



COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION MEETING SUMMARY

DATE: Monday, November 4th, 2019, 2:30 – 3:45 pm (Summary revised: Dec 20)

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 and Property Owner's Representative

- Joe Tokatly
- Mike Reeder, Attorney

OVERVIEW

This was the first *Collaborative Discussion* 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 and his representative 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.

Molly Markarian (City) clarified that ODOT and the City will apply the Key Principles & Methodology in the future, during the design development process (after the facility plan is completed), to determine specific access changes on the Main Street corridor.

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

The committee provided the property owner with an opportunity to ask questions about the Key Principles & Methodology and to describe any concerns. Mike Reeder (Attorney) explained that his client is concerned that if he doesn't discuss his concerns now he may not be positioned to do so in the future.

Joe Tokatly (property owner) explained that it's challenging for property owners to be involved during the planning stage because property-specific information is not available. Molly clarified that Oregon statutes and administrative rules require ODOT to engage property owners early in the planning process and again during the design stage.

Joe said he understands the need to address safety concerns along the corridor if such concern is real. However, he's concerned about the potential adverse impact on businesses. He is the voice for other business owners that are too busy to get engaged.

Molly asked Joe for suggestions for engaging property owners early in the process. Joe emphasized that business owners are focused on running their businesses. He referred to his efforts going door-to-door along the corridor. He also suggested assessing the impact of the facility plan on individual properties so that business owners can be better informed about potential impacts.

Molly explained that the Local Access Meetings planned for January would provide some additional insight. She suggested it would be helpful for informed property owners to encourage other property owners to attend these meetings.

Mike asked how the Key Principles & Methodology will be used. For example, widening the right-of-way to provide room for a bike lane. Molly explained that the Solutions Evaluation Criteria that have been developed for this project are more significant in guiding these kinds of decisions than the Key Principles.

In addition to evaluating alternative right-of-way widths, the evaluation criteria will be used to assess the benefits and trade-offs of a raised median, roundabouts versus conventional intersections, and other design elements being considered for the corridor. The Key Principles & Methodology will be applied later, during the design development process, to evaluate possible access modifications at specific locations.

Molly elaborated by referring to the cross sections that were presented at the October 22 Strategic Advisory Committee meeting, which Joe had brought with him. Frannie added that ODOT always attempts to minimize right-of-way expansion, with all of its projects.

Joe asked how the last bullet under Safety (in the Key Principles & Methodology table) would be applied to a property where an access modification was being considered if no crashes had occurred at that location. Amanda Salyer (ODOT) clarified that if there are no crash records for that particular access the criteria would not apply (at that location).

Mike asked whether the proposed solutions will address driver impairment. Brian Barnett (City) explained that, according to crash data in police reports, impairment from drugs or alcohol contributed to just 5% of all crashes on Main Street. Mike asked what the primary causes are. Brian referring to existing conditions data indicated over 80% of all crashes were rear-end or turning-movement crashes, which are common on streets with many driveways and intersections.

Joe asked if removing 2013 data from the crash database would alter the findings regarding safety along the corridor. (Joe has commented on several occasions that 2013 was an anomaly because more crashes occurred than usual.) Amanda clarified that there is a ten-year history of high crash rates on this corridor. Removing any one year would not alter the ranking for Main Street relative to streets with similar characteristics.

DISCUSSION

Joe expressed a desire for the Facility Plan to take into consideration real-world issues that affect businesses, which need to thrive and grow. Courtney (City) noted that the recently completed Franklin Boulevard project carefully considered and accommodated existing business needs by phasing implementation of the street improvements.

Joe noted that property values are not explicitly included in the Key Principles & Methodology. Courtney explained that there are many variables that influence property values. New sidewalks and other infrastructure, and improved traffic control, could increase property values. Joe agreed, but added that a property owner with no access or parking facilities is greatly damaged. Other committee members noted that the *Business Community* and *Vital Community* Key Principles either directly or indirectly account for property values.

Joe does not see specific property attributes being considered in the Key Principles & Methodology. Courtney suggested possible considerations might be the size, shape, type, and location of site. Mike reiterated a desire to see property-specific information considered in the Key Principles & Methodology.

Bill noted that the scope of work for the project calls for some assessment of specific properties, including parcel size and land use, in order to understand where the major traffic generators are located. Molly suggested that rather than modifying the Key Principles & Methodology it may be more appropriate to include these considerations in the Solutions Evaluation Criteria.

OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

Before the meeting adjourned, Frannie noted that staff had captured the key points that were discussed on a flipchart. A summary of the meeting summary 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.