



Bringing Oregonians Together

Seaside Transportation System Plan



“The project is remarkable due to the determined efforts of the community of Seaside, ODOT, and consultants to address the congestion issue from a new perspective and the city’s commitment to support and invest in alternative modes, access management, and land use changes”—WTS Portland Chapter

Timeline

August 2009 – August 2010

Region

Statewide

Participants

Oregon Department of Transportation; City of Seaside; Clatsop County; Alta Planning

Project Lead

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Facilitators

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Background

After years of bitter conflict about seasonal congestion on Highway 101 in Seaside, the city and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) joined together in an Oregon Consensus project and agreed on Seaside’s first Transportation System Plan (TSP).

Seaside, Oregon, is a popular coastal destination with a population of 6,500 that triples on summer weekends. Highway 101 bisects the town with limited capacity to handle heavy seasonal traffic.

City residents advocated for a bypass since the 1980’s. In 2000, an ODOT plan for improvements without a bypass grew controversial during the final design stages. Seaside successfully sued ODOT for the right to vote on the project. The project was voted down by a narrow margin, and millions of federal and state funds were withdrawn from the community. Neighbors were divided and relationships damaged between Seaside and ODOT.

Results

The TSP consensus process was the first transportation conversation between stakeholders since the vote. By the end of the process, the Mayor was comfortable addressing the community about transportation for the first time in years; the city and ODOT were co-leading presentations; and the community was advocating for more transit service rather than a bypass. A cornerstone of the TSP is the creation of Alternative Mobility Standards to guide future improvements on Highway 101. The TSP provided a visionary model for other communities with seasonal traffic; renewed relationships among agency partners and the community; and garnered broad support for a new future for Highway 101.

The project was named *2010 Project of the Year* by the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) for overcoming community conflict, developing visionary solutions and engaging women in leadership roles.