

SALTZMAN ROAD PAC MEETING



SUMMARY – UPDATED 9/30/20

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 from 5:30-7:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees

Project Advisory Committee (PAC):

Bruce Barbarasch, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Virginia Bruce, CPO 1

Mary Manseau, CPO 7

Asif Rahman, Bethany Neighborhood Coalition

Trace Richard, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue

Christopher Temple-Morris, Findley Elementary School

Mariana Valenzuela, Centro Cultural

Staff Attendees:

Ben Lively, Marla Vik, and Melissa De Lyser with Washington County

Terry Song with Murray Smith

Brandy Steffen with JLA Public Involvement

Welcome and Introductions

Brandy Steffen, JLA Public Involvement, welcomed the group and reminded attendees that the meeting was being recorded. She reviewed the agenda, which was changed slightly from the advertised agenda to allow for more public comment time. Ben Lively, Washington County, welcomed the group and began introductions for staff before moving onto the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members.

Public Comments

Brandy opened the public comment period and read an email that was sent before the meeting. Each person could speak for 2 minutes. Brandy also encouraged people to type comments in the Q&A box (those comments are listed at the end of this summary). There were 20 people in the public side of the webinar.

- **Ravi Bella** – I'm from Bauer Highlands Home Owners Association (HOA) I've been working with the County for safety for the last few years and I'm glad to see the project kicking off.
- **Suresh Bala** – I'm also with Bauer Highlands HOA and we were part of the Bethany Highlands coalition. We worked with the County and we are very excited and would love to provide input and help. We are 275 residents in Bauer Highlands HOA and we got all of our neighborhood involved and this is a problem a long time coming. We look forward to working with you on a solution. Thank you.
- **April DeBolt** – (email) I was just thinking about that driving thru there yesterday ~I am wondering why a center turn lane would be necessary in the realignment option? where would drivers be turning to other than from their driving lane? esp with Findley field not being developed into houses; that's a big

imprint to have three lanes. also I am concerned about deer crossing ~they tend to travel along watersheds, and I have had one jump up onto Saltzman to cross between blueberry hollow and next house, and also up near the curve at top, heading west to east. A recipe for a collision ~how to make it safer for the deer? Btw ~a young bobcat was in our back yard yesterday :) I hope nothing has happened to the mom and other cub...

Protocols and Ground Rules

Brandy reviewed the protocols and ground rules with the committee. A summary of PAC questions are listed below, along with responses or further conversation about that topic (sub-bullet):

- **Mary** asked why Beaverton School District wasn't asked to join the PAC with the number of school buses that use the road.
 - **Brandy** thanked Mary for the comment and made a note to follow up.
- **Virginia** said that she is hard of hearing and requested that everyone show their video to help her understand what people are saying.
 - **Brandy** agreed to look into that option for the next meeting.
- **Mary** said that it might be hard to agree to no alternates without knowing the next meeting dates.
 - **Brandy** agreed to discuss dates before moving forward with the approval of the ground rules.
- **Virginia** asked if it's ok to share this information at the September CPO meeting.
 - **Brandy** confirmed that it's ok to share.
- **Mary** asked if the meeting recordings and summaries will be available to the public.
 - **Melissa** De Lyser, Washington County, said that yes, all of that information will be posted to the website.
- **Mary** asked if there will be an interested parties list to mail PAC materials to.
 - **Melissa** said that yes, we can do that going forward after the PAC is finished and that all PAC materials are posted ahead of the meeting on the website. People can also subscribe to the County website/calendar (RUT).
- **Virginia** said that she is a member of the media; can she report to the CPO and in her paper, the Cedar Mills News.
 - **Marianna** chimed in and asked if it was ok for Virginia to publish a brief update on the project.
 - **Virginia** offered to share her drafts with Melissa.
 - **Melissa** clarified that the concern with sharing with media is to keep the meeting safe, but it's ok to write about the PAC and provide a general overview of the meeting.
 - **Virginia** said that she is ok abiding by that process.
 - **Brandy** said that we can clarify offline, but notification is ok but not opinion pieces.
 - **Marianna** said that the protocols say to let the community know and share the website with a comment form to collect input. It's nice to inform people about the process. There are some people who don't have computer access.

The group reviewed the upcoming meeting dates (Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 on 9/23, 10/14, and 11/4) and only Mary had conflicts which she is willing to modify. Brandy asked if the group could reach consensus agreement on the protocols and ground rules. The PAC all agreed.

[Update: *Public comments and materials distributed by PAC members are not endorsed by Washington County.*]

Existing Conditions Review

Ben Lively and Terry Song, MurraySmith, reviewed the existing conditions in the area, including input previously collected from the community.

[Updated: *evaluation criteria added as requested by PAC members on 9/23/20.*]

- Environmental Permitting
- Stormwater Management
- Structures
- Traffic
- Utilities
- Right-of-Way
- Trees
- Traffic Control
- Estimated Total Project Cost

Terry asked the PAC to submit any additional criteria before Wednesday, September 2. Below is a summary of the PAC's comments and questions:

- **Mary** said it would have been useful to be asked for criteria ahead of time, so she could collect information from the CPO.
- **Mary** has heard suggestions of using the existing (eastern) alignment for bike/ped if there is a new western alignment.
 - **Ben** responded that is an interesting comment and the use of the eastern alignment if the western alignment is selected is something that needs to be studied.
- **Mary** also commented that if the footprint on the wetland could be narrowed by reducing the weight/structural load of the sidewalks (to not hold dump trucks) that would be good.
- **Virginia** asked what County criteria is applied to this project and if this process can look at solutions that are not part of the normal County toolbox?
 - **Ben** said the project should design to County standards, but the Board could agree to something different. He suggested considering many ideas, particularly for bike/ped details.
- **Marianna** asked if the PAC would discuss alignment then the design team presents to the Board.
 - **Terry** said that yes, the PAC will review the two alignments and once the Board selects one then the design team will refine it further including a separate bike/ped process.
- **Mary** asked about intersection spacing since that is a consistent neighborhood concern. She is also hearing from the community to make 130th a through road.
 - **Terry** said that the traffic analysis will look at spacing issues and other impacts of each alignment. Access will be maintained to the houses currently using Saltzman Road.

- **Mary** asked if the analysis looks at future traffic impacts in 20, 30 or 50 years out. Many community members want to have Saltzman Road extend out to Springville Road. Future expansion opportunities will be important as we select the alignment.
 - **Ben** said that a future connection will take further coordination with Multnomah County, and that expansion may be determined by population growth.
- **Asif** joined at this point and introduced himself as the representative of the Bethany Neighborhood Coalition. He expressed some frustration with the process and that it is repeating previous work.
- **Virginia** was struck by the lack of long-term planning in the area. She sees this project as an opportunity for the County to get ahead of the curve and plan.
 - **Ben** clarified that the project's scope is to plan for the future but that looking to a future connection beyond Laidlaw to Springville is not part of this project and will require Multnomah County involvement.
 - **Asif** added that planning for the future is the right thing to do.
- **Asif** said there are two issues with the existing conditions (eastern alignment): the angle and the height.
 - **Ben** added that this process will look at possible changes to the eastern alignment to increase safety.
 - **Asif** argued that this is a band aid.
 - **Brandy** reiterated the need to collect criteria for the current evaluation and heard that Asif is concerned with safety, including past information, looking for future expansion opportunities with Multnomah County, and safe pedestrian access.
 - **Asif** said that a lot was studied previously and there was an agreement with elected officials but now it feels like we're starting over. There were even a few lawsuits. He wants to think long-term and go with the connection to 130th.
- **Christopher** said that his friends are texting him and agree with the comments that are being raised.
- **Trace** said that he is still getting familiar with the project area but a major concern for Fire and Rescue is the response time for replacing the eastern alignment. Saltzman is a major connection to Laidlaw. He will gather more information to help with the conversation.
- **Marianna** was listening and appreciated Asif sharing his history. She understood that it's discouraging but this PAC has the possibility to move forward and get something done. She is hopeful to get something done but if it's going to be a band aid than maybe the committee needs to look at other locations.
- **Mary** had a question with the western alignment safety issues with the straight line and an elevation which could encourage speeding.
 - **Ben** said that the technical review and design will examine reducing the road grade as much as possible but will also examine traffic calming. We're at a stage to choose an alignment, design it and build it. If the PAC recommends the western alignment [and the Board approves it] there would be a lot more design needed.
- **Mary** asked cost is the main criteria for a recommendation and if design speed has been determined.

- **Ben** said that the committee needs to recommend an alignment, but we'll collect all information brought up by the committee including design speed. Costs are not the only criteria but one of many.
- **Asif** said that THPRD is also an element since they bought a lot of land on both sides of the western alignment, which could be dangerous with a parking lot on one side and the park on the other. Cost is a big factor to consider, but encouraged the PAC to consider livability, walkability, etc.
 - **Ben** said that an allotted amount has been approved for the project, but the Board could increase the budget. **[Update: To clarify, the Board could choose to find additional funding if the project costs more than the allotted funds. However, it is not guaranteed that they will choose to do so, particularly in the current situation of project funding shortfalls around the state.]**
- **Asif** said that the cost difference is so low that it's confusing why we're doing this process. The eastern side is the only one we're examining right now, and we need to do more analysis on the western alignment.
 - **Terry** said that at the next meeting the PAC will look at multiple criteria for each alignment including safety, environmental, pedestrian, etc.
 - **Brandy** asked Asif to send any information he has previously collected to her.
- **Virginia** encouraged everyone to travel the road to get familiar with Saltzman. She also asked for hard collision information.
 - **Asif** said he has pictures of upside-down cars.
 - **Ben** said that recorded accidents can be shared with the PAC.
- **Asif** added that there are many kids in this area and there should be a value on those kids.
- **Mary** asked if an environmental group was going to be part of the PAC.
 - **Brandy** said that one group didn't respond but THPRD is a PAC member. Washington County will discuss this option.
 - **Mary and Marianna** asked for Beaverton School District, Audubon Society, Tualatin Riverkeepers to be included. Others asked for Bauer Highlands HOA to be included.

Brandy asked the PAC to send additional criteria to the design team before next Wednesday, 9/2 but that depending on the criteria it may take longer than two weeks to analyze. Ben added that the sooner PAC members tell the County what to review the more likely the technical team can present it at the next meeting. Ben also encouraged the PAC members to be as active as possible and that the team was available to speak between meetings and take any email ideas.

Public Comments

Brandy took more public comments:

- **Suresh Bala** – To add to what Asif and Ben were talking about, there are multiple angles of safety. Regular traffic accidents but in the winter the road freezes there have been many accidents, semi-trucks slide back it's been very unsafe. Please consider not just traffic, but also sight lines/easement or how deep it goes. Beaverton School District has school buses go by and walking on the road, driving on the road is hard and they can speak to that space. In addition to Asif being part of the PAC, please add Bauer Highlands we can bring more stories to the group.

- **Asif** added that Bauer Highlands has contributed so much to the process.
- **[Update:** *Bauer Highlands was added to the PAC and traffic reports were shared with Suresh via email.]*
- **Jason Lee** – I live in Bethany Ridge above Arbor Heights. I hear a lot of good points, but I want to present an opposite angle. The overall goal is to be safe and I hear that the eastern alignment has disadvantage. But I think that the western alignment could be very fast and possible speed concerns in the area.
 - **Asif** agreed that speed control is needed, including design changes or traffic enforcement. There is a bridge design that makes rattling noise over speeds of 25 MPH.
- **Andrew Lamkin** – I want to add my statement of support. We're the other house on Saltzman and I support the past studies and hope that is taken into account and doing what is best for Saltzman and for the entire area. I also have plenty of recordings of odd traffic on Saltzman. I appreciate this project getting started.
- **Ram Grandhe** – How to do traffic analysis on the western alignment if there isn't a road there yet?
 - **Terry** said there are computer models that allow us to do that.
- **Ram Grandhe** - Can we get the total numbers allocated to this point? The budget is allocated and that is a good point, but it will influence which alignment is selected since the western alignment is more expensive. If you're not getting funding for a few years, don't delay the project.
 - **Ben** said that \$6.5 million has been allocated so far, from MSTIP and Bonny Slope West Transportation System Development Charge. While that is the amount allocated now, the Board could choose to increase the funding for the project, though he can't say where other funds would come from. Unsure how the Board will react.
- **Ravi Bella** – What does ROW process mean?
 - **Ben** said that the ROW (right-of-way) is County land, but if more land is needed for the project then they would meet with property owners and negotiate with them to purchase the land for permanent use or temporary use during construction. We try to avoid as much impact as possible.
 - **Virginia** thinks the last subdivision that was built left landscaped areas for western alignment.
 - **Asif** added that Ken Findley has personally promised to donate land for the bridge on his property.

The following comments and questions were submitted through the Q&A chat window:

- **Paul Horton** - As part of this project, will there be any traffic flow improvements on Saltzman south of the project area? It is very difficult today in mornings to exit from the Bauer neighborhoods onto Saltzman, and this will only increase the traffic on Saltzman.
 - **[Update:** *No, the project limits are Laidlaw Road to Bayonne Lane.]*
- **Ram Grandhe** - Also could you please explain what happened with burned property on Saltzman and what is the next plans for THPRD developments...
 - **[Update:** *THPRD owns the property where the western alignment would be situated. They don't have plans for that land currently but are waiting to hear the results of this process before making a decision on the land use.]*

- **Sheila** - I expect a bridge will be required over the creek. Perhaps a generous passage beneath would allow wildlife safe passage.
- **Hans** - Can you briefly describe the proposals that are on the table?
 - **[Update]:** *There are two alignments, one on the existing Saltzman Road that would be straightened and some of the hills would be flattened. The second alignment is to the west and would connect to 130th on the other side of Laidlaw; the existing alignment would be turned into a cul-de-sac. Both alignments would include a bike lane, middle car turn lane, and sidewalks.]*
- **Ram Grandhe** - this is Ram from Bauer highlands HOA president...
- **Suresh Bala** - Can we get an idea of the process steps and timeline involved? Also, how can we weigh in on which options the community would prefer?
 - **[Update]:** *The PAC will make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners on the preferred alignment. Agreement doesn't need to be reached on the PAC and all opinions will be sent to the Commissioners. Community members can voice their opinions in the public comment time during meetings or sent comments to Ben Lively. They may also reach out to any of the PAC members directly or their CPO representatives.]*
- **Kimberly Goddard** - I agree with the comment about three lanes; it seems that two lanes in an area without need for turning would be fine and less expensive.
- **Ram Grandhe** - when do you think it is approved either east or west plan?
 - **[Update]:** *The PAC will make a recommendation during the last meeting on November 4.]*
- **Ram Grandhe** -also can we get the numbers what is total amount allocated from the county at this point?
 - **[Update]:** *There is currently \$6.5 million set aside for design and construction]*
- **Ram Grandhe** - Thank you!
- **Ram Grandhe** - hi... Terry, how can you do traffic analysis on west proposal as there will be no road is existed now, just a thought...
 - **[Update]:** *This was answered above]*
- **Jason Lee** - While I understand where Asif is coming from, I feel as if western alignment will invite for speedy cars, which add risks that we don't have with eastern alignment.
- **Ram Grandhe** - Asif can mute his mic if possible
- **Ram Grandhe** - yes that's correct... thx
- **Lorna Fossand** - It is not showing up in my chat
- **Lorna Fossand** - No worries
- **Jake** - Can there be additional representation on the committee like Bauer highlands association?
 - **[Update]:** *Bauer Highlands was added to the PAC.]*
- **Suresh Bala** - Bauer Highlands HOA is in the immediate vicinity and affected; we should be able to provide input to the committee
- **Lorna Fossand** - Please put Ben's email in the chat again. (I came late, so do not have it.) Thanks!
 - **Melissa** - Ben's email has been added a second time, Ben_Lively@co.washington.or.us. Thank you!

Next Steps

Brandy thanked the group for attending and reminded them of the next meeting on Wednesday, September 23 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Ben thanked the group and added that he is looking forward to working together.