



Save Helvetia

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Advancing policies, leaders and actions
that protect Helvetia's treasured resources

March 20, 2014

**Mr. Stephen Roberts
Washington County
Department of Land Use and Transportation
155 North First Avenue, Suite 350-16
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124**

Public Comment

**Public Involvement Guidelines for Transportation Planning, Programs,
and Projects**

We have reviewed the Public Involvement Guidelines for Transportation Planning, Programs, and Projects Draft and we submit our comments below.

III. Background, A. Washington County Citizen Participation Philosophy and Policy, page 3 of 20.

- Resolution and Order 86-58 is Washington County's response to Oregon's foundational land use legislation, Senate Bill 100, and in particular, its Goals One and Two. We recommend that this linkage be made in the text and that SB 100, Goals One and Two be included in the appendices.

III. Background, C. Participants, page 4 of 20

- We recommend that reference be made to Oregon's Public Meetings Law and its application to the various meetings listed in this section. In that there are occasions where DLUT and/or county council interpret some meetings as closed to the public, we think it judicious to list those interpretations, occasions, and legal citations here.

- In the listing of various committees, those that allow public attendance and comment are listed; and then when Project-specific or ad hoc committees and project teams are identified, public attendance and comment opportunities are not mentioned. If these meetings are closed to the public, we recommend you so state that clearly, providing rationale and legal citations with regard to Oregon's Public Meeting Law.
- The Washington County Coordinating Committee is listed as a monthly meeting that is open to the public. We recommend including an address link here so that a member of the public could learn that time and location of those committee meetings.
- In the listing of Citizen Participation Organizations, we see an omission in that CPOs, in addition to reviewing and commenting on community livability matters, also review and comment on certain types of land use applications and should be listed as such. A recent example of a positive public involvement process is the TSP 205, which is nearing completion.

VI. Developing a Successful Public Involvement Plan, page 18 of 20

- We think it would be meaningful to have DLUT consult with the Committee for Citizen Involvement on draft plans so that there is some public focus group vetting particular plans.
- Further on in the Report Out and Evaluate step, it would also be meaningful to debrief the public involvement plan with the Committee for Citizen Involvement. Through time, DLUT and the Committee for Citizen Involvement would co-evolve the DLUT's citizen involvement processes. As part of this, we recommend that the Committee for Citizen Involvement evaluate DLUT's citizen involvement planning process on an annual basis. DLUT might also provide feedback to the CCI re the utility of consultations received, on an annual basis.

West Side Voices was not referenced within the 20 page draft, but it was referenced in Appendix D on page 5 of 10 as an Online Panel. We recommend that West Side Voices, and to the extent relied upon, Metro's Opt-In, be given a place in the guidelines, identifying the firm/s under contract, the sample size/s, any demographic filters, if any, and how the

public might view aggregate responses per topic. In that this form of public comment is “invisible”, i.e., not observable in a public meeting, open house, or hearing, we think it important to make it more “accessible” to the public.

Respectfully,

Robert Bailey
Secretary
Save Helvetia

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