

Franklin Boulevard Study open house #1 summary

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Overview

The City of Springfield hosted an open house on Thursday, August 2, 2007. The open house was the final event held during a three-day design workshop aimed at developing concepts to be evaluated during the Franklin Boulevard Study. The open house was the public's first opportunity to review possible roadway cross-sections for Franklin Boulevard and possible designs for the intersections of Franklin Boulevard and the McVay Highway, and Franklin Boulevard and Glenwood Boulevard. These concepts were developed during the workshop by the consultant team in consultation with City, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Lane Transit District staff, and the project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee.



Participants at the open house were invited to review the concepts and provide input about what they liked and did not like about each concept. Participants provided input by talking with staff and by completing a written comment form.

About 30 community member attended the open house, though not all attendees signed-in or completed a comment form. The five comment forms submitted are summarized here. The comment forms were completed by two residents, one property owner and two people who neither lived nor owned property in Glenwood. All those who completed the comment form drove the corridor frequently but did not often walk, bike or take transit in the area.

Study outcomes

When asked how important each of the proposed study outcomes are, most respondents said that all of the outcomes were important. All outcomes, except "a cost-effective project," received an average score of four or higher on a scale of one to five with one being least important and five being most important.

All participants who ranked the importance of the outcomes "designs that accommodate all transportation modes" and "transportation improvements that can accommodate long-term transportation needs in the area" said that they were very important.

Average score (out of five for most important) for each project outcome:

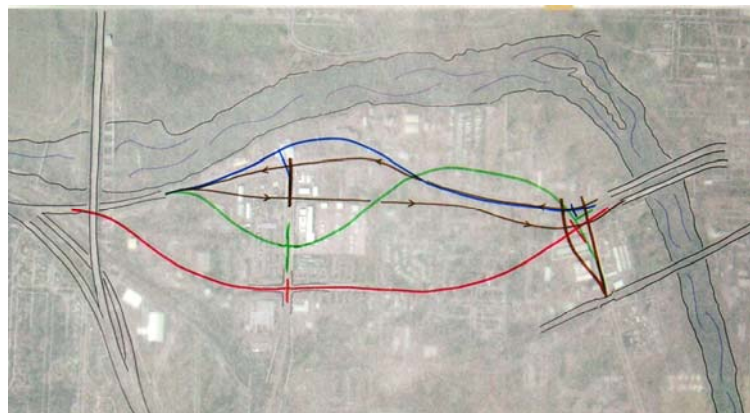
Outcome	Average score (possible 5)
A project that benefits the future business community as a whole.	4.4
A cost-effective project.	3.7
Improvements to Franklin Boulevard and McVay Highway that promote redevelopment in Glenwood.	4
Designs that are distinctive.	4.5
Designs that accommodate all transportation modes including car and truck traffic, buses, cyclists, pedestrians and alter-abled people.	5
Transportation improvements that can accommodate long-term transportation needs in the area.	5
Facility improvements that enhance the natural environment and include opportunities to incorporate sustainable design principles.	4.8
A project that creates an active and safe street environment.	4.7
A project that improves connections to the river.	4.7

One participant recorded on his comment form that only minimal improvements to the Franklin Boulevard corridor should be considered. Other participants said that bike paths and improved connections to I-5 were important outcomes of this project.

Franklin Boulevard concepts

Both participants who responded to questions about the Franklin Boulevard concepts, preferred the multiway boulevard concept. One participant noted that the widening Franklin to the south along the current alignment was preferable to the 14th Street alignment.

One participant noted that the green concept, that would shift Franklin south of its current alignment west of Glenwood Boulevard and north of its current alignment east of Glenwood Boulevard, that was set-aside should be considered further. This participant suggested shifting the alignment north to avoid impacts to the Lane Transit District and state motor pool facilities.



Concepts set aside

Anecdotally, project staff reported strong interest in the multiway boulevard concepts from participants at the open house. Many participants noted that the multiway boulevard concepts could help to revitalize the area. The owners of one property south of Franklin

Boulevard attended the open house and stated their preferences for leaving Franklin Boulevard alone.

Intersection of Franklin Boulevard and the McVay Highway

Both participants who responded to questions about the Franklin Boulevard and McVay Highway intersection noted their preference for the roundabout design. Project staff verified that this was consistent with the viewpoints of other open house participants.