

**Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee
February 11, 2004
Troutdale Conference Center
Troutdale, Oregon**

Members Attending:	Bill Pattison, Carolyn Wood, Jerry Igo, Matt Garrett, Art Carroll, Kevin Price, Ernie Drapela, Christine Curran, Wayne Stewart, Mandy Cole.
Staff Present:	Jeanette Kloos.
Others Attending:	June Carlson, Brad DeHart, ODOT; Ed Abrahamson, Kris Engblom, Harold Maxa and Kenneth Huntley, Multnomah County; Jarrod Hill, The Outlook.

Bill Pattison, chair, called the meeting to order. The Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the December 4 meeting. Minutes were approved as mailed.

The two new members, Matt Garrett, ODOT Region 1 Manager, and Art Carroll, introduced themselves and told about their backgrounds.

BEAVER CREEK BRIDGE

Ed Abrahamson, Multnomah County, introduced Harold Maxa, Kenneth Huntley and Kris Engblom. Mr. Abrahamson provided the history of the Beaver Creek Bridge project. The bridge has a sufficiency rating of 49. Bridges with a sufficiency rating below 50 are considered for replacement; Multnomah County successfully requested OTIA funding for replacement of this bridge. During the development of the project, citizens voiced concerns, stating that this was a historic bridge and should not be replaced, but should be restored. Historic status was not part of the OTIA ranking process and had not been investigated before this point in the process. After the Troutdale City Council, Troutdale Historical Society and members of the public requested it, an alternatives analysis was completed to look at several options, including replacement and restoration.

The Beaver Creek Bridge was constructed about 1915. It provides access to Glenn Otto Park, the Historic Columbia River Highway and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. It is one of the oldest bridges of its type in Oregon. In 1980, sidewalks were added. It was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It was not included in the Historic Columbia River Highway historic district, but it is only 700 feet west of the district. The alternatives study looked at 5 alternatives, evaluating them against seven criteria. Only the replacement alternative brought the sufficiency rating above 80. Multnomah County was still advocating the replacement alternative.

The 1983 Oregon Transportation Policy advocating restoration for the Historic Columbia River Highway stated that all work “to the extent practical, result in an appearance approximating the original” and “recogniz[ing] that the convenience and safety features of this highway may not reflect current design standards” was brought to Multnomah County’s attention.

The current proposal is to restore the bridge, remove the sidewalks, repair the scour, add two-rail wooden guardrail leading to the bridge and construct a separate bike/ped bridge at a location to be determined, to provide access to Glenn Otto Park. On January 13, the HBRR Committee agreed with this proposal and indicated that they were willing to finance the bike/ped bridge as part of the project, if no additional requests for funds for at least 30 years. The OTIA Steering Committee concurred with this recommended. The issue is on the consent calendar for OTC the week after this meeting. A remaining issue is who assumes liability (even though there is no crash data indicating that this bridge has been a crash problem and traffic volumes are low with few trucks and low speeds). While the inside dimension is 20-feet, the Sandy River Bridge is only 17-feet. Some see the Beaver Creek Bridge as a “traffic calming device”, slowing vehicles down.

Jerry Igo said that he likes Alternative 3, with the bikes away from the motor vehicles. However, he noted that the creek is not as straight as the drawings indicate; showing the meanders would present a more accurate image.

Ed Abrahamson indicated that Beaver Creek has ESA fish species and three culverts upstream need to be replaced. It is important to get back to a natural steam bank. The location of the bike/ped bridge needs to be discussed with SHPO, so that it does not have proximity impacts on the historic bridge, but also does not have too much out of direction travel for users. The Park master plan had a bridge much further south, but Multnomah County would like to minimize impacts to adjacent properties, including right-of-way acquisition. A caretaker’s cottage was located close to the bridge in the Master Plan, but it has not been constructed yet. The estimated cost of the restoration alternative, including the bike/ped bridge, is lower than the original estimate for the replacement alternative.

Carolyn Wood proposed a motion that the HCRH AC endorse Alternative 3, as described today. This motion passed unanimously. (Letter to Multnomah County sent February 18).

Chrissy Curran said that SHPO would like to be involved in the design of

the bike/ped bridge, so that it would be compatible with the historic bridge and the setting. Art Carroll asked if the HCRH AC would have input into the decision on the type of bike/ped bridge; Ed Abrahamson indicated that they would.

STARK STREET VIADUCT

Ed Abrahamson discussed the Stark Street Viaduct project. Unlike the Beaver Creek Bridge project, this project is funded with HBRR (federal) funds. Ed indicated that different, less flexible, criteria apply and that the project needs to meet sufficiency rating. Currently the Viaduct is weight restricted, with 18 inches of asphalt on top of the bridge deck. The proposal is to place a new bridge deck at the level of the road. Construction is expected in Spring 2005. The railing is historic, but it has been altered, with the originally-open arches filled in. You cannot see the original deck. The light fixtures are not original and replacement parts are not readily available. There is a conduit attached to the outside of the bridge, indicating that the electrical source for the lighting is newer than the bridge. New lighting fixtures are proposed. The county also proposes to keep the original arch.

The current weight restriction will be eliminated by the project. This will be beneficial to the many agricultural trucks that use the route. Ed offered to come to the next HCRH AC with drawings and photos of the bridge. Ed will also bring more information about the Corbett Hill Viaduct and slide repair projects.

VISTA HOUSE RESTORATION

Jean Castillo, OPRD, provided information about the restoration projects at Vista House. Phase 1 of the interior work had a notice to proceed in September. The successful bidder was actually the third lowest bidder, but the lower bidders either did not meet the minimum qualifications or did not have the necessary insurance. The bid amount (\$822,000) was not significantly higher than the low bid.

Phase 2 had a notice to proceed on November 21 and Phase 2 had a notice to proceed on January 26. Phase 3 is the exhibit panels, designed by Mayer Reed, to be constructed by PPI. The exhibits should be available in May.

Sally Hopkins examined the paint on the interior of the dome and determined the original colors. It was recommended that because the casting of Native American heads were in such good shape, the paint on them should not be removed. Other areas will have the paint removed and new paint applied that approximates the originals colors.

Work is starting on the mechanical systems. When limestone was

removed along the stairway, corroded reinforcing bar was discovered, requiring a structural analysis, which determined that some rebar needs to be replaced.

The City of Gresham Building Inspector has raised ADA and Uniform Building Code issues. OPRD needs to show what has been done. There is already ADA parking; it will be moved to the front of the building. The door handles are at the correct height. Door assists will be needed. Alternate format information will be provided in the form of brochures and cameras on top of the building. This information has been taken to the City.

Henry Machen, OPRD, provided information about the proposed sewer work. Part of this effort is to provide a potential location for a future ADA accessible restroom. The project will also allow a future auxiliary treatment facility, if needed. The proposal will space out the flow, so that the current facility functions better. It will not look different, except a patch across the HCRH. A paving project will cover up the patch. Four manhole lids will be visible. The current development review is just for the piping, not for the potential ADA restroom or the auxiliary treatment facility.

Kevin Price said that there had been discussion of a separate restroom building on the west side of the HCRH, so that it is not the first thing you see when approaching from the west. Henry said that this had been discarded in favor of the southeast location, because of technical difficulties and county review of viewing angles. He believes it will be out of the line of sight, when people are focused on the vista. Henry said that the proposed location appears to be the only viable site from the County code perspective.

Bill Pattison asked if pumping would be needed. Henry clarified that pumping would be needed from the holding tanks, but not from the restrooms.

The HCRH AC voted unanimously to adopt a motion to accept the recommendation for the sewer project at Vista House and directed Jeanette Kloos to write a letter to Multnomah County Planning (sent February 18).

Kevin Price said that the Grand Reopening is tentatively scheduled for mid-July, on a Friday morning. They do not want to invite people, because there are plenty of people there anyway.

KEN OLESEN COMMENT LETTER

Ken Olesen sent the attached letter to the HCRH AC. Jeanette Kloos asked what kind of response should be spent. Ernie Drapela said he thought the letter was preposterous and should have a minimal response. Similar to the discussion of monuments, the HCRH is the important thing, not events that happen along it.

Carolyn Wood said that many of the proposals have been done, such as walks by the Friends of the Gorge and Volkswalks and the Columbia Classic.

The HCRH AC unanimously directed that a response letter be sent that is informative (you can find more information at the HCRH web site; many of your ideas have been implemented; contact names, etc.).

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HCRH AC

Jeanette Kloos reported that the 15th Anniversary celebration has been postponed, because Vista House will not be close enough to completion to be occupied. Mandy asked about re-scheduling the celebration; fall seemed to be the consensus time.

HCRH MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Jeanette Kloos presented the ODOT proposal to delay revision of the HCRH Master Plan until the Programmatic Agreements are signed and can be incorporated into the document. Kevin Price said that Jack Wiles had several issues he would like addressed, including a visual resource assessment and plan of action, a highway sign plan, and an update of the OPRD/ODOT Memorandum of Agreement on the HCRH State Trail responsibilities. Art Carroll agreed that there should be implementation of the Corridor Visual Inventory. Kevin Price said that the view of Latourell Falls from the HCRH had been enhanced by trimming trees several years ago, but needs to be repeated.

Matt Garrett said that he is working to get ODOT staff together to answer the Hood River County proposals (attached). He expects to go back to the County soon.

PROJECT UPDATES

Warrendale to Moffett Creek – The next step is geotechnical drilling. Still seeking construction funding.

HCRH Interpretive Sites and Signs – Have begun working on Intergovernmental Agreements with Cascade Locks and Gorge Discovery Center. However, we will probably need to add a right-of-way phase for the installation of the sign at the Columbia Gorge Hotel, since they are not a governmental agency. This may cost \$5000 for the paperwork. The HCRH AC brainstormed options to accomplish this at a lower cost. May be able to advance funding from 2006 to 2005 construction.

Casino – No news.

City Programmatic Agreements – The Hood River Programmatic Agreement was sent out for final review in October. The City of Hood River has signed, a letter from Hood River County has been received (attached) requesting resolution of several issues together. The agreements for Mosier and Cascade Locks should be out for review soon.

Virtual Tour – Jeanette Kloos requested additional information from potential sites to be included in the Virtual Tour.

Rowena Pit Restoration – Jeanette Kloos presented the proposed schedule on the Rowena Pit restoration, including a concept plan at the next meeting, grading this summer and planting this fall. Jerry Igo indicated that it was unlikely that there would be enough plants available to plant this fall.

Preserving the Historic Road in America Conference – Registration information was distributed.

Gutters – No news.

Oneonta – The first scoping trip for this project was organized by the Forest Service. The project will investigate parking east of the bluff and reopening the Oneonta Tunnel.

Eagle Creek exit ramp – bike – This project is proposed to restripe the Eagle Creek Bridge to strengthen the connection between the stairway and the Eagle Creek section of the HCRH State Trail.

ACTIVITY STATUS UPDATES

ODOT

I-84 Rockfall, Mile Post 80

Brad DeHart said that they are proposing to use a form liner from the same company that produced the form liner for the Chenoweth Interchange walls. The forms are 2-feet wide, which does produce vertical lines at the joints. The contractor is hired and the pre-construction conference was last week. Brad expects construction to start in mid-March and be completed by mid-May.

Forest Service

No report.

OPRD

Kevin Price reported that he attended the Portland Women's Forum meeting. On March 19 the campgrounds at Memaloose and Viento will be open. OPRD will have a float in the Starlight Parade with a Vista House theme, in conjunction with the Friends of Vista House. There are ongoing discussions with Multnomah County about weddings at Vista House. The Rooster Rock office has historic photos of the HCRH, courtesy of Clarence Mershon. Several special events are planned, including the

Perseids meteor shower, in conjunction with OMSI, where 44 telescopes will be available. July 31 will be Oregon State Parks day. Last year, 174 dogs participated in the dog agility course in the Rooster Rock off-leash area during this event. Multnomah County will be offering \$20 microchips and dogs for adoption at this event. Marie Miller, Vista House auction coordinator, has resigned; this may affect the date of this event, currently planned for May 8.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Jeanette Kloos presented the chart of recent development reviews and directed the Advisory Committee's attention to the one in Rowena. A draft comment letter was discussed (attached). Jerry Igo said that all of the buildings proposed on this site would be visible from the junction of the I-84 ramps and the HCRH. The "existing plantings" shown on the plan are oaks, with no leaves during the winter. Carolyn Wood asked about the height of the main house (32-feet) asking if it was above the maximum allowed. Art Carroll asked if the letter should be more pointed. Jerry Igo said that the letter adequately conveyed his concerns.

Wayne Stewart described another development review in Multnomah County for a 24X36-foot garage. Wayne had discussions on which parts of the Multnomah County code apply to this structure, within the Village landscape setting of Corbett. Wayne suggested that stone or wood would be more appropriate materials than the metal siding and roof that are proposed.

MEMBERS ISSUES

Art Carroll said that some parcels are begging to be acquired along the HCRH. The Forest Service is focused on the Special Management Area. Use of acquisition as an enhancement is under utilized. Art asked about the Shooting Range Pit.

Jerry Igo asked how the Advisory Committee could get the Forest Service to participate more. He suggested that a letter be written to Dan Harkenrider to attend, to make the HCRH a priority and to have a Forest Service representative attend consistently. June Carlson said that Diana Ross might be able to attend if the meetings were scheduled on a regular basis. It was suggested that a yearly schedule be considered.

Mandy Cole said that the 1% statewide lodging tax will be split 85% for Oregon Tourism Commission and 15% to the regions for marketing to out of state visitors. She requested that Jeanette Kloos stay in touch with Linda Bell on this issue, so that the HCRH can receive some of the benefits of this marketing.

Mandy Cole said that the Governor's Conference on Tourism will be

April 18-20, with a Byway meeting on April 18, in Portland.

Ernie Drapela said that he has been asked to serve on the Metro Greenspaces Advisory committee to serve as the East County representative. He said that the HCRH AC meetings are somewhat situational and he would hate to see a rigid schedule that was not responsive to needs.

Chrissy Curran said that there is a new program manager at SHPO. Roger Roper was formerly the Deputy SHPO in Utah.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The next meeting will be April 19 at Menucha .