



Public Notice



Oregon Highway 35 Improvements at White River and Clark/Newton Creeks Public Open House

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the USDA Forest Service (FS) is seeking public comments and input regarding the recommended alternative for proposed improvements on Oregon Highway 35 in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Two projects are proposed: one at the White River crossing, and one at the Clark Creek and Newton Creek crossings. The project areas are on the Mt. Hood National Forest. FHWA will be holding public open houses to present the latest information about the projects and would like to hear from you.

Highway 35 is major state highway connecting the communities of Government Camp and Hood River. In November 2006, a debris flow event damaged Highway 35 at White River, Clark Creek, and Newton Creek. The damage closed the highway, creating transportation problems, restricting access to recreational sites within the Forest, and requiring costly repairs. In May 2007, Emergency Relief funding from FHWA was identified for long-term improvements to Highway 35. Through the request of ODOT, WFLHD became the lead agency in developing alternatives, with the USFS and ODOT acting as partner agencies.

In November 2007, two public open houses were held to obtain input on preliminary alternatives for improvements at each of the three damage-prone sites. FHWA received many comments, which were considered as the alternatives were studied in more detail. FHWA met with several interested stakeholders to obtain their input, as well. Over the past several months, FHWA, ODOT, and the FS have considered the alternatives and have come up with some recommendations for moving forward.

Two public open houses will be held. The first will be on Tuesday, July 22, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the offices of David Evans and Associates, Inc., 2100 SW River Parkway, in Portland. The second meeting will be on Wednesday, July 23, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Best Western Hood River Inn Shoreline Room, 1108 East Marina Way, in Hood River. You are welcome to attend one or both open houses.

Each open house will be an informal setting for one-to-one exchanges between citizens and public officials. No formal presentations will be made so you may arrive anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Representatives from FHWA, ODOT, and FS will be available to discuss the proposed projects and the alternatives being considered.

A project website and link to the 2003 Feasibility Study has been set up at : http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or_erfo_2007/. If you have questions please call Greg Gifford at (360) 619-7622. If you would like to provide comments on the proposed improvement project, please e-mail no later than July 29, 2008, to: or_erfo2007@mail.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov. Additionally, comments may be sent to:

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