

BEFORE THE LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

OCT 30 4 27 PM '87

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2
3 JENNIFER HARDING, and EAST)
4 SIDE ATHLETIC CLUB,)
5 Petitioners,)
6 vs.)
7 CLACKAMAS COUNTY,)
8 Respondent,)
9 and)
10 SCHURGIN DEVELOPMENT)
11 CORPORATION,)
12 Participant.)

LUBA No. 87-058

FINAL OPINION
AND ORDER

Appeal from Clackamas County.

Corinne C. Sherton, Salem, filed a petition for review and argued on behalf of petitioners. With her on the brief was Mitchell, Lang & Smith.

Ken Elliott, Portland, filed a response brief and argued on behalf of respondent-participant, Schurgin Development Corporation. With him on the brief was O'Donnell, Ramis, Elliott & Crew.

BAGG, Referee; DuBAY, Chief Referee; HOLSTUN, Referee, participated in the decision.

REVERSED 10/30/87

You are entitled to judicial review of this Order.
Judicial review is governed by the provisions of ORS 197.850.

1 Opinion by Bagg.

2 NATURE OF THE DECISION

3 Petitioners appeal Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
4 Order No. 87-736 entitled "In the matter of the vacation of
5 S.E. 90th Avenue, a County road #12097, #2604." The decision
6 became final on June 25, 1987, and vacates a portion of S.E.
7 90th Avenue between S.E. Sunnybrook Road and S.E. Sunnyside
8 Road.

9 STANDING

10 Standing is an issue in this case. Petitioners allege they
11 filed a notice of intent to appeal the county's decision with
12 this Board on July 16, 1987. ORS 197.830(1). Petitioners
13 claim they are aggrieved by the respondent's decision and that
14 they appeared before the county commissioners, asserted a
15 position on the merits, and the county board made a decision
16 contrary to that assertion. ORS 197.830(3)(b); Jefferson
17 Landfill v. Marion County, 297 Or 280, 686 P2d 310 (1984).

18 In addition, petitioners argue that petitioner Harding's
19 property interest is affected by this decision. Petitioner
20 Harding owns the East Side Athletic Club and is the grantee of
21 an 18 foot wide easement for ingress to, and egress from the
22 athletic club site across property directly to the west, to
23 S.E. 90th Avenue. Petitioners constructed a roadway on this
24 easement, and athletic club customers use it to go to and from
25 the athletic club on S.E. 90th Avenue. Petitioners claim that
26 without the easement, customers would not be able to enter the

1 site from S.E. Sunnyside Road while driving west on Sunnyside
2 Road and would not be able to exit from the athletic club site
3 and proceed west on Sunnyside Road. The result, according to
4 petitioners, is that petitioners ability to attract business
5 and serve customers at the athletic club is limited.

6 Petitioners argue this limitation constitutes an adverse
7 affect. ORS 197.837(3)(c)(B).

8 Respondent Schurgin Development Corporation recites that
9 under ORS 197.830(3), petitioners must either demonstrate that
10 they are entitled to notice prior to the decision or must show
11 adverse affect or aggrievement. Respondent claims petitioners
12 were not entitled to notice and hearing prior to this vacation
13 decision because the county board exercised its authority to
14 vacate the street pursuant to ORS 368.351. Road vacation
15 proceedings under ORS 368.351 do not require notice or hearing.

16 Respondent goes on to explain that petitioners are not
17 adversely affected or aggrieved by the street vacation because
18 petitioners make no claim they were recognized by the county as
19 having an interest in the decision. Under Jefferson Landfill,
20 supra, respondent argues the Supreme Court established a three
21 part test to determine whether a person is aggrieved by a local
22 decision maker. The test is as follows:

- 23 "1. The person's interest in the decision was
24 recognized by the local land use decision-making
body;
- 25 "2. The person asserted position on the merits; and
- 26 "3. The local land use decision-making body reached

1 a decision contrary to the decision asserted by
2 the person." Jefferson Landfill, 297 Or at 284.

3 Respondent claims petitioners' interest was not recognized
4 by the county. Also, respondent alleges the petitioners were
5 not adversely affected or aggrieved by the decision because
6 petitioners failed to demonstrate the decision impinges upon
7 their use and enjoyment of their property. According to
8 respondent, the county granted petitioners direct access from
9 their property onto Sunnyside Road, and the county guaranteed
10 petitioners would retain street access in the event S.E. 90th
11 was vacated. The county design review committee expressly
12 conditioned its approval of the construction project, known as
13 the Schurgin Project, on Schurgin reaching agreement with other
14 property owners, including petitioners, about access.
15 Therefore, according to respondent, the county has assured
16 adequate access to petitioners' property, and the vacation of
17 S.E. 90th Avenue has no adverse affect upon petitioners.
18 Respondent concludes petitioners lack standing to bring this
19 review proceeding.

20 We believe petitioners have standing. Petitioners appeared
21 before the county governing body and expressed a position on
22 the merits which was not adopted by respondent county.¹ We
23 are cited to nothing in the record to suggest the petitioners
24 were denied the opportunity to address the issues or were
25 otherwise considered not interested in the proceedings.

26 FACTS

1 Petitioner Harding obtained an easement from Pacific
2 Western Bank. The easement grants petitioner an 18 foot wide
3 access from the athletic club site to S.E. 90th Avenue. The
4 easement also provides for installation and maintenance of an
5 underground storm drainage system. Petitioner Harding has the
6 right to improve the easement property with a graded gravel or
7 paved roadway not more than 18 feet wide. Such a roadway
8 exists and is used by customers of the East Side Athletic
9 Club. Without the easement, athletic club customers would not
10 be able to enter and leave the site from S.E. Sunnyside Road.

11 Schurgin Development applied for vacation of S.E. 90th
12 Avenue between S.E. Sunnybrook Road and S.E. Sunnyside Road on
13 May 29, 1987. As part of the vacation proceeding, the director
14 of the county Department of Transportation and Development
15 filed a report stating that an issue of shared access between
16 the proposed Clackamas Promenade development, the Schurgin
17 Project, and the athletic club remained unsettled.

18 The county board considered the proposed vacation under
19 ORS 368.351, the procedure allowing the governing body to make
20 a determination about the vacation without complying with the
21 report, notice and hearing requirements found in ORS 368.346.
22 The summary proceeding is available only if (1) the county road
23 official files a written report concluding the vacation is in
24 the public interest; and (2) the proceedings are initiated by
25 petition with the acknowledged signatures of owners of 100
26 percent of any private property proposed to be vacated and of

1 owners of 100 percent of property abutting any property to be
2 vacated. Petitioners attorney appeared before the board at the
3 June 25 proceeding and requested that a hearing be held and
4 notice given as required by ORS 368.346. This request was
5 rejected, and the county board adopted the order vacating the
6 street.

7 This appeal followed.

8 JURISDICTION

9 Respondent argues LUBA lacks jurisdiction to consider this
10 case. Respondent cites Strawberry Hill Four Wheelers v. Board
11 of Commissioners for the County of Benton, 287 Or 591, 601 P2d
12 769 (1979) for the proposition that the proper method to test
13 vacation of the road is through writ of review. Respondent
14 argues petitioners are challenging the county's use of the road
15 vacation procedures, and their appeal should be filed in
16 Circuit Court. ORS 34.020.

17 As a further argument, respondent claims the county
18 decision does not fall within the definition of "land use
19 decision" in ORS 197.015(10). The statute provides

20 "A final decision or determination made by a
21 local government or special district that
22 concerns the adoption, amendment or
23 application of:

- 24 (i) The goals;
25 (ii) A comprehensive plan provision;
26 (iii) A land use regulation; or
(iv) A new land use regulation; * * *."

1 The vacation does not concern adoption, amendment or
2 application of the goals or of a comprehensive plan provision,
3 according to respondent. The only mention of road vacations is
4 found in the county zoning and development ordinance, Sec.
5 1300. That section gives information on the administrative
6 process for action on land use development applications
7 generally. As the county's land use regulations do not provide
8 standards for road vacations, there is no land use decision for
9 LUBA to review, according to this argument.

10 Respondent further argues the decision is not a land use
11 decision under the "significant impact" test. Local decisions
12 may be land use decisions if they have a "significant impact on
13 present or future land uses in the area." City of Pendleton v.
14 Kerns, 294 Or 126, 653 P2d 996 (1982). Respondent argues there
15 is no significant impact on present or future land uses by the
16 vacation of S.E. 90th Avenue. While the street will revert to
17 private ownership, it will not disappear, according to
18 respondent. It will become an access point for the development
19 to be located south of Sunnyside Road. Respondent states

20 "S.E. 90th Avenue will become an access point for the
21 development which will be located south of Sunnyside
22 Road. The current signalized intersection of
23 Sunnyside Road and S.E. 90th Avenue will remain
24 intact. In fact, the vacated S.E. 90th Avenue will
25 continue to function in many ways as at present.

26 "Nor will vacation of S.E. 90th Avenue have a
significant impact on access to Petitioners'
property. Prior to vacating S.E. 90th Avenue, the
County approved direct access from Petitioners'
property onto Sunnyside Road, thereby guaranteeing
street access to the health club. Record 4. Further,

1 the Clackamas County Design Review Board has
2 guaranteed Petitioners that it will maintain street
3 access to their property. Record 4, 5, 7, 16, 46.
4 Schurgin and the County have made several proposals
5 for alternative access points in addition to the
6 Sunnyside Road curb cut." Respondent's Brief at 10.

7 Respondent claims while petitioners rejected the alternatives
8 for access, petitioners nevertheless enjoy alternative access
9 to their property by another route.

10 Petitioner responds the Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan
11 does control the street vacation; and, therefore, the decision
12 meets the statutory test found in ORS 197.015(10). Petitioner
13 says the comprehensive plan provides a goal for property
14 designated as commercial. The goal is to

15 "insure that siting, design, and access of commercial
16 developments are suitable for the type of commercial
17 activity." Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan at 60.

18 Petitioner argues the road vacation within such a commercially
19 designated area is an action which has a direct affect on the
20 siting, design and access of neighboring commercial
21 developments.

22 In addition, petitioner states policy 1.0 of the Roadways
23 and Parking section of the plan makes direct reference to
24 "existing rights of way." The plan requires the county to

25 "1.0 Emphasize use of existing rights of way.

26 "2.0 Emphasize maintenance of existing roadways, with
improvements where appropriate, to improve
traffic flow and safety at a reasonable cost.

* * *

"5.0 Develop a parking and circulation plan for
activity centers which eases traffic flow,

1 reduces pollution and aids transit."

2 Respondent argues these policies are not applicable to
3 street vacations. The comprehensive plan does not mention
4 street vacations, and the emphasis placed on rights of way and
5 circulation plans for activity centers are issues to be raised
6 in the course of permit applications, not in the course of
7 street vacations. In oral argument before us, respondent
8 claimed the issue of a parking and circulation plan for the
9 activity center is an issue which was properly considered at
10 the conditional use design review phase.² The conditional
11 use and design review phase for the Schurgin Development
12 Corporation Project was not appealed.

13 We agree with petitioner that the plan emphasizes existing
14 rights of way. However, we do not interpret these policies as
15 approval standards to be applied to street vacations. The
16 plan's emphasis on maintenance of existing rights of way does
17 not necessarily mean that a street vacation must be measured
18 against this standard. As the court noted in Billington v.
19 Polk County, 299 Or 471, 479-80, 703 P2d 332 (1985):

20 "In conclusion, there are two tests to determine
21 whether a decision is a land use decision: (1) The
22 statutory test defined by ORS 197/015(10), and (2) The
23 significant impact test as referred to in Peterson and
24 Kerns for decisions not expressly covered in a land
25 use norm. The county's comprehensive plan is silent
26 as to its function in the context of road vacations.
Neither the plan nor the ordinances have provisions to
be employed as governing standards in the decision
making process in road vacation decision; there are
only procedural requirements. ORS Chapter 368 does
not call for direct application of the comprehensive
plan. The absence of any clear legislative

1 requirement that plan provisions be applied as
2 standards in this road vacation proceeding means there
3 is no statutory basis under ORS 197.015(10)(a)(A)(ii),
4 [sic] application of a comprehensive plan provision.

5 "In the absence of a direct statutory mandate to apply
6 a comprehensive plan provision or ordinance, the next
7 step is to determine whether the decision will have
8 significant impact on present or future land uses. If
9 the decision will have significant impacts, it is a
10 land use decision and LUBA has jurisdiction over the
11 land use matter."

12 Petitioner also cites Section 706.04.A controlling activity
13 centers. The code provides in part that

14 "[a]ll new developments and expansion of existing
15 developments shall comply with the adopted design plan
16 for the activity center."

17 Petitioner argues this zoning ordinance provision clearly
18 controls a street vacation.

19 We do not believe the zoning ordinance directly applies to
20 street vacations. The quoted language appears to be an
21 enforcement standard requiring compliance with an adopted
22 design plan. That is, this ordinance provision mandates that
23 new activity centers and expansion of existing activity centers
24 must comply with the adopted plan for the activity center.
25 This provision does not appear to be a separate approval
26 standard.

27 We conclude the street vacation does not meet the statutory
28 test for a land use decision.

29 With respect to the "significant impact test" we note this
30 decision is the vacation of an improved right of way. Such was
31 not the case in Billington v. Polk County, 14 Or LUBA 173 (1985)

1 wherein we found a street vacation had no significant impact on
2 land uses because it simply maintained "the status quo in this
3 rural farming area." Billington, 14 Or LUBA at 175.³ In
4 contrast, vacation of this right of way alters the existing
5 traffic pattern of nearby property owners having a right of
6 access to the street.

7 Because the street vacation alters access to the property,
8 we believe it has a significant impact on land use and is
9 therefore a land use decision under the significant impact test
10 as announced in Kerns, supra.

11 FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

12 "Respondent exceeded its jurisdiction, improperly
13 construed the applicable law, and failed to follow the
14 procedures applicable to the matter before it in a
15 manner that prejudiced the substantial rights of
petitioners by failing to provide the notice and
hearing required by ORS 368.346 and by approving the
vacation without the consent of petitioner Harding."

16 Petitioner argues that ORS 368.351 allows a governing body
17 to make a determination on a street vacation without notice and
18 hearing to affected property owners only if

19 "(1) The county road official files with the county's
20 governing body a written report that contains the
county road official's assessment that any vacation of
public property is in the public interest; and

21 "(2) The proceedings for vacation under ORS 368.326 to
22 368.366 were initiated by a petition under ORS 368.341
23 that contains the acknowledged signatures of owners of
100 percent of any private property proposed to be
24 vacated and acknowledged signatures of owners of 100
percent of property abutting any public property
25 proposed to be vacated. The petition must indicate
the owner's approval of the proposed vacation."
26 ORS 368.346(1)(2)

1 Petitioner alleges the county board did not comply with the
2 two requirements just cited in that the county made no finding
3 the proposed vacation of S.E. 90th Avenue was in the public
4 interest. Further, the issue of resolution of shared access
5 between Clackamas Promenade and East Side Athletic Club was not
6 settled, and was specifically noted as not being settled in the
7 county road official's report. Record 38. Petitioners argue,
8 therefore, that the county road official's recommendation for
9 approval was contingent upon resolution of this issue.
10 According to petitioner, without resolution of the issue, the
11 report does not provide the required assessment that the
12 vacation is in the public interest.

13 Respondent argues that the county complied with the
14 requirements of ORS 368.351(1) by acting upon a report filed by
15 the director of the Department of Planning and Development.
16 The report provided that the vacation of S.E. 90th Avenue is a
17 necessary phase in redevelopment of the property. Access to
18 petitioner's property is guaranteed, according to respondent,
19 by the Clackamas County Design Review Committee. The review
20 committee expressly conditions approval of the entire Schurgin
21 Project on reaching agreement on access and other related
22 issues. Therefore, according to respondent, the director's
23 comment about access is answered by the design review
24 committee's guarantee and conditional approval. Respondent
25 concludes the first requirement in ORS 368.351 is satisfied.

26 The county's decision is based upon the county road

1 official's report. The county road officials report provides
2 something less than a statement that the vacation is in the
3 public interest. The report states

4 "With the resolution of shared access between the
5 Clackamas Promenade project and the Eastside Athletic
6 Club, the Department of Transportation and Development
7 supports the necessary vacation of S.E. Creek Court,
8 S.E. 86th Avenue, S.E. 88th Avenue, S.E. 89th Avenue
and S.E. 90th Avenue and recommends that the Board
rule favorably on the vacation as five (5) separate
vacation orders are being submitted with this
recommendation." Record 38.

9 We are cited to nothing in the record which indicates the
10 road access issue has been resolved. The statute, allowing a
11 street vacation without a hearing, is clear in its requirement
12 that the county road official's assessment must include a
13 declaration the vacation is in the public interest. An
14 equivocal recommendation, based upon a contingency, does not
15 satisfy ORS 368.351(1)(c). We conclude the petitioner is
16 correct that the county was not entitled to proceed without a
17 hearing under ORS 368.351(1).

18 In the second part of this assignment of error, petitioner
19 notes ORS 368.351(2) requires signatures of owners of 100
20 percent of the property abutting any public property proposed
21 to be vacated. The petition contains the signature of Schurgin
22 Development Corporation, but no other persons or interests.
23 Petitioner argues

24 " * * * it appears from the record that the County
25 accepted authorization by the holder of an agreement
26 to purchase property abutting the roadways proposed to
be vacated, rather than requiring consent by the
present property owner. Record 42. In fact, the

1 Board made the vacation 'contingent upon the
2 fulfillment of purchase agreements held by Schurgin
3 Development Corporation for the acquisition of fee
4 simple title to all abutting property.' Record 2.
5 Proceeding in such a manner does not fulfill
6 the requirements of ORS 368.351(2) for dispensing with the
7 notice and hearing otherwise required by ORS 368.346."
8 Petitioner's Brief at 8.

9 Lastly, petitioner argues the vacation does not comply with
10 ORS 368.351(2) because the county did not obtain the signature
11 of petitioner Harding, the owner of the recorded easement
12 abutting the roadway. Petitioner notes the Oregon courts have
13 recognized an easement is an interest in land and not a
14 personal privilege; and, therefore, an easement is a form of
15 property. See, Scott v. State Highway Commission, 23 Or App
16 99, 541 P2d 516 (1975). Failure to obtain petitioner Harding's
17 signature, renders the decision invalid, according to this
18 argument.

19 Petitioners point in these arguments is that the county was
20 not entitled to rely on the shortened procedure available to it
21 under ORS 368.351. Petitioner claims that without properly
22 availing itself of the procedure in ORS 368.351, the county was
23 obliged to use the procedure in ORS 368.346. This latter
24 procedure requires notice to parties with various interests in
25 and around the road vacation and a public hearing. Without
26 following this procedure precisely, petitioners argue the
27 county never acquired jurisdiction over the road vacation
28 proceeding. See Rynearson v. Union County, 54 Or 181, 102 P
29 785 (1909) and Nyman v. City of Eugene, 32 Or App 307, 574 P2d

1 332 (1978).

2 Petitioners claim, in the alternative, that even if we
3 construe the county's failure to provide notice and hearing
4 under ORS 368.346(2)(3) to be a procedural error, we must
5 reverse the decision. Petitioners claim the lack of notice
6 prejudiced their substantial rights in the vacation
7 proceeding. See, ORS 197.835(8)(B). Specifically, petitioners
8 say that under ORS 368.346(3), 368.406(6), 368.411(4) and
9 368.416(2), petitioners were entitled to notice of the street
10 vacation (1) at least 30 days before the proceeding or (2) the
11 notice must be published at least 20 days before the
12 proceeding, or both such notices given. Instead, petitioners
13 received notice only 18 hours prior to the time the hearing was
14 scheduled to begin.

15 Petitioners argue that had adequate notice been given,
16 petitioners would have presented (1) testimony from a traffic
17 consultant with regard to the effect of proposed vacation, (2)
18 testimony from an architect or design consultant with regard to
19 designing a parking garage for the athletic club site and how
20 the vacation would limit parking and (3) testimony from a
21 market analyst on the needs of the area for increased
22 recreation and exercise facilities.

23 Failure to provide notice in a road vacation proceeding has
24 been held to deprive a county governing body of jurisdiction to
25 consider a road vacation. However, before we decide whether
26 petitioners' claim the county lacked jurisdiction to proceed is

1 correct, we must decide whether petitioners were entitled to
2 notice.

3 ORS 368.346(3) requires that the notice and hearing of a
4 proceeding to vacate a roadway must be provided by publication
5 and by service "on each person with a recorded interest" in the
6 property to be vacated and real property abutting that proposed
7 to be vacated. This statute seems sufficiently broad to
8 include the petitioner's easement interest. However,
9 ORS 368.351 allows a vacation without a hearing providing
10 consent is received by "owners of 100 percent of any private
11 property proposed to be vacated and * * * owners of 100 percent
12 of the property abutting any public property proposed to be
13 vacated." ORS 368.351(2).

14 Respondent says had the legislature intended that the
15 holder of an interest less than fee be required to consent, the
16 legislature would have said so. However, respondent's
17 interpretation of the statute assumes that the reference to
18 "owners of 100 percent of the property" means 100 percent of
19 the property in fee.

20 The statute need not be read so restrictively. The
21 reference to the "owners of 100 percent of the property" could
22 also mean the owners of all interests in property, whether fee
23 or lesser interest.

24 This broader reading of the statute is consistent with the
25 aparent purpose in ORS 368.341. The procedure outlined in this
26 statute requires notice to each person with a recorded interest

1 in the property to be vacated and property abutting that
2 proposed to be vacated. It would seem odd that a statute
3 requiring notice to persons having various interests in
4 property can be defeated by a companion statute allowing notice
5 to be dispensed with if the holder of one kind of interest in
6 the property consents to the vacation. We believe statutes
7 relating to the same subject should be read consistently, if
8 possible. 2A Sands Sutherland, Statutory Construction Sec.
9 52.02 (4th ed, 1984)⁴

10 We believe a more consistent approach is to read
11 ORS 368.351 to allow a short form road vacation, without
12 hearing, only when all owners of all recorded interests consent
13 to the street vacation.

14 We also disagree with respondent on the requirement to
15 obtain the consent of owners of property abutting the roadway
16 to be vacated. Respondent obtained the consent of Schurgin
17 Development Corporation, but Schurgin Development Corporation
18 is a contract purchaser. Schurgin is not the "owner" of the
19 property abutting the portion of the roadway to be vacated. We
20 are mindful of respondent's argument that because the vacation
21 is contingent upon the purchase by Schurgin Development
22 Corporation, the purpose of the statute arguably is satisfied.
23 However, we do not believe the statute contemplates a scheme
24 wherein the consent of a required owner is effective at the
25 same time the vacation is effective. The statute requires the
26 vacation proceeding be initiated by consenting property

1 owners. Without this consent, the county's action is without
2 effect. Without the necessary consent, the county was without
3 authority to conduct a summary road vacation proceeding.
4 Because the county's use of ORS 361.351 was in error, we are
5 required to reverse the county's decision.⁵

6 We now turn to the question of county jurisdiction to
7 proceed with the vacation without having first provided notice
8 to petitioners. We conclude the county's error is not simply a
9 procedural error, but one which deprives the county of
10 jurisdiction to entertain a road vacation. The statute
11 delineates a procedure to which the county must adhere. As the
12 court noted in Nyman v. City of Eugene, supra,

13 "[a] county court, when transacting county business
14 such as laying out county roads, is an inferior
15 tribunal of special and limited jurisdiction, and all
facts necessary to confer jurisdiction must appear on
the face of the record of its proceedings ..."

16 * * *

17 ... the filing of the petition to lay out a county
18 road, coupled with the posting notices as required by
law, vested jurisdiction in the county court.
19 However, proof of posting must be in the record"
Nyman, 32 Or App at 314-315. Emphasis added.

20 The statute leaves no room for the county to entertain its
21 own street vacation procedure. We believe the county was,
22 therefore, obliged to follow this procedure. In sum, the
23 county was required to use the vacation proceeding providing
24 for notice and hearing as found in ORS 368.346. Failure to do
25 so deprived the county of jurisdiction to approve the
26 vacation.⁶

1 Lastly, petitioner argues that ORS 368.331 was violated
2 because the vacation deprives petitioner Harding of access
3 necessary to exercise her property right. ORS 361.331 provides
4 as follows:

5 "A county governing body shall not vacate public lands
6 under ORS 368.326 to 368.366 if the vacation would
7 deprive an owner of a recorded property right of
8 access necessary for the exercise of that property
9 right unless the county governing body has the consent
10 of the owner."

11 Respondent replies the vacation approval did not deprive
12 petitioners of any recorded property right because (1) the
13 county granted direct access from petitioners' property onto
14 Sunnyside Road by an alternate method and (2) the county
15 guaranteed as a condition of the Schurgin Project design review
16 that additional access would be provided by agreement with
17 Schurgin.

18 ORS 361.331 is not entirely clear. Specifically, the
19 statute is unclear as to what is meant by a property right
20 "necessary for the exercise of that property right." We
21 believe the statute prohibits vacation of a right of way where
22 the owner would be deprived of the use of an access easement
23 connected to the right of way proposed for vacation. In this
24 case, vacation of S.E. 90th Avenue renders petitioners easement
25 useless. The access easement terminates at the boundary of the
26 vacated roadway, and the easement is therefore an easement
going nowhere. The easement, or in this case "recorded
property right of access" is no longer useful because its

1 necessary terminus, S.E. 90th Avenue, no longer exists.

2 We conclude, therefore, that the vacation does deprive the
3 petitioners of a property right in violation of ORS 361.331.
4 The fact petitioner may have alternate access to the property
5 does not alter our conclusion.

6 The first assignment of error is sustained.

7 SECOND ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

8 "Respondent improperly construed the applicable law
9 and made a decision not supported by substantial evidence
10 in the whole record in failing to address applicable legal
11 criteria and to adopt adequate findings of fact in making
12 its decision to vacate S.E. 90th Avenue."

11 Petitioners argue the street vacation was a quasi-judicial
12 decision. The filing of the application was bound to result in
13 some kind of action by the county government body and,
14 therefore, the decision may be characterized as quasi-judicial,
15 according to petitioners. See Neuberger v. City of Portland,
16 288 Or 155, 603 P2d 771 (1979). Cf. Dennehey v. City of
17 Portland, 87 Or App 33, ___ P2d ___ (1987). Petitioners go on
18 to argue that findings must accompany a quasi-judicial
19 decision, and this county decision is without findings.
20 Specifically, the board's decision fails to identify applicable
21 criteria, fails to state the facts which the board relied upon
22 to reach the decision, and fails to explain how the applicable
23 criteria apply to such facts. See, South of Sunnyside
24 Neighborhood League v. Clackamas County Commission, 280 Or 3,
25 569 P2d 1063 (1977).

26 Further, petitioners assert ORS 368.356 requires the county

1 board to determine whether the vacation is in the public
2 interest. Petitioner argues the county order fails either to
3 explain how the board defines public interest or identify facts
4 in the record showing that the public interest is met by this
5 decision.

6 Lastly, petitioner argues that certain comprehensive plan
7 provisions and zoning ordinance provisions control this
8 development, and there were no findings addressing such
9 provisions.

10 Respondent argues that its order fulfills the requirement
11 in ORS 368.356 that the governing body determine whether the
12 vacation is in the public interest. The board found, pursuant
13 to the report of its road official, that the vacation was a
14 "necessary phase in the redevelopment of the property." That
15 finding is, according to respondent, sufficient to satisfy the
16 public interest finding standard.

17 As discussed under the first assignment of error, the road
18 official's report does not meet the statutory requirement of a
19 finding that the vacation is in the public interest. The
20 report, therefore, does not meet the requirement in
21 ORS 368.351(1). The portion of the second assignment of error
22 challenging the county's application of and findings of
23 compliance with ORS 368.351(1) is sustained.

24 However, petitioners claim about the county's failure to
25 make findings regarding applicable comprehensive plan and
26

1 zoning ordinance policies fails. As discussed under the first
2 assignment of error, the comprehensive plan and zoning
3 ordinance do not include standards for street vacations.
4 Rather, the standards apply to questions of access and
5 particular kinds of developments. The standards are applicable
6 during the approval stage of developments, and it is not clear
7 that the policies apply to other than statutory land use
8 decisions.

9 The second assignment of error is sustained in part.

10 The decision is reversed.

11

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FOOTNOTES

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ORS 197.830(2)(3) states:

4 (2) Except as provided in ORS 197.620(1), a person may
5 petition the board for review of a legislative land use
6 decision if the person:

6 (a) Filed a notice of intent to appeal the decision as
7 provided in subsection (1) of this section; and

8 (b) Is aggrieved or has interests adversely affected by
9 the decision.

9 (3) Except as provided in ORS 197.620(1), a person may
10 petition the board for review of a quasi-judicial land use
11 decision if the person:

11 (a) Filed a notice of intent to appeal the decision as
12 provided in subsection (1) of this section;

13 (b) Appeared before the local government, special district
14 or state agency orally or in writing; and

14 (c) Meets one of the following criteria:

15 (A) Was entitled as of right to notice and hearing
16 prior to the decision to be reviewed; or

17 (B) Is aggrieved or has interests adversely affected
18 by the decision.

18 We conclude petitioners have standing regardless of whether
19 this decision is considered legislative or quasi-judicial. The
20 requirement of an appearance is not present to appeal a
21 legislative decision, however, aggrievement or adverse affect
22 is a requisite. We believe petitioners have adequately
23 demonstrated aggrievement.

24 If the decision is considered quasi-judicial, aggrievement
25 or adverse affect is again a requisite along with a requirement
26 that petitioners make an appearance before the local
government. Petitioners appeared and were aggrieved.

24 2

25 The record in this case includes the minutes of the design
26 review committee's meeting. However, the record does not
include other documents from the planning commission or county

1 commission giving approval to the shopping center development
2 or to any particular plan for the development. Possibly, an
3 argument could be made that the "land use decision" regarding
4 access was made at the time the project was approved, and this
5 street vacation only implements the land use decision approving
6 the project and access for it. However, without a complete
7 record of the prior approvals, we are unable to make such a
8 determination. We conclude, infra, that this decision does
9 meet the "significant impact test" and is a land use decision
10 subject to our review.

3

8 In Wagner v. Marion County, 70 Or App 233, 719 P2d 31
9 (1986), the Court of Appeals noted that whether or not the
10 status quo is maintained is not determinative of whether a
11 particular action has a significant impact on land use.
12 Indeed, maintenance of the status quo may have a significant
13 impact on land use.

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12 We note the legislature rewrote provisions of ORS Chapter
13 368, including the provisions at issue here in 1981.
14 ORS 368.346 and ORS 368.351 were adopted by the same
15 legislative act. See 1981 Oregon Laws, Ch. 153.

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16 Respondent filed a motion to dismiss based on mootness.
17 Respondent argues that Clackamas Promenade now owns 100 percent
18 of the property adjacent to that property to be vacated. As
19 such, respondent claims a contingency in the county order
20 regarding ownership to all abutting property has been met; and,
21 therefore, there is no longer any question as to whether or not
22 the consent of 100 percent of the adjacent owners is obtained.
23 Respondent claims that the vacation order of June 25, 1987, was
24 premised on the June 30, 1987 closing of Promenade's purchase
25 of all of the abutting property. Respondent claims the order
26 was signed subject to the condition that if Promenade did not
obtain fee simple title to the property, the order would be
null and void.

23 We do not read the county's order in quite the same
24 fashion. The order does not provide it is null and void if the
25 June 30 deadline comes and goes. Indeed, there is no mention
26 of a June 30 deadline in the county's order. All that is
mentioned in the county's order is that the vacation is

"contingent upon the fulfillment of purchase agreements
held by Schurgin Development Corporation and for the

1 acquisition of fee simple title to all abutting property."
2 Record 2.

3 As discussed in the text, it is our conclusion the county
4 is without authority to act on a road vacation petition which
5 is incomplete. In this case, the missing consent renders the
6 road vacation application incomplete.

6

6 If we are mistaken on the question of whether the county's
7 error may be considered simply procedural or is indeed
8 jurisdictional, then the result on this issue is different. We
9 may only reverse or remand for a procedural error if the error
10 results in prejudice to petitioners' substantial rights.
11 ORS 197.835(8)(A)(b). In this case, petitioners had 18 hours
12 prior notice the street vacation would occur. They were indeed
13 able to participate in the proceeding though under rather
14 inconvenient circumstances. While the question is a close one,
15 we conclude the inconveniences petitioners articulate do not
16 amount to prejudice to their substantial rights.