

W. 16.a,
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22, 2005

TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Tom Stinchfield, Transportation Planning Engineer

SUBJECT: Supplemental Information for Item #16a: PUBLIC HEARING AND ORDER 05-7-27-13/In the Matter of Endorsing New Freight Routes on Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Highways in Lane County and commenting to the Oregon Transportation Commission on Proposed Amendments to the Oregon Highway Plan. (Tom Stinchfield)

Since preparation of the agenda materials for this item, we have received three letters regarding the freight route proposal:

July 20, 2005 letter from Mayor Brubaker, City of Florence, announcing recent City Council action to support designation of Highway 101 in Florence as a freight route if paired with an STA designation in downtown Florence.

July 21, 2005 letter from City Manager Ric Ingham of Veneta, reiterating the City Council support for designation of Highway 126, Florence to Beltline.

July 22, 2005 re-transmittal of January 18, 2005 letter from City Manager Michael Leighton of Junction City opposing designation of Highway 99 in Junction City.

July 20, 2005

Mr. Robin Marshburn
Oregon Department of Transportation
Transportation Development Division
Planning Section
555 Thirteenth Street NE, Suite 2
Salem, Oregon 97301-4178

Dear Mr. Marshburn:

Please register the support of the City of Florence for the designation of State Highway 101 as a "Freight Route" within the State Highway Freight System. This letter of support alters the previous position of the Florence City Council regarding the Freight Route designation for this portion of the State Highway System. It is conditioned upon the portion of the route that lies within the City limits of Florence being given the status of a Special Transportation Area (STA) at the same time.

Coming to this resolution has been very difficult for the Florence local elected body. We are very concerned about the quality of development with our "Main Street" area as defined by the City's Downtown Plan. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) was heavily involved in the crafting of the Downtown Plan and with the process that led to its mutual approval. The interface between the State Highway System and the people and properties of this community is critical to our long term success. It is our strong feeling that an STA is necessary to preserve the opportunities we so avidly pursue. Please convey our thoughts to the Oregon Transportation Commission along with our urging for the contemporaneous actions.

Thank you for your excellent efforts on our behalf and for your work in continuing to improve the State transportation system.

Sincerely,

Philip N. Brubaker
Mayor

Copies: Florence City Council
Commissioner Anna Morrison
Senator Joanne Verger

July 21, 2005

Ms. Anna Morrison, Chairperson
Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 E. 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Subject: Highway 126 Freight Route Designation

Dear Anna,

On behalf of the Veneta City Council I want to express our support of the proposed Freight Route designation for Hwy 126 beginning with the intersection of West 11th and the I-5 Beltline Highway and continuing westbound until Hwy 126 intersects with Hwy 101.

As a rapidly growing residential community Veneta places a high priority on future business and industrial development. It is our belief that the Freight Route designation on Hwy 126 will enhance our ability to retain existing businesses and attract future business opportunities.

We were pleased to see, in the recently amended Oregon Highway Plan (OHP), that the performance and access standards in urban areas were granted some flexibility, as well as easing of higher volume to capacity ratio in certain situations. All of which, addressed some of the concerns expressed by Veneta elected officials over the last few months.

I will be following up with a similar letter of support to the Oregon Transportation Commission. If I can provide any additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ric Ingham
City Administrator

July 22, 2005

Robin Marshburn
ODOT
TDD
Planning Section
555 13th St. NE, Suite 2
Salem, Oregon 97301-4178

Re: Hwy 99 Freight Route (MAILED 01/18/05)

Dear Mr. Marshburn:

First, I take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the Mayor, Council and me, for attending and making presentation at the Junction City Council Meeting on December 14, 2004 in reference to the proposed freight route plan. We all appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedule meet with us.

Second, the City of Junction City takes the proposed freight route proposal seriously. We therefore believe that it is necessary to comment on it and express our opposition to that portion of the plan that includes 99 Highway that impacts Junction City.

Last, we oppose the freight route designation for Highway 99 through Junction City for the following reasons:

1. If the designation becomes a reality, truck traffic will increase, we think dramatically, through an already extremely busy street (Ivy Street) in Junction City. The comment that traffic will decrease may have some validity but it is the wrong kind of traffic that will decrease for Junction City. Increased truck traffic will slow the traffic flow, decrease visibility for those in smaller vehicles and create a more hazardous environment for those who walk or ride cycles.
2. Junction City is in a growth phase and further restriction of access to Highway 99 to serve a truck route is not in Junction City's best interests. It would further diminish Junction City's ability to manage its own growth because of larger bureaucratic demands.
3. Only part of 99W is four-lane. North of Junction City large segments of the highway are two-lane lending to the creation of further truck congestion because of the funnel effect from Eugene through Junction City.

4. The highway is a very narrow four-lane through Junction City, without possibility of making it wider. When trucks are running parallel to each other, it is sometimes overwhelming to pedestrians and cyclists.
5. The statement that there "may" be more dollars for freight route maintenance and repair leaves us with at least a feeling of uncertainty, if not skepticism. There are no guarantees that the freight routes will garner more funding for maintenance and repair in reasonable time frames or at all. Even if there were guarantees of some extra funding, it would appear that the negatives still outweigh the positives.

In summary, and to reiterate, Junction City is opposed to 99W being designated as a freight route and would request that ODOT not include it in any plan as such.

Sincerely,

Mike Leighton
City Administrator

C. Mayor, Larry Crowley
City Council

Tom Stinchfield (Lane County
David Renshaw
Sandra Belson