



Save Helvetia
www.SaveHelvetia.org

13260 NW Bishop Road
Helvetia, OR 97124

503.647.5334

*Protecting Helvetia's farmland, forestland,
cultural heritage and natural resources*

November 28, 2013

Mr. Andrew Singelakis, Director
Washington County Land Use and Transportation
155 N. First Street, Suite 300
Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

Re: Westside Transportation Solutions Study White Board Session

Dear Andrew,

I trust you and your family had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. I'm writing you today to share with you my concerns about an incident that occurred just prior to Thanksgiving week.

On Friday, November 22 at 1:00 pm, Ms. Faun Hosey was not permitted to attend a meeting called by Washington County staff regarding the \$1.5 million given to Washington County to pursue westside transportation solutions. Ms. Hosey is the CPO 8 citizen representative to the Washington County Transportation System Plan Citizens Community Advisory Committee (TSP CAC) and a member of other Washington County citizens groups with an interest in county-wide transportation issues, such as Save Helvetia.

We are very interested in following this process since reading City of Hillsboro's White Paper a year ago, which would greatly impact the farmland and forestland in the Helvetia area. We appreciate the opportunities for public involvement afforded citizens through the CPO program and our local CPO 8, which gives our community a seat on the TSP CAC. We are encouraged by the inclusion of multi-modal advocates and broader community advocates in the TSP update process, and the involvement of all observers at each TSP 2035 planning meeting.

We were encouraged to hear your personal assurances early on regarding the openness and stakeholder inclusiveness of the study process to be undertaken with that \$1.5 million.

All of which makes what happened at the meeting very disturbing.

Upon her arrival at the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce for the meeting, Ms. Hosey was told “It’s not a public meeting” and was not allowed to stay - even to sit in the back and observe. Given that this was a meeting called by public employees about how a public agency would spend public monies, it showed a dismaying lack of transparency to exclude even one interested citizen.

Holding a closed meeting where there are county, Metro and state officials meeting with private groups BUT not allowing a citizen to observe does not appear to be a wise thing to do. Transparency engenders trust. Transportation planning is an issue about which many people and organizations in Washington County are interested. Barring citizens from the discussion about how to best use \$1.5 million that the legislature directed to Washington County under circumstances about which residents are already wary, only serves to compound our concerns. **We expect that future proceedings regarding this project will be completely open and noticed.**

We respectfully request the following:

1. The legal basis for excluding a citizen from this meeting
2. Notes/minutes from the meeting
3. Notice of future meetings about the Westside Transportation Solutions Study

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Regards,

Cherry Amabisca, President
Save Helvetia
503.647.5334

cc: Alan A. Rappleyea, County Counsel
Ms. Faun Hosey
Save Helvetia Board of Directors

