

DATE: March 25, 2008
TO: Oregon Transportation Commission
FROM: Mathew L. Garrett
Director
SUBJECT: April 2008 OTC Consent Agenda Item
Adoption of the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan

Requested Action

Region 5 requests that the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) adopt the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan. Adoption of this Plan will amend the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) to include an Access Management Plan for US 730 from Irrigon to Umatilla. OTC adoption will identify circulation and access management strategies and capital improvement projects that would address the corridor's near-term and long-term safety needs. This Refinement Plan has been adopted into all relevant local comprehensive plans and transportation system plans.

Background

US 730 is a regional highway that connects the cities of Irrigon and Umatilla in Northeast Oregon to the larger statewide transportation network such as I-82 and I-84. In 2003, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) designated a portion of US 730 (roughly from the east city limits of the City of Irrigon to the west city limits of the City of Umatilla) as a Safety Corridor. This designation came after extensive review of historical safety data which indicated that the highway corridor has been experiencing a crash rate that is higher than the statewide average for comparable highway corridors. In most of these instances, it was reported that the vehicles involved in the collisions were traveling too fast for roadway conditions, but not exceeding the posted speed limit. Rear end and turning movement collisions were also prominent along the study corridor. In most of these instances, drivers were cited for following the vehicle in front of them too closely or not paying attention to the roadway environment. Located in both Morrow and Umatilla counties, this portion of US 730 is characterized as two-lane highway with a significant number of privately-owned accesses to a mix of rural residential and agricultural uses.

The US 730 corridor plan was developed to identify circulation and access-management strategies that would address the corridor's near- and long-term safety needs. The plan was guided by the Project Planning Management Team, a technical review and advisory committee comprising of representatives from ODOT, the City of Umatilla, the City of Irrigon, Morrow County and Umatilla County. In addition to the technical review, interested citizens and adjacent property owners were provided opportunities to comment on and help identify priorities for future circulation and access. As a result, Morrow County, Umatilla County, the City of Umatilla and ODOT have a specific plan that can be used to guide future circulation and access improvements along the study corridor.

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 2008-02 amending the County Transportation System Plan (TSP) and Comprehensive Plan January 8, 2008. The Morrow County Court adopted Ordinance No. MC-03-2008, amending the Morrow County TSP and Comprehensive Plan on February 27, 2008. The City of Umatilla passed Resolution No. 16-2008 on March 4, 2008 accepting the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan and recommending adoption of the plan by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

An ODOT staff report is attached as Exhibit A. ODOT findings of fact that demonstrate compliance with the modal plan amendment process and the facility plan adoption process are attached as Exhibit B.

Adoption Ordinances and Resolutions from affected local jurisdictions that demonstrate compatibility with their local comprehensive plan is attached as exhibit C. The Corridor Refinement Plan is attached as exhibit D. Additional hard copies of the plan may be requested from ODOT Region 5 Planning at (541) 963-1344.

Notification of this OTC action has been provided to each affected local jurisdiction and to DLCD.

Enclosures:

Exhibit A: US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan Staff Report

Exhibit B: US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan Findings of Fact (includes ODOT Letter of Concurrence as attachment)

Exhibit C: Umatilla County Ordinance No. 2008-02

Morrow County Ordinance No. MC-03-2008

City of Umatilla Resolution No. 16-2008

Exhibit D: US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan, October, 2007