



# Public Involvement Plan

Reedsport Railroad Crossing Study

*Reedsport, OR*

February 23, 2023





## Contents

1	Project Overview .....	1
2	Project Area.....	1
3	Project Schedule .....	2
4	Public Involvement Purpose and Goals .....	3
5	Key Stakeholders and Audiences .....	3
	5.1 Demographics .....	3
6	Key Messages.....	4
	6.1 Project Overview, Need and Benefits .....	4
7	Public Advisory Committee .....	5
8	Project Team Member Roles and Responsibilities for Public Involvement.....	6
	8.1 City and Port Team Members .....	6
	8.2 ODOT Team Members.....	6
	8.3 Consultant Team Members.....	6

## Figures

Figure 1. Project Area .....	2
Figure 2. Proposed Project Schedule .....	2

## Tables

Table 1. Project Area Demographics.....	4
Table 2. Public Involvement Strategies and Tools.....	7

## Appendices

Appendix A. Coos Bay Rail Line System Map

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

DLCD	Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OR 38	Oregon State Highway 38, Umpqua Highway
PAC	Public Advisory Committee
PIP	Public Involvement Plan
PNWR	Portland & Western Railroad
UP	Union Pacific

# 1 Project Overview

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and City of Reedsport are conducting a railroad crossing study that looks at potential traffic impacts at the Oregon State Highway 38 (OR 38, Umpqua Highway) and Winchester Avenue railroad crossings. The area is expected to experience increased rail traffic on the Coos Bay Rail Line resulting from the Port of Coos Bay's proposed new multi-modal container facility on the North Spit in Coos County. The facility will be designed to accommodate 1.2 million in-bound and 1.2 million out-bound containers per year. This will roughly translate to six westbound and six eastbound train crossings per day with trains over one mile in length.

The study will identify:

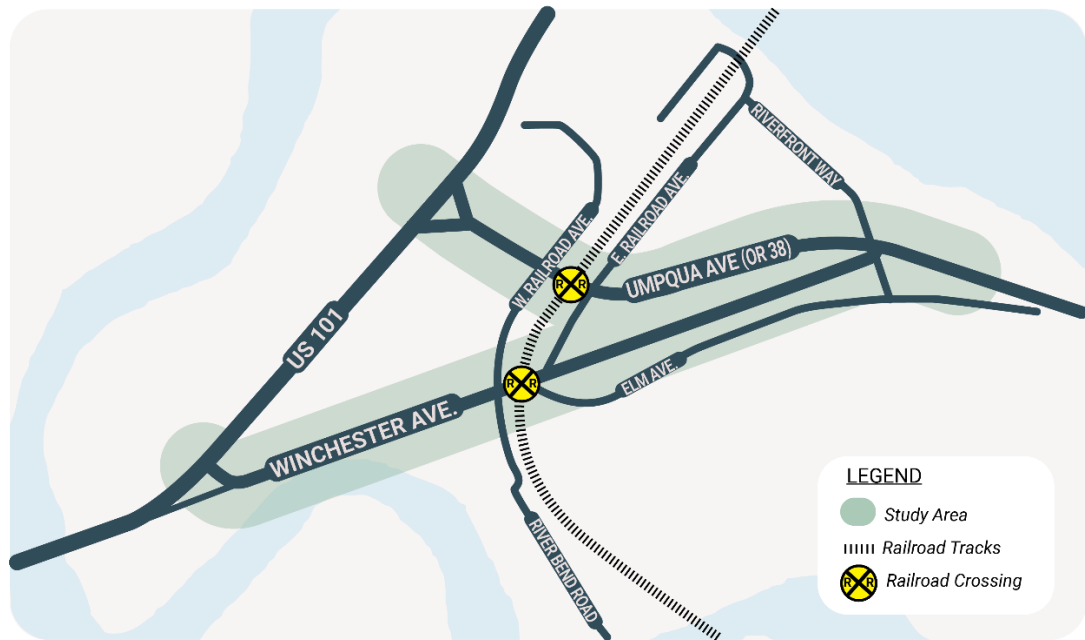
- Railroad crossing solutions, including those that will support a “No Horn Ordinance”
- Local circulation improvements
- Highway, roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements
- Access to emergency services and stormwater controls adequate to support the increased railroad activity on the Coos Bay Rail Line

# 2 Project Area

The project area is located in the city of Reedsport, bordered by the Umpqua River to the north, Schofield Creek to the west and south, and the OR 38/Riverfront Way and Winchester Avenue/Riverfront Way intersections to the east (Figure 1). Trains traveling through Reedsport by the Coos Bay Rail Line originate at the Port of Coos Bay and continue in a northeasterly direction to Eugene where it ties into the Union Pacific (UP) and Portland & Western (PNWR) mainlines (see Appendix A).

The rail crossing on OR 38 is located between W Railroad Avenue and E Railroad Avenue. The rail crossing on Winchester Avenue is located between River Bend Road and Elm Avenue.

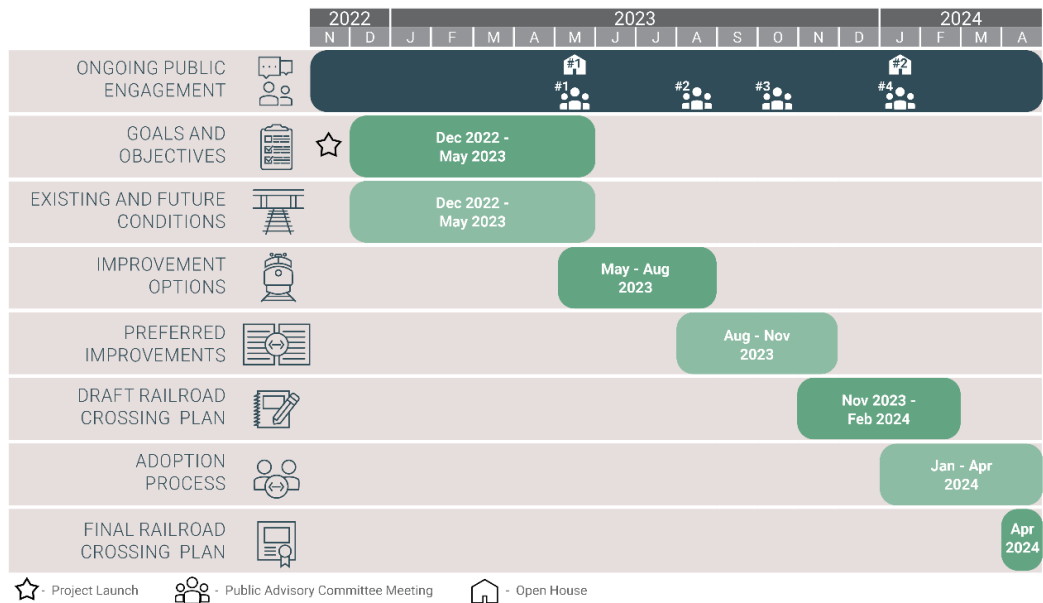
Figure 1. Project Area



### 3 Project Schedule

Figure 2 provides the proposed project schedule. The schedule is driven primarily by development of a solution that could be implemented prior to the proposed Port of Coos Bay Container Terminal becoming operational.

Figure 2. Proposed Project Schedule



## 4 Public Involvement Purpose and Goals

The public involvement program seeks to engage and build consensus among City, ODOT, Port of Coos Bay and community stakeholders around the selected railroad crossing improvements and management strategies.

The project's public involvement goals are to:

- Raise overall awareness of the study to help build community and stakeholder interest.
- Engage stakeholders about the need for and benefits of the project and provide regular proactive updates on project progress and schedule.
- Promote an open, equitable, and transparent engagement process that builds trust.
- Provide a public involvement program that is consistent with applicable state and federal laws and requirements and sensitive to local policies, goals, and objectives.

## 5 Key Stakeholders and Audiences

The public involvement program will seek to engage at a minimum with the following key organizations and stakeholders as well as people who live and work in the interchange area and those who have been historically excluded and underserved:

- ODOT Rail Division
- Port of Coos Bay
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz
- Elected officials
- Property owners
- Residents
- Active transportation advocates
- Local and regional transit providers
- Reedsport Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Area businesses
- Delivery services
- Emergency services, including Lower Umpqua Hospital
- Accessibility groups
- Recreational interests
- Bicycle and pedestrian interests
- School District
- General public
- Local media

### 5.1 Demographics

The public outreach program is informed by demographic data for the City of Reedsport outlined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Project Area Demographics**

Category		Percentage
<b>Race</b>	White	94.0
	African American	0.1
	American Indian / Native American	1.4
	Asian	0.3
	Hispanic / Latino	5.7
	Two or more races	2.6
	Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.0
	Other	2.2
<b>Age</b>	Children 14 and under	17.1
	Adults 15 to 64	65.2
	65 years and over	17.7
<b>Poverty Status</b>	Under 18 years	47.1
	18 to 64 years	16.6
	65 years and over	8.8
<b>Language</b>	English	95.2
	Spanish	4.1
	Other	0.7
<b>Median Income</b>		\$42,340

Demographic data for the City of Reedspport from the U.S. Census Bureau 2021 American Community Survey.

## 6 Key Messages

### 6.1 Project Overview, Need and Benefits

#### Study Purpose and Benefits

- The City of Reedspport and ODOT are studying the local and regional traffic impacts resulting from an expected increase in freight rail activity due to a proposed new terminal at the Port of Coos Bay. The partner agencies are conducting this study to identify strategies, solutions, and funding needs to provide safe, efficient and reliable local travel throughout Reedspport.
- This study will enable ODOT and the City of Reedspport to prepare for more freight and local traffic, particularly in the downtown Reedspport area near Winchester Avenue and Umpqua/Fir Avenue.
- As Reedspport’s downtown area sits in a basin and relies on a levee, the study will recommend crossing solutions that provide effective storm drainage.
- Railroad crossing improvements will address additional freight rail traffic and provide efficient downtown traffic flow for motorists, emergency services, pedestrians, and



bicyclists. Reedsport already experiences increased traffic on weekends, holidays and during the summer.

## Port of Coos Bay Facility Details

- The Port of Coos Bay is planning to build a new multi-modal container facility (Eco-Port) on the North Spit.
- The new facility enables six additional round-trip trains per day, traveling between the Port and Eugene, Oregon.
- The new Eco-Port would be the first carbon-free marine terminal in the United States, supporting sustainable growth and economic development.
- The Port's expansion is expected to create 4,500 short-term construction jobs, 2,750 to 3,500 primary jobs and 3,000 secondary jobs.
- It is anticipated that the railroad improvements and the new terminal will be constructed simultaneously.

# 7 Public Advisory Committee

The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) will provide technical and policy guidance and provide public perspective on the preferred outcomes of the study. The PAC will meet approximately four times at key milestones. Members of the committee include:

- Tom Guevara, ODOT
- Deanna Schafer, City of Reedsport
- Kim Clardy, City of Reedsport
- Courtney Davis, City of Reedsport
- John Burns, Port of Coos Bay
- Bob Stolle, ODOT Rail
- John Lazur, ODOT Active Transportation Liaison
- Dave Wells, ODOT District 7
- Aaron Brooks, ODOT Access Management
- Michael Wang, ODOT Access Management
- Michael Morris, ODOT Roadway
- Jennifer Boardman, ODOT R3 Transit
- Janell Stradtner, ODOT Permits
- John Boren, ODOT Freight
- Dejan Dudich, ODOT TPAU
- Hui Rodomsky, DLCD
- Buddy Young, City of Reedsport Police
- Tom Anderson, City of Reedsport Fire
- DeeDee Murphy, City of Reedsport City Council Representative
- Gary Stine, City of Reedsport Planning Commission Representative
- Pamela Barlow-Lind, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Representative
- Garrett Gray, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Jon Zwemke, School District Representative

- Sandra Donnelly, Active Transportation Advocate
- Jill Nelson, Local Business Owners
- Keith Tymchuk, Community Economic Interest Group
- Mike Donnelly, Transportation Interest Group (Freight and Railroad stakeholders)
- Don Laskey, Interested Citizens
- Mark Epps, ODOT District 7
- Ray Lapke, ODOT Traffic
- Brady Hasket, ODOT District 7
- Joshua Shaklee, Planning Director, Douglas County
- Jeff Lehrbach, Planning Manager, Douglas County
- Josh Gibson, Senior Planner, Douglas County

## 8 Project Team Member Roles and Responsibilities for Public Involvement

The following team members have key roles in implementing the public involvement strategies.

### 8.1 City and Port Team Members

- **Courtney Davis, City of Reedsport, Deputy City Recorder/Executive Assistant.** Courtney will oversee City-led public involvement activities and be the key point of contact for all public involvement inquiries.
- **Margaret Barber, Port of Coos Bay, Director of External Affairs and Business Development.** Margaret will be the key point of contact for public involvement for the Port.

### 8.2 ODOT Team Members

- **Tom Guevara, Agency Project Manager.** Tom will provide overall contract management.

### 8.3 Consultant Team Members

- **Marc Butorac, Project Manager (Kittelson & Associates).** Marc will coordinate the development of the railroad crossing study deliverables.
- **Matt Bell, Deputy Project Manager (Kittelson & Associates).** Matt will work in conjunction with Marc for the development of the railroad crossing study deliverables.
- **Camille Alexander, Project Manager (HDR).** Camille will be the interface between the HDR public involvement team and Kittelson & Associates.
- **Stacy Thomas, Public Engagement Lead (HDR).** Stacy will work with the project team to develop public involvement deliverables.

The project team will engage with community members and stakeholders throughout the study using the strategies and tools identified in Table 2.

**Table 2. Public Involvement Strategies and Tools**

Strategy	Description	Lead	Timing
Stakeholder Database	Includes those identified in the Key Stakeholders and Audiences section and those who sign up for the email list. Used for project announcements, updates, and public input opportunities.	HDR	Late December 2022; ongoing updates
Comment Log	Public comments and questions will be logged throughout the project's duration. The project team will respond to comments and questions received.	HDR	Late December 2022; ongoing updates
PAC Meetings	The PAC will meet up to four times to provide technical and policy guidance.	Kittelson	Meeting 1: May 11, 2023  Meeting 2: August 10, 2023  Meeting 3: November 2, 2023  Meeting 4: January 25, 2024
Project Website	The primary source for public information will be hosted on the City's website and include a project description, map, schedule, input opportunities, project documents, and a way to sign up for the project email list.	HDR – content City – host	Content and launch: December 2022  Updates: Ongoing
Narrated Presentation Video	A 3- to 5-minute narrated video presentation to raise awareness of the study and engage a diverse group of stakeholders. The presentation will be linked on the project website and sent to those in the stakeholder database.	HDR	February 2023
Online Open Houses	Two online open houses will provide information about the project and collect input. Online surveys will be created for each open house to solicit feedback.	HDR / Kittelson	Open House 1: May 18, 2023  Open House 2: February 1, 2024
Project Flyer	Each project flyer will contain information about the upcoming online open house and be posted on the project website and sent to those in the stakeholder database.	HDR	Prior to each open house
Stakeholder Interviews	Stakeholder interviews will provide feedback on needs, issues, and opportunities.	HDR	March-April 2023



# Appendix A. Coos Bay Rail Line System Map

