

Conference Summary
September 28, 2007

Narrative and links have been added to summarize results from the conference. Thanks again for your preparation and participation. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with all of you and I look forward to working on the improvement opportunities you identified.

Brian Allen



Hilton Vancouver Washington, 301 W. Sixth Street, Vancouver, WA
September 11-12, 2007

The primary purpose of this conference is to strengthen the Environment discipline in FLH by:

- **Building relationships,**
- **Sharing best practices, and**
- **Identifying opportunities for improvement**

Tuesday - September 11

- 7:30 – 8:00 **Networking** (Refreshments available.)
- 8:00 – 8:15 **Welcome by FLH Leadership**
Bob Lale, Director of Project Delivery, WFL
- 8:15 - 9:15 **Division Introductions** (Meet the staff. Accomplishments. Improvement Initiatives. Challenges. Something creative from each Division.)
- CFL – **Several truths and a lie.**
 - EFL – **Rock, paper, scissors at its best.**
 - WFL – **The Office video.**
- 9:15 – 9:45 **Much from Keith Moore**
Keith Moore, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review, FHWA HQ
- 9:45 – 10:00 **Break**
- 10:00 - 11:30 **Program Compliance Issues** (This session is the meat of the conference. Information will be captured on flip charts for reference and follow-up at the end of the conference. [What works/doesn't work. Size of program. Number of projects. Environment's role in Planning and Programming. Needed improvement initiatives. Most important issues to address. Needs for reauthorization]).
- Forest Highway Program
 - EFL
 - WFL
 - CFL
 - Park Roads and Parkways Program
 - WFL
 - CFL
 - EFL
 - Refuge Roads Program
 - CFL
 - EFL
 - WFL

- ERFO
 - EFL
 - WFL
 - CFL

- Earmarks and Miscellaneous Projects
 - WFL
 - CFL
 - EFL

(See “Program Compliance Issues – Summary and Action Plan” on the [conference web page](#).)

11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch** (on your own)

12:30 – 2:00 **Program Compliance Issues** (continued)
(See above.)

2:00 - 2:15 **Break** (Refreshments available.)

2:15 – 2:45 **Web BA, Congressional Study, and Other Neat Stuff**
Mary Gray, Office of Natural and Human Environment, FHWA
HQ
(See “FHWA ESA Website Overview” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)

2:45 – 3:15 **Resource Center**
Don Cote, Environment Team Leader, FHWA Resource Center
(See “FHWA Resource Center” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)

3:15 – 3:45 **Project Presentation - EFL** (This is an opportunity for EFL to highlight one or more projects.)
(See “Gateway Transportation Study and Aviation Sports and Recreation: Confessions of a Concessionaire” and “Newfound Gap Road Tunnels Rehabilitation Project” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)

3:45 – 4:00 **Break**

- 4:00 – 4:30 **Historic Columbia River Highway**
George Fekaris, Project Manager, WFL
- Presentation on area and projects
 - Planning for tomorrow’s field trip
 - Final head count for dinner at Skamania Lodge.
(See “The Historic Columbia River Highway” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)
- 4:30 – 5:00 **Closeout for Day 1** (What went well? What could have been better? Review agenda for Day 2.)
- + Great chance to meet and get to know each other.
 - + Round table discussion on each program.
 - + Great presentations.
 - + People came prepared – did their prework.
 - + Location and food.
- More discussion opportunities especially late in the day.
 - Provide more background info prior to the conference.
 - Would like to have time to brainstorm solutions to problems.

Wednesday - September 12

- 7:30 – 8:00 **Networking** (Refreshments available.)
- 8:00 – 8:30 **Project Presentation - CFL** (This is an opportunity for CFL to highlight one or more projects.)
(See “CFLHD – The Good, the Bad, the Ugly” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)
- 8:30 – 9:00 **Linking Planning and NEPA**
Bob Bini, Planning FDL, FLH HQ
(See “Transportation Planning” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)
- 9:00 – 9:30 **NEPA Consistency and PDDM – Chapter 3**
Brian Allen, Environment FDL, WFL

Comments were collected on the draft guidance for achieving consistency in NEPA compliance across the FLH Divisions. Comments were also collected on the draft NPS/FHWA guidance for the Park Roads and Parkways program. Both documents are aimed at consistent implementation of the March 28, 2007 letter from Art Hamilton to the Federal FLHP partners. All three documents were provided in the conference materials.

There was insufficient time to review the new PDDM.

9:30 – 9:45 **Break**

9:45 – 10:15 **Project Presentation - WFL** (This is an opportunity for WFL to highlight one or more projects.)
(See “Cattle Point Road and Oregon 35” under Presentations on the [conference web page](#).)

10:15 – 11:30 **Conference Closeout**

- Review issues captured during the conference.
- Multi-vote exercise to identify highest priority issues to address. (See prior link to “Program Compliance Issues - Summary and Action Plan.”)
- Ideas for next conference. (Frequency? Host Division?)

There was unanimous support for another conference in two years. If approved, the conference would be hosted by EFL.

11:30 – 12:30 **Lunch** (on your own)

12:45 Sharp **Bus Departs for Historic Columbia River Highway**

- Dinner @ 6 p.m.

George Fekaris, WFL Project Manager, provided a beautiful day and led a fantastic tour of WFL projects along the Historic Columbia River Highway. Participants visited the Vista House, Multnomah Falls, Oneonta Tunnel, and walked segments of the historic highway (now bike path) between Eagle Creek and Cascade Locks. Drinks and



dinner were enjoyed at Skamania Lodge overlooking the Columbia River Gorge.

Conference photographs are available under “Pictures” on the [conference web page](#).)