

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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February 17, 2012 Email/Letter

Mark Leedom, Project Manager, ODOT
Jessica Bochart-Leusch, Archaeologist, ODOT
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Reference: ODOT "*I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving & Sexton Climbing Lane Project*"

Dear Mark, Jessica, and Sam:

Thanks again for meeting with us last February 1, 2012. Our final minutes of that meeting are attached (Attachments 1 - 3). We request that these minutes be made a formal part of testimony from the public on the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion (CE) process for ODOT's "*I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving & Sexton Climbing Lane Project*."

We understand the *I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving and Sexton Climbing Lane Project* started out as two projects: 1. paving I-5 from Hugo to Glendale, and 2. a six passing lanes project. The “Paving I-5 from Hugo to Glendale Project” involved Federal Highway Administration (FHWA’s) funds and, therefore, ODOT would develop the project under FHWA’s NEPA compliance standards. The ODOT and the FHWA agreed NEPA compliance would be a CE process.

The I-5 Passing Lane Project was authorized by the Oregon Legislature and state funded, and therefore, did not require any NEPA compliance standards or FHWA approval of a CE. This originally included northbound and southbound passing lanes for three I-5 passes between Glendale and Hugo (i.e., Stage Road Pass, Smith Hill Summit, and Sexton Mountain Pass).

Over time the two projects merged with the title of *I-5: Jumpoff Joe to Glendale Paving & Climbing Lanes Project*. The merged project changed again when the original authorization of multiple-passing lanes was reduced to the one with the highest priority – the I-5 northbound passing lane from the Hugo I-5 interchange north to a point just north of the Sexton Mountain Pass. At this point the two projects (i.e., paving I-5 from Hugo Exit 66 to Glendale Exit 80, and the northbound Sexton Mountain passing lane from mile point 66.7 to mile point 69.5 at blue I-5 sign) have been combined into one project with a new name more accurately describing the project: *I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving and Sexton Climbing Lane Project*. We understand the final phase of the CE process will be an ODOT recommendation to the FHWA for approving a CE NEPA compliance classification for the combined project. Is this true? When is the CE process scheduled to be completed? Where can we find web published and/or other information on the CE process?

The HETC is pleased that it will meet its commitment agreement with ODOT by providing its web published Applegate Trail inventories by February 22, 2012. Thank you again for committing to review the HETC web published Applegate Trail inventories and providing a public analysis of the significance of the inventories.

As you know the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) has developed a methodology for mapping emigrant trails which includes applying national register criteria and aspects of integrity to emigrant trails (*Mapping Emigrant Trails MET Manual*). Per the OCTA’s methodology for mapping emigrant trails, the HETC will research the feasibility of applying national register criteria and aspects of integrity to the 1.8 mile segment of the Applegate Trail at Smith Hill Pass through the Grave Creek Hills administered by ODOT.

Please contact Mike Walker is you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joe Neiderheiser, Member, GLO Subcommittee, HETC
Kelly Rarey, Member, GLO Subcommittee, HETC
Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader, HETC

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Attachments:

Attachment 1. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. February 16, 2012. *February 1, 2012 Meeting Minutes For "I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving & Sexton Climbing Lane Project"*. Meeting Between Oregon Department of Transportation & Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee. Hugo, OR.

Attachment 2. Reading, Frank, Regional Manager, Region 3, Oregon Department of Transportation. December 7 2011. *Letter From Frank Reading, Regional Manager, Region 3, ODOT To Glenn Harrison, Chair, Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Committee For "I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving & Sexton Climbing Lane Project"*. Roseburg, OR

Attachment 3. Walker, Mike, Co-Project Leader, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. February 1, 2012. *Email/Letter From Walker To Jessica Bochart-Leusch, Archaeologist For "I-5: Glendale to Hugo Paving & Sexton Climbing*

Lane Project". Hugo, OR.

Email copies:

Federal Highway Administration
GLO Field Review SubCommittee
Goal One Coalition
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society
Josephine County Sportsman Association
Legacy Lands Project
National Park Service
Northwest Chapter of OCTA
Oregon-California Trails Association
Oregon Department of Transportation
Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Rogue Advocates
Southern Oregon University