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*Oregon Department of Transportation*

# **U.S. 20: Pioneer Mountain to Eddyville**

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## **Summary of Open House #1**

**March 22, 2006**

**4 – 8 p.m.**

**Yaquina River Constructors Office**

**20362 Highway 20**

**Eddyville, Oregon**

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*April 3, 2006  
by Debie Garner*

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**U.S. 20: Pioneer Mountain to Eddyville  
Open House #1  
March 22, 2006, 4 – 8 p.m.  
Yaquina River Constructors  
20362 Highway 20, Eddyville, Oregon**

**Open House Purpose and Background**

An informal open house was held March 22, 2006, from 4 – 8 p.m. at the Yaquina River Constructors office in Eddyville to:

- Explain the project, alignment and target schedule.
- Answer questions.
- Build good community relationships.
- Identify questions or issues the project team needs to address.

Participants were asked to sign in, were given an information sheet and comment form, and were invited to browse, talk with staff, and fill out the comment form.

**Open House Summary**

**Quick Facts**

- Fifty-three (53) people attended, from the following locations:
  - Toledo (17)
  - Newport (14)
  - Eddyville (8)
  - Corvallis (3)
  - South Beach (4)
  - Siletz (2)
  - Waldport (2)
  - Philomath (1)
  - Unidentified (2)
- The first attendees arrived at 3:45 p.m. and nearly all others arrived before 7:00 p.m.
- At least 31 attendees signed up to receive the project newsletter.
- Meeting notice was given via news releases, direct mail newsletter, project website and project information hotline.

**Summary of Comment Forms**

Thirty-one (31) people submitted comment forms. The first part of the form asked participants if the open house was helpful and how they heard about the open house. This is a summary of their responses:

- ***The open house was helpful.*** Twenty-nine (29) people said the open house was helpful, many making extra comments like:
  - Excellent presentation!
  - Thank you for your time.
  - It answered a lot of questions.
  - Nice use of maps.
  - We found out a lot.Two (2) people said the open house was not helpful. One of them said, “The design was fixed before adequate public input. I am disappointed.” He or she may have expected the purpose of the open house was to solicit public input on the design.
- ***The newspaper and newsletter got the word out.*** Ten people heard about the open house through the project newsletter; 16 through a newspaper. Four mentioned a radio announcement and the rest mentioned friends, email, website or a personal visit from ODOT.

- **Other questions, concerns or comments.** Many participants noted additional questions, comments or concerns. The additional questions and comments didn't lend themselves to key themes or majority opinions, and that wasn't the purpose of asking. Our purpose was to identify questions or comments we might need to address. We can address most of the comments on the website or future newsletters. Some may be considerations in final design or construction. The following list is not in any particular order; it simply reflects the range of comments.

- *Glad to find out what is happening; keep us updated.*
- *Fund the full improvements for the west end of the project.*
- *The website will be helpful (keep it updated). A series of aerial photos showing changes through time could to show construction progress.*
- *Have a display that shows elevation changes.*
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- *Build eastbound and westbound merge lanes from Eddyville to the new highway to help log trucks get up to speed before entering the highway.*
- *The design was fixed before adequate public input.*
- *Closing Elk City Road for 6 weeks will cause hardship (greatly increased commute time).*
- *Have open houses every six months.*
- *Increased safety of new highway is worth losing the personality of the old road.*
- *Put up signs to the Chitwood Covered Bridge (for tourists).*
- *Will there be more noise in Chitwood from the new alignment?*
- *We could use some maps to take home.*
- *I'm concerned about detention pond design. Check out "Faircloth Skimmers."*
- *Hope there is some way to let the public see the "dirt flying."*
- *Keep us informed about anything that might affect our water supply.*
- *Would like to see progress once in awhile to keep up on project.*
- *Nice to see the project has started.*
- *Get-r-done!*

- **Additional verbal comments and questions.** In addition to the comment forms, staff received some different comments and questions verbally. These are identified below:
  - We have problems getting out of our driveway because of limited sight distance (eastern end of project).
  - What is happening with the houses on the west end of the project? Suggest that the house east of Sam's Creek Road be removed.
  - Are you avoiding the wetlands just east of the tree farm?
  - How high are the bridges, cuts and fills?
  - Will you cross the Yaquina River and railroad with one bridge?
  - Can we get direct access (for all terrain vehicles) from the highway to the WOW Road?

### Open House Staff

The open house was held on a day that most of the project team would already be in Eddyville. Staffing the open house were:

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|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Duane James Liner | • Morgan Holen    |
| • Jerome Duletzke   | • Kham Slater     |
| • Jim Jewell        | • Robert Patcheck |
| • Russ Pratt        | • George Kittyle  |
| • Frank Groznic     | • Debie Garner    |
| • Nicole Tangvald   |                   |