



September 16, 2010

To: Citizen Advisory Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 7: I-5 Bridge Naming

Action Recommended: Recommend to the Metropolitan Policy Committee that they endorse “Whilamut Passage” as the name for the new I-5 bridge over the Willamette River

Issue Statement

The Whilamut Natural Area Citizen Planning Committee is following an ODOT-prescribed process to gain local support for “Whilamut Passage” as the name of the new I-5 bridge over the Willamette River. The bridge borders the cities of Eugene and Springfield and provides a critical link for moving freight and people on the I-5 corridor. The committee is seeking endorsements for the proposed name from the Cities of Springfield and Eugene, Lane County, and the Metropolitan Policy Committee. The Springfield City Council received an informational briefing on the proposed naming on April 19, 2010. They deferred action until after Eugene and Lane County take action on the matter. The Eugene City Council voted to endorse the proposed name on August 9, 2010. Lane County plans to take action soon after completing an assessment of their naming policy, anticipated to occur later this month.

Background

Three presenters will provide background information on the proposed name: Stephen Cooper, David Sonnichsen, and Esther Stutzman. Stephen Cooper is the Chair of the Whilamut Natural Area Citizen Planning Committee. David Sonnichsen is the Chair of the Governmental Relations Subcommittee of the Citizen Planning Committee. He is leading the public process for the bridge naming. They will briefly discuss critical steps in the bridge naming process and provide background on how the name “Whilamut Passage” was formed. Esther Stutzman, a Kalapuya Elder, will provide a short presentation describing why the proposed name is important to the Kalapuya Tribe.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Citizen Advisory Committee develop and approve a recommendation to forward to MPC to endorse “Whilamut Passage” as the name for the new I-5 bridge over the Willamette River.

Attachments

Attachment 1: I-5 Willamette River Bridge Naming Procedure

Attachment 2: Emerging Theme: Whilamut Passage

Attachment 3: Email from Mr. Sonnichsen—“Background on Whilamut Pasage Name for I-5 Willamette River Bridge”

Attachment 4: Letter of Support from Representative Terry Beyer

Attachment 5: Letter of Support from Robert J. Pirrie

CAC Item 7. I-5 Bridge Naming