



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: April 5, 2006

Purpose: Fern Valley Interchange Project
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Distribution: CAC Members, Project Development Team, Public

From: Sue Casavan, RVCOG

Date Prepared: April 2006

CAC Attendees: Bob Korfhage, Terry Helfrich, David Lowry, David Lewin, Joan Haukom, Dack Doggett, Pauly Hinesly, Lee Carrau, Harry Page

CAC Absent: Mark Gibson, Bear Lake Estate liaison.

Project Team Attendees: Jerry Marmon, ODOT Environmental Project Manager
Debbie Timms, ODOT Project Manager
Gary Leaming, ODOT Project information
Brian Sheadel, ODOT Senior Designer
Nancy Reynolds, URS Corp. Project Manager
Vicki Guarino, RVCOG
Sue Casavan, RVCOG

Other Attendees: David Pyles, ODOT; Art Anderson, ODOT; 48 members of the public signed in (sign-in sheet in file)

1. Review of Agenda and Process / Approve Minutes

Vicki Guarino, RVCOG Facilitator

Guarino began the meeting at 6:30 with introductions and reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting. She pointed out new items on the revised agenda and asked if CAC members were comfortable with the order of items. New items had been added to the agenda which came from the proposal of the Business & Property Owners Association. A public comment period, comfort check, and agenda build for the next meeting had been added. There were comments from the public that they could not hear and they asked if there was a sound system. Guarino answered that there was no sound system but they could move their chairs

closer and several people moved closer to the group. The table setup had been changed with CAC members facing the crowd to accommodate questions from public. A request for approval of the January 4, 2006, CAC Minutes was made. Minutes were approved as presented.

2. Public Comments

Vicki Guarino, RVCOG

Gary Hall expressed his opinion that the group was insensitive to the public and that the chair of the committee should be changed. Guarino responded that she was not the chair but only a staff person. Wanda Long said speakers and microphones should have been set up so they could hear. Dack Doggett responded that there have been a lot of changes, a lot of public response, and he would do his best to get information to the people who were having a hard time hearing and there would be a different setup in the next meeting to accommodate the crowd. He commented that the CAC is responding to things the association has asked for.

3. Project Update

Debbie Timms, ODOT; Art Anderson, ODOT

Art Anderson discussed input from the business association and how ODOT was addressing the recommendations. He discussed the February meetings and the open house where people were asked to give the PDT information about what they think would work. Copies of alternatives were passed out at the end of the meeting. He added that the current focus should be on filling the vacant positions on the CAC and moving forward to develop a solution for the Fern Valley Interchange. Timms issued thanks to the CAC for their hard work in being part of the decision process and for their work with the community and the PDT.

4. Proposal from Business & Property Owners Association

Debbie Timms, ODOT

Timms introduced discussion of portions of the association's Guideline & Changes for Implementation that directly addressed the CAC. Joan Haukom wanted to know who the proposal was from, who the people in the association are and would have liked to see signatures on the document with the businesses and properties that people represented. Business Association representative, Tani Wouters, responded that they had submitted an earlier letter that stated all names, businesses, and property owners to Art Anderson at a previous meeting. David Lowry wanted to know who this was coming from, how many people did it represent, and was it just a small interest group. Tani Wouters said she could get that to CAC members for the next meeting. CAC discussed the number of people involved in the association, what percent of the city was involved and to keep it in perspective. Tani Wouters said the association has signed petitions with over 1500 signatures and will bring copies at a later date. Art Anderson offered information in support of the association stating that it had been formally recognized by ODOT at previous meetings. Tani Wouters added that according to CAC guidelines, the CAC members should be a sounding board of the community and the association wants to be assured that the CAC

will be doing that. Bob Korfhage suggested that before members decided on the proposal guidelines, they needed to look at the fundamental objectives of the committee and its role in interaction with the community in and outside of the meetings. Timms said that CAC members and the business association have made some great suggestions. She emphasized the point that the committee is not a government body. It is a volunteer citizen's body that makes recommendations, discusses purpose and need, goals and objectives, which are then handed off to the PDT. David Lewin asked members to look at the proposed guidelines and see if the process has worked up to this point. He stated that the members need to move forward and identify options and alternatives that will work for the whole community.

Timms presented to committee for comment:

- Guideline #1 – All CAC members must sit facing the public. CAC members expressed concern that the meetings are typically working sessions where access to screen viewing is needed. All members were open to recommendations and adjustments so far as it would not interfere with their ability to interact and exchange ideas.

- Guideline #2 – Only one or two ODOT representatives should be seated at main table. Timms asked each member for a response. Majority of CAC stated they appreciated the technical expertise and did not feel intimidated by the seating arrangement. Dack Doggett explained that it was not so much about intimidation, it was more about opinions and facts from ODOT that seemed to shut down ideas from the public. Jerry Mormon asked for a show of hands of who would like ODOT to stay at table. CAC members suggested ODOT personnel who are not presenting information could disperse about the room.

- Guideline #3 - Take public testimony and comments early in the meeting and again at end. Bob Korfhage said that the full agendas have cut the public comment short and suggested adding it to the agenda format. David Lewin commented that there would be more public input in the next few months and suggested extending the time of meetings. A number of members had conflicting schedules and could not extend meeting time. Guarino suggested an alternative, that during the agenda build the CAC and staff consider cutting back the agenda and stay with the same amount of time 6:30-8:30 and make a concerted effort to keep agenda at a length so the public could have time for input into member's decisions. Dack Doggett suggested slowing down the process to give more time to get information out to the people for more public comment. CAC members expressed concern that complex decisions affecting the community should not be made without sufficient information and public input. David Lewin suggested if members did not feel they had enough information to make a decision they could ask for more time. Terry Helfrich said getting the minutes out sooner would help with public input for CAC members.

- Timms combined Guidelines #5, 6, and 11 for comment. Guarino explained the Rogue Valley Council of Government's (RVCOG) role in the project. RVCOG is a consortium of local governments that provides a forum for government agencies. The staff provides a variety of technical services and tasks that are determined by the agencies. RVCOG remains neutral in the issue itself and tries to mediate. The organization does not take a stand; it helps move the project along offering whatever help it can. Dack Doggett commented, as he is a voice for the public, that RVCOG needs to be sensitive to the public and not rush them along. He did not think it was necessary to change staff but stated that the organization needs to

look at how they treat and interact with the public. Other CAC members said RVCOG has been neutral.

- **Guideline #7** – CAC members must make contact with the public they represent. Members acknowledged that the public does not know who is representing who. Timms suggested changing the name cards to reflect the interest that members represent. A woman from the audience asked, “Why is it our job to come to you? No one has gone to the business owners”. Dack Doggett responded that he personally does not have the time to go to each business. He said that is why he appreciates the business association with the public coming together and getting information and bringing it to these meetings. Terry Helfrich responded that there should be a quicker turnaround on the minutes. Timms and Guarino said they had to be approved by the committee and that there could be mistakes. Jerry Marmon wanted the committee to review the minutes before the public sees them, they will first be reviewed by all CAC members. Committee wanted to see draft minutes out to the public as soon as possible. Marmon asked members if they were okay with posting draft minutes. The committee unanimously agreed to post draft minutes. David Lewin said there is not a good way for individuals to adequately get out and inform the public and that the meetings are a good source of information. Tani Wouters suggested different venues of publicity for getting information out to the public and that the subcommittees could help with distribution.
- Timms introduced **Guideline #8**, reference to ODOT attitude, for comment. ODOT team asked CAC members what they wanted them to do. Terry Helfrich said there are times when members have had questions on the standards and have voted when they feel they do not have enough information on the subject. Timms responded that we are stuck with the processes. Joan Haukom commented that members need to know more about what the regulations refer to and educate members on why or why not something will work. Marmon said what he heard from members is that it comes down to a communication issue and they need more explanation of the processes. Terry Helfrich added that because of state and federal standards it keeps members from making decisions where the common-sense approach would work. Dack Doggett noted the South Stage Proposal as one that could be given more consideration and Timms said she would request ODOT to start looking at it. Dack said the issue is a matter of an attitude adjustment, of not sounding negative but more open to other options.
- Timms said committee will revisit **Guideline #14**. **Guideline #13** – Personal contact information of all current CAC and PDT must be posted on ODOT website and be kept current at all times. Timms informed CAC members that posting their personal contact information was entirely optional and in no way mandatory. Tani Wouters suggested checking out a shared e-mail box with ODOT on their website.
- **Guideline #12** – All official ODOT communications must be completely up-to-date and accurately reflect the truth of all processes and decisions. Timms explained that ODOT has a process for rules and regulations of how to do media and publications. She said there have been some technical problems with the website. However, she said ODOT has not hidden or distorted the truth about any aspect of the project. Art Anderson said everything will be posted on the ODOT website. Vicki Guarino suggested since the business association has

offered help in distributing information, RVCOC could make copies of current information and leave them for distribution. David Lowry stated that people have taken a bigger interest and have been showing up at meetings to see members in operation and this will develop a better sense of confidence in the CAC members.

5. CAC New Member Appointments

Vicki Guarino, RVCOC Facilitator

Guarino talked about the applications for new CAC members and the positions they will represent, referring to a memo distributed before the meeting. New members will represent small business, developer, and residential low-income. Nancy Reynolds said the committee needs to address the environmental justice issue when considering the candidate for residential / low-income. She explained that when federal funds are involved, members need to identify issues and impacts to low-income and minority populations. She commented that the CAC needs to really try to get representatives that meet the qualifications to be involved in the decision-making process. Joan Haukom said she wanted to advocate for keeping this position open until a person could be found who would adequately represent the low-income, minority community. Guarino added that all of the applicants were invited to the meeting and they could answer questions if they felt comfortable doing so. CAC decided to wait for further information from Reynolds on the criteria for residential low-income member selection. CAC reviewed the application for Lenny Neimark for the developer vacancy. Lenny Neimark was asked several questions by CAC. Guarino asked for a show of hands and Lenny Neimark was unanimously voted in by CAC members for the developer position. CAC moved on to small business candidate selection. Members reviewed applications and asked questions of candidates that were present. Bob Korfhage made a motion to nominate Stan Bartell for small business position, seconded by Harry Page. Committee members held discussion that they would like to look at other strong candidates. Guarino explained that there was a motion to address the motion to appoint Stan. She said the alternative to going by a motion is to have all candidates be considered with Stan Bartell being part of the mix. The members were asked to vote from the 4 candidates. The four candidates for small business were as follows:

Tani Wouters
Terry Romback
Stan Bartell
Kenneth Hanks

Lenny Neimark was asked by CAC members to vote and participate. A paper vote was counted and tied between Stan Bartell and Tani Wouters. Stan B. and Tani W. tied with 2nd paper vote cast. Pauly Hinesly wanted to abstain from voting for the following reasons: 1) she did not want 2 people from the Phoenix Business Association on committee 2) other applicants should be considered, not going back and forth between 2 people – duly noted by committee. She felt Lenny Neimark should not have the right to vote until he had been an acting member of the committee, duly noted by committee members. The third paper vote was counted by Timms and Guarino. Tani Wouters was elected to represent small business. Guarino said that members and staff will seek more applicants for residential low-income.

6. Public Comment

Vicki Guarino, RVCOG Facilitator

Art Anderson said that the handout being distributed is not a new design, but merely a concept brought to the CAC members and the public. As ODOT area manager, he said that we are at a point where we need to move on to be as productive as possible and that if people have issues with the committees or staff, they should contact him at 774-6653

Mike McKee said staff needed to educate CAC members in how they work with subcommittees.

Stan Bartell said that he appreciated everything the CAC and the staff has done and wanted to thank them.

Lorraine Sexton said she was not informed of who is representing what interest area and that there is a need to listen to concerned citizens.

7. Comfort Check

Vicki Guarino, RVCOG Facilitator

David Lowry- heading in positive direction

Joan Haukom- pleased to see people here, noted her interest areas are minority, residential, and pedestrian, anyone who has concerns in these areas should let her know

Lee Carrau- wants to move on with process

Lenny Neimark- wondered if Brian was willing to do quick presentation, felt it would be highly appreciated by attending public

Dack Doggett- appreciated the fact that committee and staff are listening to people and making accommodations

Harry Page- wanted to get on with the work

Terry Helfrich- Build trust and confidence in process, move on

David Lewin- this was an important meeting, get back to addressing issues

Bob Korfhage -OK

Pauly Hinesly-great to bring people together

Tani Wouters-thought it was a good idea to put representation under name

Optional Presentation by Brian Sheadel. After the meeting adjourned, Sheadel presented PowerPoint slide of recently developed concepts. He described the traffic flows in each scenario and answered questions. Maps of all scenarios were distributed to CAC members.