



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 8/18/11)

### Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 6/13/13  
 Agenda Item #: R.6  
 Est. Start Time: 10:10 am  
 Date Submitted: 5/29/13

**Agenda Title:** Briefing Regarding the Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Scoping Report and Update of the Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan and Transportation System Plan.

*Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.*

**Requested Meeting Date:** 06/13/13 **Time Needed:** 20 Minutes  
**Department:** DCS **Division:** LUT  
**Contact(s):** Kevin Cook  
**Phone:** 503.988.3043 **Ext.** 26782 **I/O Address:** 455/1/116  
**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Chuck Beasley, Senior Planner and Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

No action requested. This is a briefing to present the results of the land use and transportation scoping project that identifies issues that should be addressed in a rural land use and transportation plan update for the area. The April 24, 2013 Scoping Report which captures feedback from the community and stakeholders, together with the work program described in the Planning Commission staff report, are included as Attachments A and B to this APR.

### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan (RAP) was first adopted In 1997 and the West Side Transportation System Plan (TSP) in 1998. In response to the growing number of issues raised by citizens and stakeholders in the planning area, staff, in coordination with CH2M Hill, conducted a significant outreach and scoping effort in February through April of 2013, to identify land use and transportation issues that should be addressed in a future update to the RAP and TSP.

During the outreach, staff conducted two open houses, two questionnaires that were mailed and available on-line, two stakeholder meetings, and two focus group meetings.

Additionally, staff attended the Sauvie Island Community Fair and a Sauvie Island Community Association meeting, as well as conducted a phone interview with the Grand Ronde Tribe.

The outreach found that there is a high interest in preserving the rural character of the Island and Channel, preserving both wildlife and farmland, reducing traffic congestion and traffic conflicts, and providing better clarity in county codes.

The public testimony at the Planning Commission hearing of May 6, 2013, featured unanimous support for an update to the RAP and TSP. At the hearing, testimony included the following issues and concerns:

- Conflicts between bicycles and farm equipment.
- Need for clear standards regarding permitting farm stands.
- Concern regarding lack of standards for non-profit events on private property.
- Nature of the community has changed due to increased visitors.
- Concern regarding narrow 'substandard' roads.
- Concern that Sauvie Island is reaching carrying capacity with respect to visitors.
- Need for preservation of farming and farm land.
- Concern that emergency services may not always respond in a timely manner during times of peak traffic congestion.
- Concern regarding integrity of levees.

Based on the results of the scoping process and the recommendations of the scoping report, the Planning Commission recommends an update to the RAP and TSP.

In addition to the Scoping Report and Planning Commission staff report included as Attachments A and B, the packet includes the following attachments:

C: Signed Planning Commission Resolution

D: Scoping Report Appendices

E: Additional Testimony and the Planning Commission Hearing Sign in Sheet

### **3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

The scoping effort was part of the 2013 Land Use and Transportation Planning Division work program. The department has submitted a \$60,000.00 program offer for FY 2014 to support the proposed work program/plan update. A TGM grant for \$30,000 is being applied for to augment the OTO funding.

### **4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

No legal or policy issues are identified at this time. However, there is a need to periodically update land use and transportation plans in order to be responsive to the changing needs and characteristics of the community as well as to insure consistency with state and federal laws, interpretations of laws through legal proceedings, as well as consistency with county policies and initiatives.

### **5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

Significant public outreach has occurred during the scoping process. The outreach activities are summarized below:

- Sauvie Island Community Association (SICA) - February 21, 2013: Staff attended the SICA general meeting and announced the scoping effort, answered questions, and handed out questionnaires.
- Planning Commission - March 4, 2013: The Planning Commission and staff held a work session to discuss the scoping effort and learn about what issues are important to the Commission.

- Government Stakeholder Meeting - March 5, 2013: Staff met with approximately 17 agencies to gain understanding of the issues most relevant to the participating agencies.
- Nongovernment Stakeholder Meeting – March 5, 2013: Staff met with approximately 5 nongovernment agencies to gain understanding of the issues most relevant to the participating agencies.
- Public Open House – March 7, 2013: The open house was structured to allow residents, businesses, and other interested groups to attend when it was most convenient. It was held at the Sauvie Island School, which is ADA accessible and a common gathering spot for the community. Approximately 60 people attended.
- Sauvie Island Focus Group Meeting – April 4, 2013: Twelve people attended the meeting at the Sauvie Island Grange Hall. Participants were selected to represent a cross-section of interests found on the island, including farmers, agri-tourism businesses, hunting clubs, natural resource advocates, residents, and bicyclists. The agenda covered issues related to farming, events, agri-tourism, bikes, roads, traffic, habitat and wildlife.
- Multnomah Channel focus group meeting – April 8, 2013: Thirteen people attended the meeting at the Linnton Community Center. Participants were selected to represent a cross-section of interests found along the Channel, including marina owners, houseboat owners, environmental agencies, and safety/sanitation specialists. The agenda covered issues related to houseboats, moorages and marinas, and fish and riparian habitat.
- Telephone conference with Grand Ronde Tribal staff – April 9, 2013: Multnomah County staff teleconferenced with Grand Ronde tribal staff members. Discussion topics included the history and pre-history of the Island and channel, the abundance of cultural artifacts and archaeological sites found throughout the area, as well as habitat and fishing concerns.
- Public Open House – April 10, 2013: The open house was structured to allow residents, businesses, and other interested groups to attend when it was most convenient. The open house was held at the Sauvie Island School. Approximately 25 people attended.
- SICA Community Fair and annual meeting – April 18, 2013: Project staff members attended the Sauvie Island Community Association (SICA) community fair and annual meeting. The event was held at the Sauvie Island Community School and included tables for multiple businesses and organizations; the event was free and open to everyone. Staff discussed the project, as well as encouraged people to complete the online or printed questionnaire.
- Other outreach included two mailers – printed and online questionnaires (two rounds each), continuously updated website with links to relevant planning documents, online questionnaires and information regarding next steps. Staff kept an updated email list for interested parties.
- Two press releases were distributed to media outlets in the region announcing the open houses and online questionnaires.
- Three articles ran in area media announcing the scoping project and the first open house:
  - 2/14/13, Oregonian, “Sauvie Island crowding issues likely to top concerns at upcoming Multnomah County open house”

- 2/14/13, Bike Portland Blog, “County seeks input on Sauvie Island area transportation issues”
- 2/27/13, St Helens Chronicle, “Input sought on Sauvie Island and Multnomah Channel land use”
- The first online questionnaire generated 126 responses, the second online questionnaire generated 53 responses, the first printed questionnaire generated 44 returns and the second printed questionnaire generated 33 returns.

Significant public outreach will guide the process of updating the RAP and TSP. It is anticipated that a task force of citizens, government and non-government stakeholders will be appointed to guide the work. The proposed work program includes a robust visioning effort in order to build consensus and understand particularly difficult issues where varied viewpoints abound.

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## Required Signature

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department  
Director:**

Kim Peoples /s/

**Date:**

5/29/13

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