

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

Open House Summary

September 17, 2008

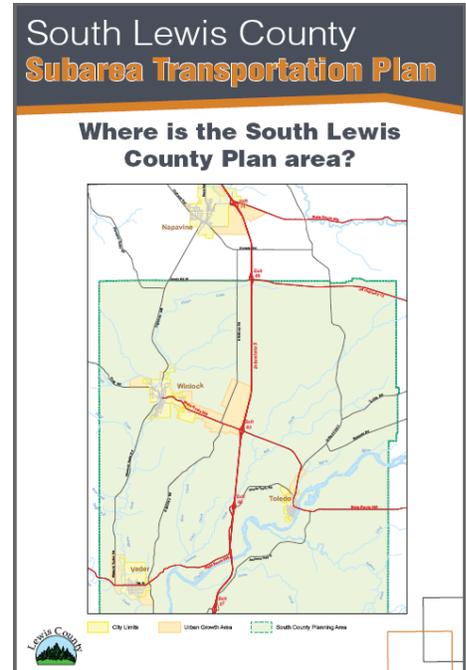
Lewis County Public Works hosted an open house featuring the South Lewis Subarea Transportation Plan on a drop-in basis from 5:30pm-7:30pm on September 17, 2008. The purpose of the open house was to inform the local community about the status of the Plan and provided an opportunity for the project team to solicit feedback from the public.

Attendees were able to learn about the project goals, process, timeline, geographic area, and progress. Display boards presented the information graphically (see sidebars for examples) and project and agency representatives were available to receive questions, comments, and concerns. Lewis County Commissioner Lee Grose and Lewis County Planner Barb Kincaid spoke to attendees briefly about the project and its relationship to economic development within the county. A sign-up list was also made available for attendees to receive project updates via e-mail.

Additionally, Lewis County Public Works invited and provided tables for other project team members to present local projects that would maximize the experiences of attendees:

- Lewis County Planning – *South Lewis County Subarea Plan*
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) – *Local Projects*
- City of Winlock – *Zoning Updates*
- City of Toledo – *Trails Master Plan*

Attendees were asked to share their feedback in both written and verbal formats. Project and agency representatives noted themes in feedback they received as well as any significant concerns. Comment forms were also available for attendees to submit written comments in centrally located drop boxes.



South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

What it is and how it will be used

What is the South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan?

- Joint project by Lewis County, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), City of Toledo, City of Winlock, the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO), and the Cowitz Tribe.
- Identifies safety and mobility issues along SR 505 between Winlock and Toledo, as well as surrounding roadways and interchanges.
- Includes list of improvement projects.
- Provides consistent design standards for local jurisdictions, WSDOT, and developers.
- Allows for community input and review.

Why are local and state agencies completing the SR 505 Interchange Corridor Plan?

- Used by WSDOT and local jurisdictions to identify priority projects that will improve safety and mobility in the area.
- Addresses existing safety and mobility issues on SR 505, surrounding roadways, and nearby I-5 interchanges.
- Will be used as a tool to anticipate and respond to future regional growth and corridor congestion.
- Represents the first step in identifying costs of projects and linking them to potential funding sources.

How will the Plan be used?

- Guides local agencies and WSDOT as they make decisions about how to address transportation challenges on within the Plan area.

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan Process

What are the guiding principles of the South Lewis County Subarea Transportation?

- Promote the safe and efficient regional movement of people and goods.
- Provide guidance for residential, commercial, and industrial development and usage.
- Connect infrastructure development with local economic development.
- Provide for effective local access that is sensitive to land use conditions.

How has the community been involved?

- A South Lewis County Team, made up of representatives from Lewis County, City of Toledo, City of Winlock, the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Cowitz Tribe, and Washington State Department of Transportation is providing guidance on plan development.
- Briefings with local agency representatives, City Councils, Lewis County Planning Commission, and the County Council.
- Outreach conducted by web site updates, direct mailings, media coverage, and a traveling project display that will be placed at several locations around the community.

Forty (40) people attended the open house and four (4) people filled out comment forms. The written comments included the following:

- The display boards should be placed in a public area like a park.
- They want to put a horse arena in my backyard. There were five or six arenas and they all ended up closing.
- The open house format worked really well. It provided the public with an opportunity to see the County and others working to bring economic development to the area.
- What happened to the map of the freeway between MP 76 and MP 81?

Verbal questions that arose most frequently included:

- What will be the result of this effort?
- Besides the open house, is there going to be any other opportunity for public involvement?
- What happens after May 2009 (the end of the planning process)?

Project and agency representatives noted that most attendees were satisfied with the answers they provided. Much of this information had been included on the display boards, which were utilized to augment their responses. Verbal comments mostly related to concerns about safety, specifically Cemetery Road, north and south of Military Road due to traffic over rises in the road, and general concern about vehicle speed and sight issues. Attendees also expressed concern about the traffic impacts of the proposed equestrian center.

A project fact sheet was available for attendees to take with them. It included the web address for the project web page and contact information for John Heinley at Public Works to address any further questions, comments, or concerns. Two e-mails have been received to date, both of which were requests to be added to the project information e-mail list.

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

Project Schedule

May 2008	Working Group kick-off
June-August 2008	Data collection on existing safety and traffic conditions
September 2008	Public Open House and Local Jurisdiction Briefings
September-December 2008	Modeling of future conditions Identification of potential improvement projects
January - February 2009	Memorandum of Agreement on SR 505 corridor design standards
March - April 2009	Development mitigation is modeled and defined
May 2009	Final plan delivered to the County
Ongoing	South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan coordinates future priority projects



South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

Existing & Future Conditions

What is the Existing Conditions Report?

- Describes current area land use designations and environmental conditions, roadway characteristics, accident history, and factors that effect traffic conditions.
- Data was collected from a variety of sources, including historic accident records, current plans, and traffic counts.
- Will be used to identify safety and mobility improvement priorities.
- First phase of analysis is focused on SR 505; the second phase of analysis will look at other roadways in the Plan area.

What will the Future Conditions Report include?

- Transportation analysis and modeling based on projected area growth.
- Identification of specific system capacity and safety issues.
- Description of potential projects within the Plan area that address priority safety and mobility needs.




South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

Existing Conditions Findings - Phase I, Focus on SR 505

Land Use

- Commercial and industrial zoned lands along the corridor will develop over time, changing the land use, access points, and traffic demand along SR 505
- Environmentally-significant areas were identified along the corridor, and will likely require additional study as they are considered for potential future development

Corridor Safety

- Accident data for the years 2003-2007 were reviewed.
- Over this period there were 2 fatalities, 6 disabling injuries, 13 evident injuries, and 43 property damage accidents.
- Several plan area segments showed higher than state average accident rates for 2003 and 2004.

- The number and types of accidents suggest that building congestion and/or the placement of access points to the highway may contribute factor to accidents along certain segments of the corridor.

Traffic Conditions

- Based on local comprehensive planning growth estimates, traffic demand along the SR505 corridor is anticipated to increase over the next 20 years.
- Today's volume of traffic does not exceed the corridor's capacity during peak driving hours; modeling of future conditions based on estimated growth will help determine future traffic volumes and potential capacity issues.



South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

Project Next Steps

What steps will be taken to complete the South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan?

- Evaluate public comments.
- Complete future conditions analysis and modeling.
- Existing conditions and future conditions modeling results will be used to identify needed improvements along the corridor.
- Develop a strategy to implement the improvements.

What happens after the plan is complete?

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is planned to be drafted for the corridor and will be presented to project partners for final consideration. A MOU is a legal agreement that defines roles and responsibilities between parties.
- The Memorandum of Understanding and South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan will be used by project partners to implement local corridor improvements as funding becomes available.
- Continue coordination between local, regional, and state representatives on planning and implementation efforts.
- Identified improvements will be implemented on a priority basis and/or as appropriate funding becomes available.



Travelling Displays

Following the open house three ‘travelling displays’ were placed at the Winlock City Hall, Toledo City Hall, and the Winlock Senior Center. These displays were condensed versions of the displays presented at the open house. They also included fact sheets, comment forms and comment boxes. The travelling displays were placed at their respective sites for a period of three weeks. No comments were received from the travelling displays.

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

Local and state partners identify projects to improve safety and address future congestion in South Lewis County

The South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan surrounding the cities of Winlock and Toledo, Washington is being developed in cooperation with multiple jurisdictions including Lewis County, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), City of Toledo, City of Winlock, the Southwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO), and the Cowitz Tribe.

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

- Identifies safety and mobility issues along SR 505 between Winlock and Toledo, as well as surrounding roadways and interchanges.
- Includes list of improvement projects developed based on the project team's analysis of these issues.
- Provides consistent design standards for local jurisdictions, WSDOT, and developers.
- Allows for community input and review.

What are the guiding principles of the South Lewis County Subarea Transportation

- Promote the safe and efficient regional movement of people and goods.
- Provide guidance for residential, commercial, and industrial development and usage.
- Connect infrastructure development with local economic development.
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City Limits Urban Growth Area South Lewis County Planning Area

South Lewis County Subarea Transportation Plan

South Lewis County Subarea Plan Process

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More Information:

Project Web site:
<https://fortres.wa.gov/lewisco/home/1/publicworks/Default.aspx?1cID=424>

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 Esta información también está disponible en español.

Fact Sheet

Comment Form