane road.

- Gloria Leet, Florence, states that the washboard road between Mapleton and Florence should be moved up on the list of priorities. She also suggests that the State spend more money on the Highway Patrol enforcing the present rules.
- John S. Scott, Commissioner, Port of Siuslaw and Councilor, City of Dunes City, states that Highway 126 between Eugene and Florence is very important and needs improvement from Florence to Mapleton and additional passing lanes overall.
- Cheryl Pichal of Florence requests some type of traffic control on US101 at South Jetty Road. South Jetty is a major recreation access road. US101, at its intersection with South Jetty Road, experiences high speeds and poor visibility. Even a flashing light would help.
- Phil Brubaker, Mayor-Elect of the City of Florence, states that the Horseshoe Creek-Mapleton overlay is very important and requests that it be moved up to 2006 or 2007.
- Three citizens wrote to say that the section of OR126 between Florence to Mapleton is in very poor shape (rough pavement and dips) and should be fixed as soon as possible.
- A citizen asked for repair to the Florence-Mapleton section and to reduce the speed down to 45 mph.
- Maurice Souza, Florence, asks that OR126 between Florence and Mapleton be repaired and the speed reduced in the Cushman area.
- Ed and Jennifer Phipps, Florence, manage the Old Town Inn and believe that motorists are confused by turn lanes on Hwy 101 near their business. They request that improvements be made.
- One comment was that if US101 is reworked in Florence, please consider putting a green median in place of the current turn lane.
- Pat Bales of Florence supports the gas tax, believes it should be used only for road improvements, and does not want the gas tax to be used for new roads in developments (LIDs should continue).
- Tom Kartrude of the Port of Siuslaw supports the Draft STIP projects on OR126 between Florence and Eugene. Concerned about the preservation of rail crossings on OR126. Supports fish passage improvements. Will work with ODOT to pursue funding for economic development and transportation needs in western Lane County.
- Tom Kartude of the Port of Siuslaw sent a second letter asking that river access be added to the North Fork Siuslaw River Bridge project.

### **General Comments:**

- One citizen asked that we try to slow traffic down on Highway 101, past the bridge, coming out of Wohink southbound.
- Five citizens requested that the dips and rough surface of OR126 between Florence and Mapleton be repaired.
- Florence resident who walks regularly along US101 reported that the stop bar for EB on 9<sup>th</sup> Street is very near the intersection and causes turning trucks to go up on the curb to make the turn. Dangerous for pedestrians on sidewalk. (City staff will look into the possibility of moving the stop bar back.)

**E-mail Comments Received:**

- G. H. Culp of Florence wants corrections made to OR126 between Walton and Noti. The curves and low visibility make it unsafe. He is glad that the North Fork River Bridge near Florence is being fixed, hopes that visibility will improve, and wants the speed limit in the area of the bridge to be reduced to 45 miles per hour.
- Ron Mossholder, Florence, suggests placing a drain pipe under the Cushman Bridge underpass and then pumping the flood water from a holding tank out to the Siuslaw River.
- Steve Earnshaw, President of the Board of Directors of the Florence Chamber of Commerce, thanks ODOT for their efforts and outreach and supports the suggestion by Mr. Ron Mossholder about how to fix the Cushman Bridge flooding problem. (See above for Mr. Mossholder's suggestion.)
- Ronald J. Ness of Florence suggests passing lanes be installed or lengthened on both OR126 between Florence and Eugene and US101 in the Florence area. (Mr. Ness included specific sites for passing lanes; those specific sites have been submitted to the Region Traffic and the Area office for consideration.) He wants to see emphasis placed on center left-turn lanes between Yachats and Waldport. He suggests installing "demand feed" traffic signals at US101/Canary Road/Honeyman Park and US101/South Jetty Road intersections. Also, he suggests that motorists be required to use headlights at all times on US101 and OR126 between Florence and Eugene.

**SPRINGFIELD**, December 1, 2004.

17 attendees.

**Letters Received:**

- Terry Connolly, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, believes the West Eugene Parkway (both the environmental mitigation and the construction project) is critical to the economic development and the efficient movement of people, goods and services in Eugene and Lane County.
- Mayor Sidney Leiken of the City of Springfield supports the I-5 / Beltline Interchange, Beltline/Coburg Rd Interchange, Beltline Highway Development work, the Wetland Banking for the West Eugene Parkway, and the OTIA 3 Bridge funds on the Game Farm Rd bridges. Asks that ODOT use OTIA 3 funds to purchase right of way at the Gateway / Beltline intersection.
- Philip Farrington, PeaceHealth, Director of Land Use Planning & Development, supports construction of the I-5 @ Beltline Interchange project. PeaceHealth has offered loaning \$15m toward the project until the federal earmark funds are available, as well as additional funds to nearby transportation improvement projects.

**General Comments:**

- Bobby Green, Lane County Commission, voiced the County Commission's support of the STIP projects in the Draft STIP for Lane County and thanked ODOT for its

willingness to study the I-5/Franklin Interchange. The County Board supports pavement preservation work on OR126 west of Mapleton.

- Anna Morrison, Lane County Commission, supports the Lane County projects in the Draft STIP. While the OTIA 3 Bridge program is crucial, it does not address the huge Modernization backlog identified in planning documents. She supports the multi-modal aspects of the Governor's next funding proposal, but the next transportation package needs to contain highway funding. ODOT must be consistent, fair and reasonable in its requests for match from local governments. Lane County has already contributed substantial County funds to State highway projects.
- Mayor Jim Torrey of the City of Eugene encouraged the governmental agencies to keep partnering to get the needed work done. I-5 @ Beltline is a good example of the progress that can happen when the City, County and State work together. The West Eugene Parkway is still needed; no one has ever proposed a workable alternative to the WEP that would solve the traffic problems. He supports the development work in the STIP for Beltline Highway between River Road and I-5. Mayor Torrey also said the biggest roadway problem in the metro area that needs attention is Beltline Highway between River Road and Coburg Road.
- Jeff Morton, Quality Inn, asked at what stage was the potential interchange connected to the Willamette River Bridge work (for Franklin Boulevard). Tom Boyatt, ODOT Area 5 Planner, reported that ODOT is just beginning the planning work to study the need for the interchange. He will put Mr. Morton on the interested parties list.
- Jeff Morton also asked how access to businesses will be hampered during construction of the I-5 at Beltline Interchange. A representative from LTD's Commuter Solutions Program will help to spread construction information to businesses.

### **Discussions:**

- A citizen commented that he thought the worst area on Beltline is at the Delta Highway intersection, not at Coburg Road (which has funding in the Draft STIP). Why isn't the funding placed at Delta? Tom Stinchfield of Lane County reported that the County has an improvement project in their road program to make changes to Delta Highway, which is a County Road. Tom Boyatt, ODOT Area 5 Planner, pointed out that the Draft STIP has funding to do a study on the whole corridor on Beltline Highway.

### **E-mail Comments Received:**

- Five people emailed with support for the West Eugene Parkway Phase 1 and the environmental mitigation projects in the Draft STIP. West Lane County will continue to grow and the transportation system needs to respond to the regional demand. (Gary Wildish, Michael Caprai, Tim Campbell, Bob Johnson, Sheryl Balthrop.)