

US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan
Staff Report
March 25, 2008

I. Introduction

The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan was developed to identify circulation and access-management strategies that would address the corridor's near- and long-term safety needs. US 730 is the only direct east/west roadway linking the Cities of Irrigon and Umatilla. Classified as a Regional Highway in the Oregon Highway Plan, US 730 goes on to connect with I-84, west of Irrigon and I-82, east of the City of Umatilla. The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan is specifically concerned with the section of US 730 from the east City limits of Irrigon (milepost 176.61) to the west city limits of the City of Umatilla (milepost 182.54). In 2003, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) designated this section of US 730 as a Safety Corridor. This section of the highway is currently characterized as having a significant number of private-access driveways, a limited supporting roadway network and a significant amount of high-speed-truck and through traffic. The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan identifies highway safety improvements along US 730 over the next 20 years. It provides a plan for limiting the amount of individual private driveway approaches to the highway through closure, consolidation and modification and identifies appropriate supporting roadway infrastructure to serve those portions of the study area that have potential to accommodate future development.

II. Public Involvement Process

Public involvement occurred through four public open houses involving local citizens, property owners and business owners. The purpose of the public meetings were to present project goal and objectives, provide information on the Corridor Plan process and access management practices, engage the participants to help develop potential local circulation and access management alternatives, and collect input on the preferred alternative for the Draft Corridor Refinement Plan.

As part of the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan, interagency involvement occurred through a Project Planning Management Team (PPMT) that consisted of representatives from Morrow County, Umatilla County, the City of Umatilla, the City of Irrigon and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The PPMT guided the planning work and was responsible for reviewing all work products, providing input on all planning recommendations such as the project study area, goals and objectives, level of public involvement, technical analysis and the proposed alternatives. Regular meetings were held throughout the course of the plan development.

In addition to the PPMT meetings and public workshops there were opportunities for public comment during the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan adoption process during the Morrow County Planning Commission and County Court hearings, Umatilla County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners hearings, and the City of Umatilla Planning Commission and City Council hearings. There is further opportunity for public comment at the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting.

III. Components of the Plan for which Local Governments are Responsible

Umatilla County

The Umatilla County Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 2008-2 to update the Umatilla County Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan with US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan on January 8, 2008. Umatilla County specifically adopted the improvements on US 730 from the western Umatilla/Morrow County line and the western city limits of the City of Umatilla.

Morrow County

The Morrow County Court adopted Ordinance Number MC-03-2008 amending the Morrow County Transportation System Plan with the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan on February 27, 2008. Specifically Morrow County adopted the Highway 730 Corridor Refinement Plan focusing on transportation improvements in the US 730 study corridor between the Morrow/Umatilla County line and the city limits of Irrigon. Many of the circulation projects identified in Morrow County involve the planning and development of parallel and supporting local roadways to support existing and future development and may require additional funding options for the County to implement.

City of Umatilla

The City of Umatilla Resolution No. 16-2008 was passed by the City Council on March 4, 2008. The City of Umatilla accepted the plan and recommends adoption of the US 730 Corridor Plan by the Oregon Transportation Commission. The City of Umatilla specifically accepted the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan for the portion of the study corridor within the City of Umatilla urban growth boundary (UGB).

IV. Components of the Plan for which the Department is Responsible

Oregon Transportation Commission

The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan shall be considered for adoption by the Oregon Transportation Commission as part of the *1999 Oregon Highway Plan*. The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan specifically identifies transportation improvements and access management strategies for the section of US 730 from the east city limits of the City of Irrigon (milepost 176.61) and the west city limits of the City of Umatilla (milepost 182.54).

Oregon Department of Transportation

ODOT operates and maintains US 730 within the study corridor. State and Federal funds administered through ODOT will be the primary sources of funding improvements to this facility. All highway related improvement projects are funded through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). ODOT currently has an upcoming STIP project set aside for US 730. This STIP project has identified funding for the purposes of addressing the safety issues along US 730. This plan provides guidance as to how the funding will be used to implement specific projects. In the near-term, this funding should be used to perform some of the approach closure/consolidation projects identified throughout the study corridor. In addition, some of the highway widening projects (three lane section and shoulder widening) are also recommended in the near-term for segments located in the eastern third of the study corridor. Other

projects such as the frontage road segment and construction of raised medians will most likely need to be funded through future STIP projects as warranted.

V. How the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan implements the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) and Access Management Rule (OAR 734 -051)

The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan was developed in accordance with policies set forth in the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP). The Corridor Refinement Plan was also developed in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the State of Oregon's Access Management Rules. Section 2 of the Corridor Refinement Plan identifies the OHP policies that pertain to the US 730 Corridor study area and documents OAR 734, Division 51 as the rules used by ODOT to regulate approaches to state highways and govern access control, spacing standards, medians and restriction of turning movements.

VI. Summary of Findings

The findings included in exhibit B highlight the actions for which the Oregon Transportation Commission has authority to approve, such as issues related to highway operations, mobility standards and access management.

Through the development of the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan, the plan is compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans of both Morrow and Umatilla Counties and the City of Umatilla and is in compliance with relevant state planning goals, plans and administrative rules. These include Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, Oregon Transportation Plan, (2006), 1999 Oregon Highway Plan as amended (2006), Transportation Planning Rule (OAR 660-012), and the Access Management Rule (OAR 734-051).

VII. Requested Action by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC)

The requested action by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) is to adopt an amendment of the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) to include the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan.

The US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan identifies near and long-term strategies and improvements to create a safe and efficient highway for the designated Safety Corridor between the eastern city limits of Irrigon and the western city limits of Umatilla. Implementation of the plan will better accommodate both through and local traffic as identified in the findings that will be adopted as a part of the OTC action. With the adoption of the US 730 Corridor Refinement Plan, the OTC is accepting and agreeing to the conclusions and decisions of the plan that shall guide future Department and local government actions.