

## Summary Highlights: Arguments for Supporting Study Design

(Public Outreach 1.3)

*Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015 (Study Design)*

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

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Draft November 15, 2015

**Question:** Why support or sponsor another socio-economic study that purports to represent the citizens of Josephine County (JO CO), Oregon in their efforts to address the county's Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) problem/issue?

**Answer: Unique Long-Range Impact Study** In a nut shell *Study Design* proposed a *Study* which will be based on formal vetted inventories and an impact methodology model which promotes informed decision-making through a unique decision process, where the citizens identify the problems and potential solutions, and are the decision-makers. This definition of citizens is much narrower than the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* with its ruling that corporations are persons. *Study Design's* definition of the public does not include corporations and major non-local special interests, nor agencies, the government, or the media (e.g., opinions of the Grants Pass Daily Courier, etc.). It does include news articles where the citizens' opinions are identified. The *Study Design* idea is a study focused on people, per "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established." Supreme Court Justice Stevens, January 2010. Arguments for the uniqueness of the long-range planning *Study* that will result from *Study Design*, compared to the usual major information or impact study, follow.

- *Study* focuses on the human face of citizens being the decision-makers.
- *Study* is unique in not representing a singular point of view objective, and in representing the range of citizen values, pro and con.
- *Study* flows from "public" identified issues, affected conditions, alternative solutions, and potential impacts. It emphasizes the importance to citizens of knowing they are being heard, of being the decision-makers that decide their future.
- *Study* is not associated with any specific proposed funding mechanism (e.g., levy, sales tax, etc.), or right answer.
- *Study* is limited to investigating, researching, and evaluating the JS&PSS Problem/Issue.
- *Study* will not make evaluations of proposals or alternatives as to right or wrong, nor make recommendations to the citizens on how to vote.
- *Study* is non-political; it will not be used in politics in the sense of lobbying for a particular outcome.
- *Study* is independent research with opportunities for education. Information will be publicly shared through web page publications, and volunteer outreach projects.
- *Study* has no Analysis of the Management Situation; there will have an Analysis of the Public Situation.
- *Study* results are not a formal government decision selecting an alternative or some combination of alternatives.
- *Study* confirms information for informed public decision-making, not a decision by the government.
- *Study* formally acknowledges the public as the designer of *Study*, and as the decision-maker.

**Answer: Vetted Study Baseline Facts/Inventories** Understanding is made more difficult with all those noisy facts when truth isn't always something as clear and unquestionable as desired. It is believed that a step in the right direction is for different publics, that don't trust each other, to share vetted, or checked, information. This is one of the purposes of *Study Design* – for citizens to speak a common language, to solve problems, not to spend valuable time and energy discussing potential conflicting facts.

Although not unique to *Study*, vetted baseline facts/inventories (i.e., affected conditions) will be part of it, as they are part of any reliable impact study. The best impact studies have a professional structure in place for checking or analyzing facts, legal issues, evidence, and arguments. The greater the degree of scrutiny given to these facts, the more reliable the study.

**Answer: Key Outcomes Of Study** It is difficult when JO CO citizens are polarized over the public safety problem/issue and have not yet found a consensus solution, and its compelling that a significant minority of city and county citizens fear for their safety because of decreased number of jail beds, 911 call responses, JO CO rural patrol, etc. How will *Study Design* change the way people live?

What will occur as a result of a successful *Study Design* and the development of the impact *Study*, a largely untried and fundamentally different approach to identifying a public safety solution? How will the situation improve? What the authors know is that *Study Design* is a potential alternative that has not been considered as a serious solution in JO CO. It is beyond the adversary model of pro and con arguments during the last four 2012 - 2015 JO CO public safety levies, and one City of Grants Pass proposed city sales tax.

The following possible key outcomes are hoped for from a successful *Study*. They are all about the idea of slow long-range incremental changes, and the confidence that there will be an increase in the number of citizens believing the following starting to show between 2016 - 2026.

- \* *More People* know they are being listened to.
- \* *More People* are better informed.
- \* *More People* trust the vetted baseline facts/inventories (i.e., affected conditions).
- \* *More People* understand that the range of public safety problems/issues and range of alternatives were identified by them, individually, for consideration by the collective public.
- \* *More People* better understand the concerns of their neighbors.
- \* *More People* speak a common language to solve problems.
- \* *More People* agree on a consensus public safety problem/issue.
- \* *More People* agree on a consensus public safety solution.
- \* *More People* have a consensus to also address the causes of problem/issue.

At this stage of *Study Design*, part of its public outreach strategy is to share with stakeholders, concerned with the JS&PSS Problem/Issue, by explaining *Study Design* with the goals of moving toward a consensus definition of the problem/issue, including two or three key outcomes.