

Seaside Transportation System Plan

Joint Briefing to Planning Commission / City Council

Monday, March 31, 2008

6:30 p.m. / Seaside City Hall

Briefing Summary

ATTENDEES

City Council	Planning Commission
Gary Diebolt	Sara Fasoldt
Larry Haller	Tom Horning
Don Johnson	Chris Hoth
Dave Moore	Bill Hubbard
Tim Tolan	Richard Ridout
	Ray Romin

PMT Representatives	Consultant Team
Kevin Cupples, City of Seaside	Theresa Carr, CH2M HILL
Neal Wallace, City of Seaside	
Ingrid Weisenbach, ODOT	
Mark Winstanley, City of Seaside	
Laren Woolley, DLCD	

This brief document summarizes the conversation between the Seaside City Council, the Seaside Planning Commission, and the Seaside Transportation System Plan (TSP) project team at the joint Worksession March 31, 2008. This document focuses on questions and actions resulting from the discussion. A formal meeting summary is being prepared by the City of Seaside.

1. Project Overview

Ingrid Weisenbach opened the presentation and introduced Theresa Carr, Project Manager from CH2M HILL. Theresa Carr presented an overview of the upcoming Seaside TSP project, including a summary of the project's goals and objectives, the study area, and major work elements. See one-page project summary handout. Questions and comments from the group:

- When will traffic data be collected? Response: This will be taken twice - once in April, and again in late June. April traffic will be factored to peak summertime conditions for much of the TSP work, though they will also be used for a sensitivity analysis looking at what improvements will be needed to serve Seaside outside of the summertime peak

season. Late June counts will be taken after the school year is over, likely on a weekend, and will also be factored to peak conditions.

- The group requested that the summertime traffic collection take place the first Saturday after the July 4th holiday. (Note: June counts have been rescheduled for mid-July.)
- Who collects the traffic information? Response: ODOT contracts with a firm to collect traffic data. This is typically done by video camera. Video equipment is mounted on each study intersection to capture traffic entering and exiting the intersection from all directions. One or two people are responsible for mounting the cameras in the morning and taking them down in the evening. Data are summarized and provided in spreadsheet form to the project team.

2. Major Milestones / Check-In Points and Timeline

Theresa presented an overview of the project schedule and major milestones. The major work elements include an identification of need, the development and evaluation of alternatives, the preparation of an access management plan, and the TSP. See handout “Seaside TSP: Draft Timeline.” Questions and comments from the group:

- How will you be considering development? Response: the traffic work will actually look at what developments could realistically be expected in the City over the next 20 years, and what impact those would have on the transportation system.

3. Public and Stakeholder Involvement

Theresa went over the elements of the “Seaside TSP: Draft Public Involvement Approach” handout. The major elements of the public involvement program include an on-line web survey, a website, possibly a blog, two transportation summit public meetings, and three mode- or policy-specific workshops. Comments from the group:

- How will you be involving the City Council and Planning Commission? Response: staff will regularly brief these groups on the planning effort and ODOT is available at any time. The consultant will brief the groups at two future points in the process – at alternatives evaluation and with the draft TSP.
- Where will you be putting hard copies of the web survey? Response: Copies could be placed at City Hall, library, the planning/public works building, the visitors center, and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Suggestion to advertise public involvement events at the Convention Center and at City Hall
- Suggestion to post fliers about web survey in internet cafes and at the SDDA. Response: Good idea, and we also want to post them at other locations such as the supermarket.
- Suggestion to allow people to mail comments to city staff. Get those who can’t comment online or go to meetings.

4. Next Steps

The group was asked to look out for the website and the web survey in the coming weeks, to watch out for staff doing site visit data collection, and for traffic counting firms to be out with their equipment. The group would be invited to the first Transportation Summit in June when that date is set.

5. Project Goals, Success Factors

The group had a roundtable discussion where each City Council and Planning Commission member stated their desired outcomes and potential concerns for the upcoming planning effort. These are summarized below:

- Take into account the City's park plan, and provide for a continuously linked trail system connecting parks.
- Tsunami preparedness is important. Provide for bridge seismic retrofits, and footbridges.
- Coordinate with the City, ODOT, and DLCD through the planning process and develop a plan which will be adopted and approved by all these jurisdictions.
- Provide the Planning Commission with tools they can apply to future development. Pedestrian access is important, as important as automobile access. East-west connectivity is also important.
- Make sure to consider public transportation needs.
- Bike access is critical. Can you recommend projects outside the UGB? Some emergency routes are outside the City.
- The concept of a bypass will come up. Wants to see potential funding sources for a bypass. Beware that Seaside will have real, major traffic needs that need to be addressed.
- Success in the short term is something fiscally responsible. Over the medium and long-term, begin to address the bigger concerns. Don't want to have to go back and redo all over again.
- The funding piece will be important. The City needs the TSP because the City's current ability to build is reduced because available land is limited. Need a TSP for an UGB expansion. Beware that traffic is a real problem. Finally, wish to actually do the projects in the TSP.