



## COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 9:30 – 11:30 am (Summary date: Nov. 25)

LOCATION: ODOT office – 2080 Laura Street, Springfield – Spencer Butte Conference Room

## PARTICIPANTS

### Review Committee

- Frannie Brindle, Area 5 Manager, ODOT
- Amanda Salyer, Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program, ODOT [phone]
- Brian Barnett, City Traffic Engineer, City of Springfield
- Courtney Griesel, Economic Development Director, City of Springfield
- Rebecca Lewis, UO School of Planning, Public Policy & Management

### Project Staff

- Bill Johnston, ODOT Project Manager, Transportation Planner, ODOT Region 2
- Molly Markarian, City of Springfield Project Manager, Senior Planner, City of Springfield

### Property Owner/Property Owner Representative

- Bonnie Baker

## OVERVIEW

This was the second of two *Collaborative Discussions* conducted for the Springfield Main Street Safety Project in accordance with the OAR 734-051-7010, Access Management for Highway Facility Plans. The Review Committee began the meeting by reviewing the draft Key Principles & Methodology for Access Management (as outlined in Technical Memorandum #12), explaining how they were developed, and noting they were shared with property owners on the corridor. The committee then provided an opportunity for the property owner to discuss their concerns and suggest refinements to the Key Principles & Methodology. The committee concluded the meeting by summarizing the discussion and explaining the next steps.

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Frannie Brindle (ODOT) welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained the purpose of the meeting as outlined in the agenda: to address questions and concerns regarding the draft Key Principles & Methodology for Access Management that have been developed for the Main Street Facility Plan. Review committee members, project staff, and the property owner introduced themselves. Frannie then reviewed the meeting agenda and protocols.

## BACKGROUND

Bill Johnston (ODOT) provided background information explaining the purpose of the Key Principles & Methodology for Access Management.

## QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

The committee provided the property owner with an opportunity to ask questions about the Key Principles & Methodology and to describe any concerns.

Bonnie Baker (property owner) indicated she understood the Key Principles & Methodology are draft. She asked if the staff present had been involved with prior planning efforts on Main Street.

Bonnie and her husband Craig own nine individual parcels off Main Street. They're concerned the Main Street project might adversely affect access to these parcels and diminish their value. They're also concerned about potential impacts to the tenants who operate businesses on these properties.

Bonnie has not been actively involved in the Main Street Safety Project but she has been following its progress. She said she doesn't have the expertise to understand the technical details. She's also busy managing their properties and doesn't have time to be involved.

Bonnie referred to a fire that occurred recently on one of her properties. The only access for the fire truck was from a narrow driveway. Bonnie suggested the project should consider emergency access needs. Molly (City) explained the proposed median, if it is constructed, would probably have mountable curbs to allow emergency vehicles to traverse it if necessary. Bonnie suggested the *Safety* Key Principle should consider the safety of all users, not just pedestrians and motor vehicles. It should be broadened to include a reference to emergency response.

The committee explained the potential benefits of a median in combination with roundabouts, which allow drivers to make U-turns at a safe location, rather than attempting to turn left (from a business onto Main Street) across two directions of traffic. Bonnie agreed. She referenced her experience with AARP training drivers to avoid hazardous left turns by turning right instead, into the flow of traffic, and then finding a safer route to turn around, preferably at a signalized intersection.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Bonnie suggested there should be a requirement that a certain minimum number (threshold) of property owners along the corridor approve the proposed improvements, or at least provide input. Molly explained the

project provides many opportunities for community engagement. She also noted the advisory committees include representatives from the business community. Bill noted that the advisory committees, and City Council, also need to consider the interests of the broader community.

Bonnie said it would be helpful to more clearly explain how the Key Principles & Methodology apply to individual properties, and how access to properties could be restricted. Molly noted that this is more clearly explained in Tech Memo #12 – Key Principles and Access Management Methodology.

Bonnie suggested there should be a Key Principle that addresses property rights. She would like ODOT and the City to consider the impact of access modifications on property value and use.

Bill noted that property rights are protected by the U.S. Constitution and established case law. Property owners would be compensated (during the construction phase of the project) if required access modifications diminish the value of their property. Planning documents don't usually discuss property rights. They do discuss property values. The *Business Community* and *Vital Community* Key Principles either directly or indirectly account for property values.

## **OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS**

Before the meeting adjourned, Frannie noted that staff had captured the key points that were discussed on the flipchart. A summary of the meeting will be prepared and shared with the property owner.

The Review Committee will review the concerns presented by the property owner and determine if it's appropriate to make any modifications to the draft Key Principles & Methodology.

ODOT and the City will notify the property owner within 21 days of the committee's determination regarding the Key Principles & Methodology.

## **APPENDIX**

There were no new materials presented at the meeting. Copies of the Key Principles & Methodology were distributed for reference. Electronic versions of applicable Oregon Administrative Rules and other reference materials were available to view on a large monitor at the meeting. Links to these materials were previously provided to the property owner. Bill provided Bonnie with a hard copy of OAR 734-051-7010.