

OR 126: VENETA TO EUGENE: STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) MEETING #4

October 28, 2021

WELCOME

In this virtual setting, we will do a roll call to start the meeting.

Meeting purpose: to brief agency partners on public outreach results, progress on the technical work and to review/discuss coordination aspects.

This is our last scheduled meeting.

SC MEETING #4 AGENDA

2:00 – 2:15	Welcome and Agenda Review
2:15 – 2:30	Public Involvement Update
2:30 – 2:40	Engineering Update
2:40 – 3:10	Environmental Documentation Update
3:10 – 3:15	Draft Implementation Plan
3:15 – 3:20	Project Schedule Review
3:20 – 3:25	Next Steps



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

CONSTITUENT CONSULTATIONS – ROUND 2

Three meetings held April 14-15, 2021 with invited participants

1. Highway Users: commuters, businesses, freight, emergency vehicles. (*14 participants*)
2. Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Boaters. (*14 participants*)
3. Environmental, Hunter and Fisher. (*7 participants*)

CONSTITUENT CONSULTATIONS – ROUND 2

Meeting Goals

- Review the engineering and environmental studies.
- Learn from the wide range of user experiences on the corridor.
- Listen and respond to concerns and document them.
- Gather wetland mitigation strategy suggestions.
- Explain the schedule of the current NEPA effort, and future phases.
- Expand the pool of local leaders who understand the project.
- Invite participants to share information with their organizations.
- Apprise participants of the open house in April/May.

CONSTITUENT CONSULTATIONS – ROUND 2

Some Key Messages from Participants

- Continued support for 4-lane alternative with separate multi-use path.
- A mix of support and apprehension with roundabouts.
- Concern with project impacts to fish, wildlife and plants.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE #2

Statistics:

- Opened April 26 through May 9, 2021
- Received 61 survey responses.
- Email, postcards and signs/reader boards garnered a similar number of participants.

OUTREACH DURING A PANDEMIC



Veneta website connected residents with information and opportunity to participate in the Open House

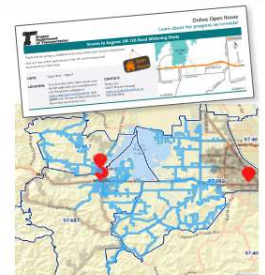


Promotional material provided to local agencies and organizations for social media and newsletters

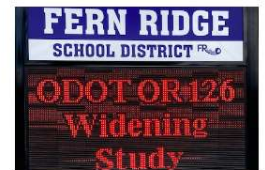


QR code for quick link to Open House

- Website with live link to Open House.
- Email with link sent to 1,700 Interested Parties.
- Postcard mailed to 4,828 households.
- Postcard placed on store counters, in food pantry and Meals on Wheels boxes.
- Facebook/Newsletters Open House promo used by ten agencies and organizations.
- A-Frames placed at key intersections.
- A-Frames with QR code placed at local store entrances.
- Phone calls to 25 adjacent businesses.
- Phone announcement via Fern Ridge School District to 1,500 households in Veneta, Elmira, Walton and Noti reaching 3,000-5,000 people.
- Reader Boards with Open House information at two prominent locations.



Postcards delivered along seven postal routes to 4,828 houses



Fern Ridge School District reader board



Postcards added to Meals on Wheels boxes



Signs at busy intersections

Postcards on counters of local businesses

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE #2

Input Summary

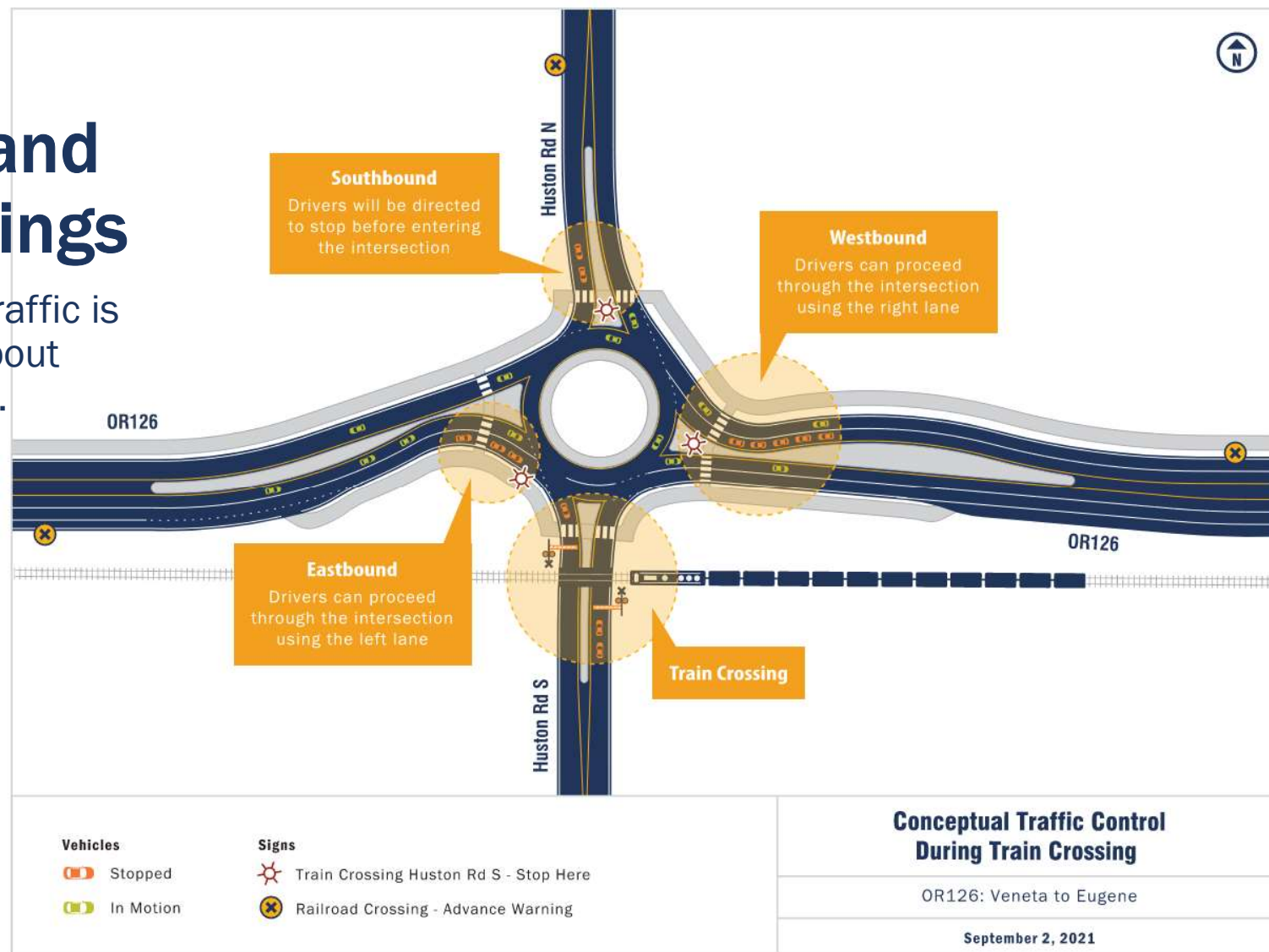
- Continued support for 4-lane alternative with separate multi-use path (four of 68 comments opposed road widening due to concerns over natural resource and climate impacts).
- Two-thirds of comments indicated a preference for traffic signals over roundabouts.

REGARDING ROUNDABOUTS

- A decision on the intersection treatment (roundabouts vs other alternatives) has not been made. Roundabout intersections take up more space and are therefore being used for the environmental evaluations. A decision on the intersection type will be made when funding is secured for the project.
- It is not uncommon for there to be apprehension with roundabouts in communities unfamiliar with them. Most come to appreciate them after they learn how to drive, walk and bike through them.

Roundabouts and Railroad Crossings

- Graphic explains how traffic is controlled at a roundabout when a train is present.

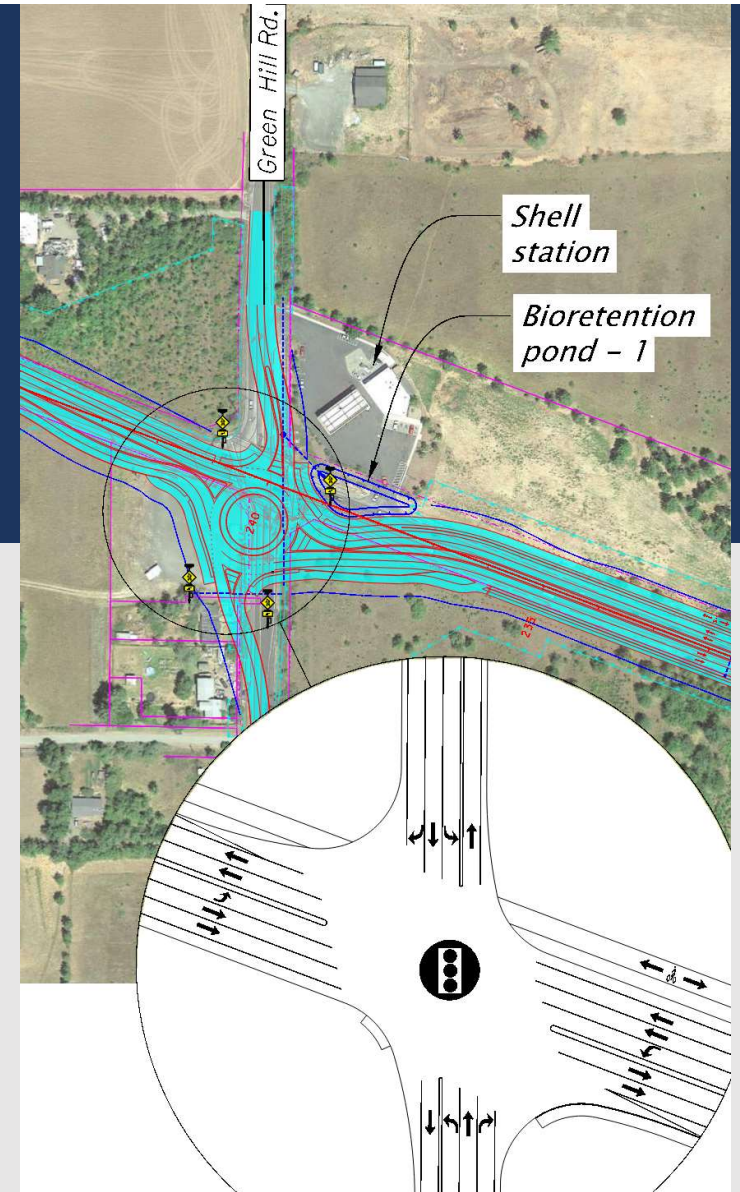




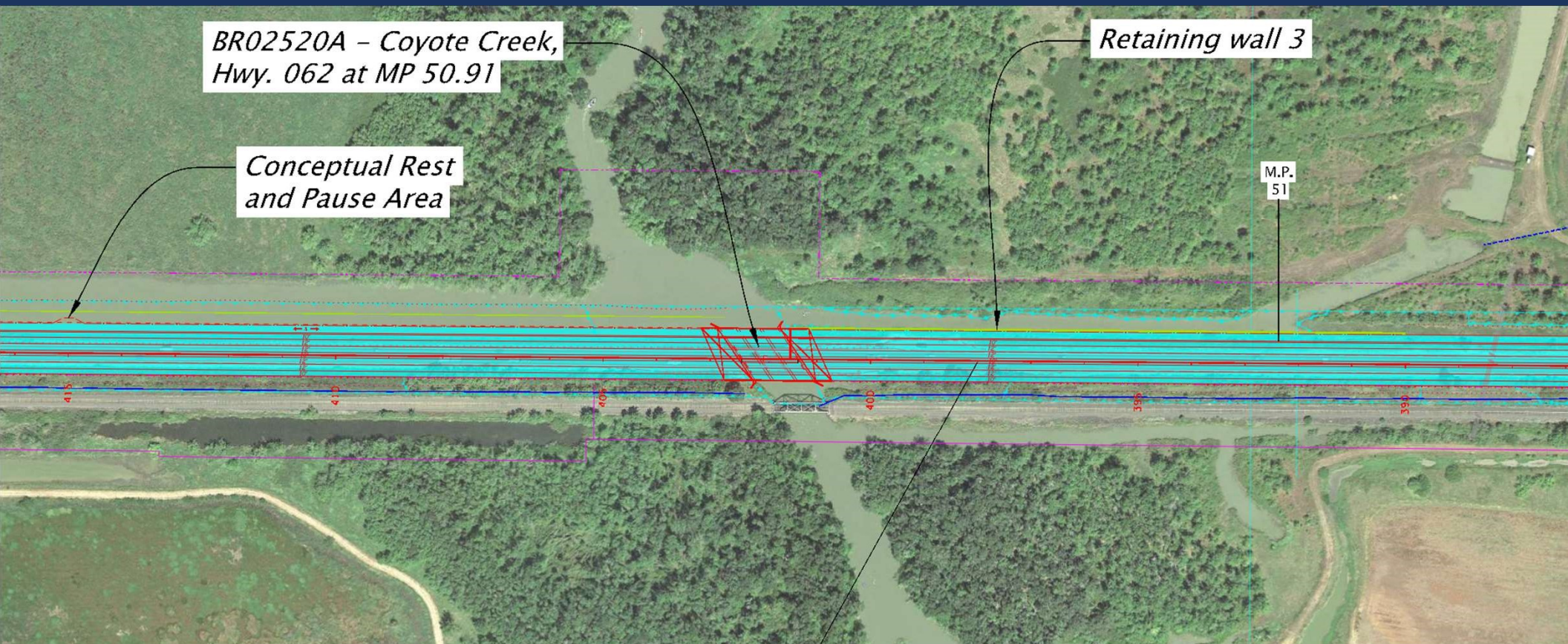
ENGINEERING UPDATE

FINAL PROOF OF CONCEPT

Green Hill Road Intersection - Roundabout or Traffic Signal

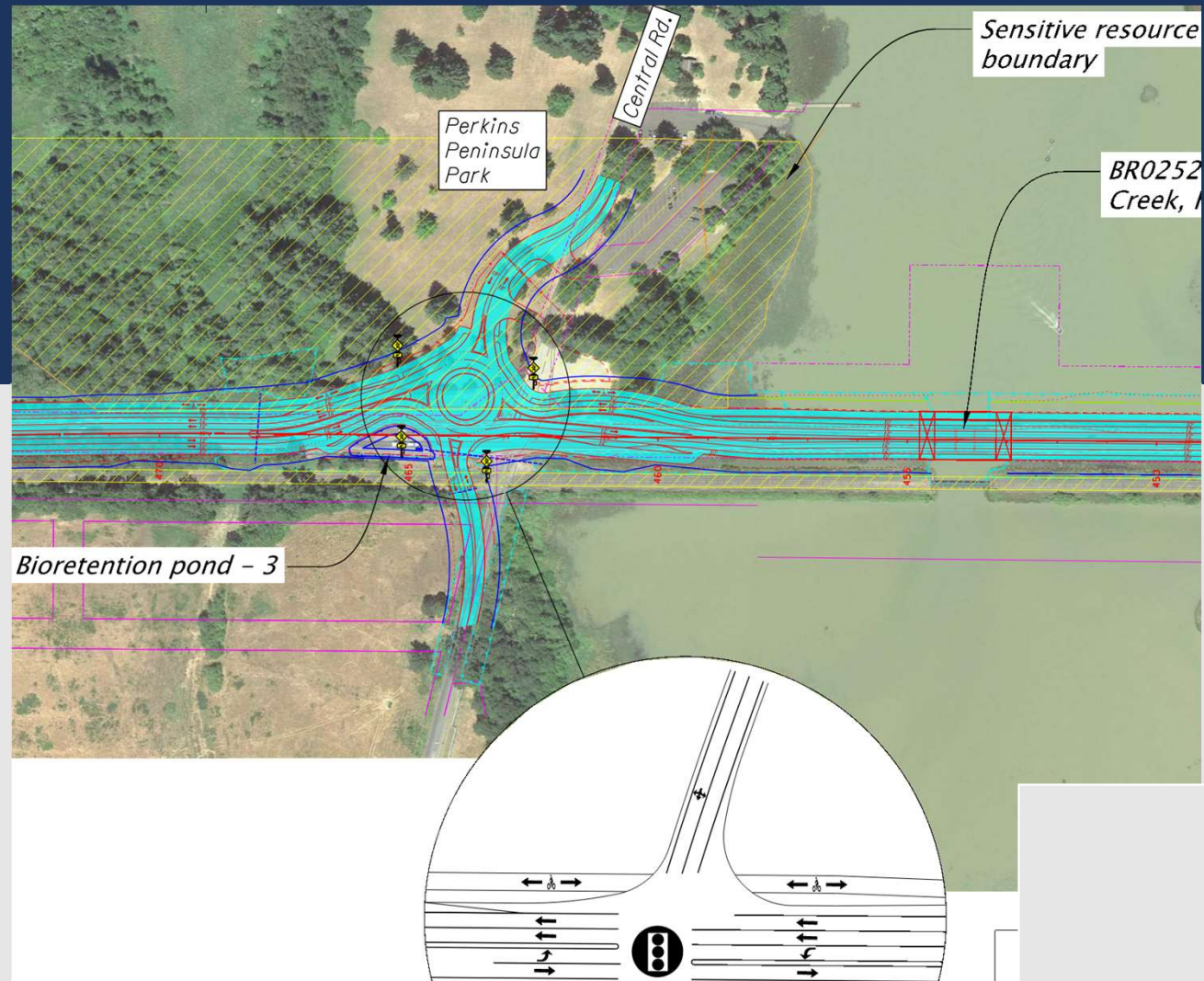


FINAL PROOF OF CONCEPT



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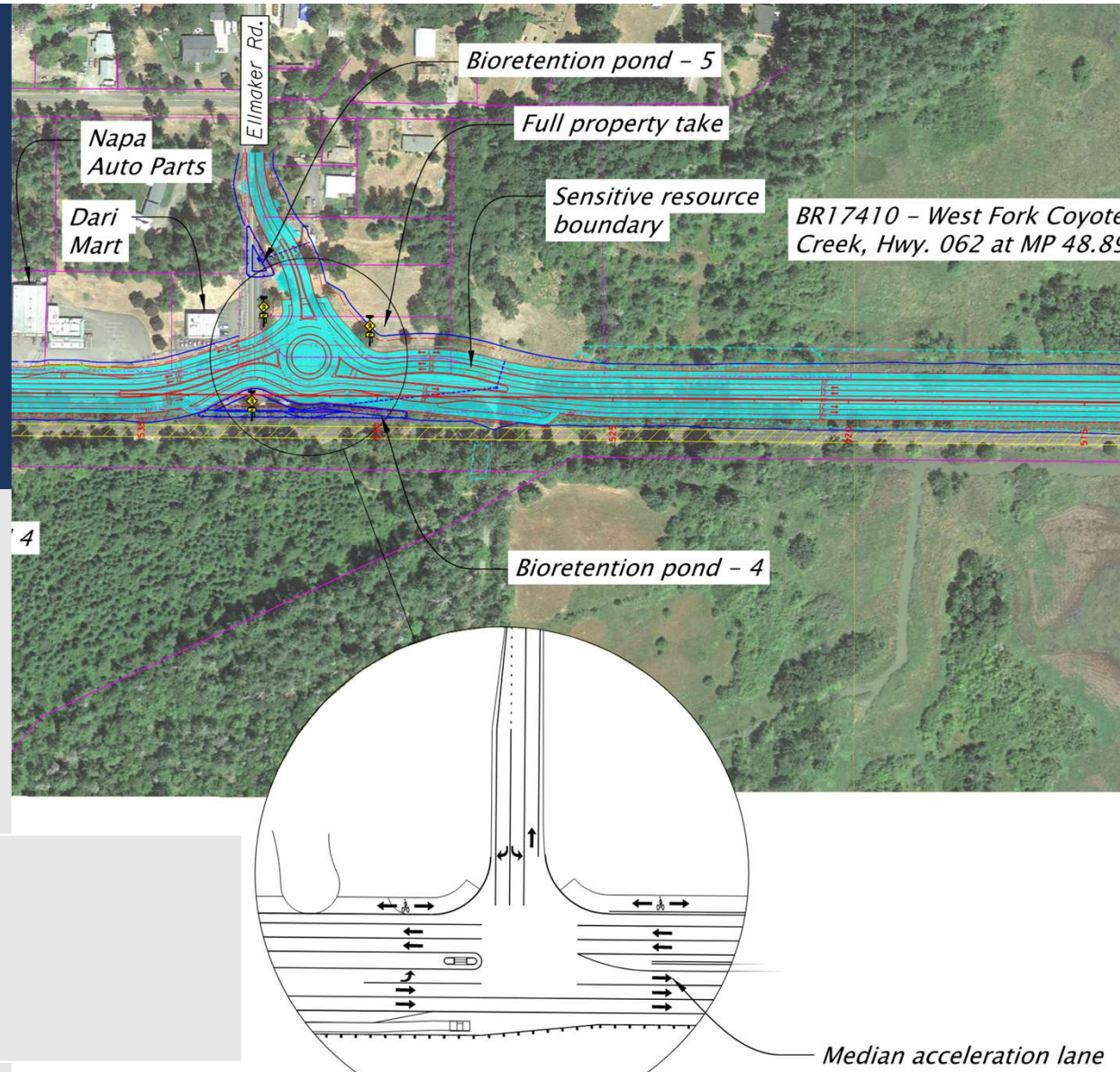
Central Road Intersection - Roundabout or Traffic Signal



FINAL PROOF OF CONCEPT

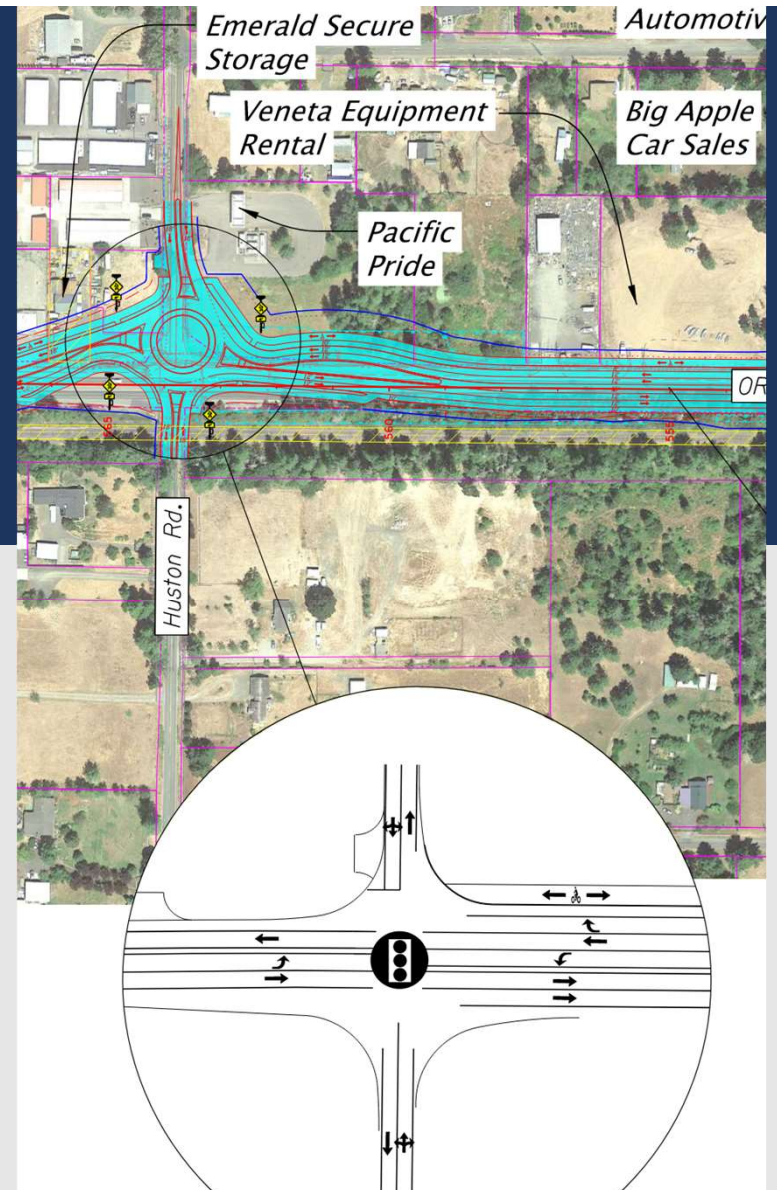
Ellmaker Road

- Roundabout or Turn Lanes
w/Median Acceleration Lane



FINAL PROOF OF CONCEPT

Huston Road Intersection - Roundabout or Traffic Signal





ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION UPDATE

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Discipline Areas

- Air Quality (Completed).
- Archaeological (Underway).
- Biological Resources (Underway).
- Community/Envir. Justice.
- Hazardous Materials (Completed).
- Historic Resources. (Drafted)
- Land Use (Underway).
- Noise (Underway - Revising).
- Parks & Recreation.
- Water Quality/Hydrology (Drafted).
- Wetlands (Underway).

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Discipline	Summary
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed. Project impacts fall below thresholds triggering action/mitigation.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report being revised to address roundabout intersections. No material change expected. With earlier draft, walls were evaluated at two locations and found to not meet benefit/cost thresholds and are therefore not recommended.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Discipline	Summary
Archaeological	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedestrian survey completed. Some shovel tests have been performed within High Probability Areas. Additional shovel testing is planned. One site so far has been recommended for Phase II testing/investigations. No Phase II work will need to be completed as part of NEPA process, but rather prior to construction.
Historic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baseline survey and report completed. Determinations of Eligibility forms for two sites have been prepared and reviewed by SHPO. Finding of Effect forms are now being prepared for these two sites.

WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PLAN 17

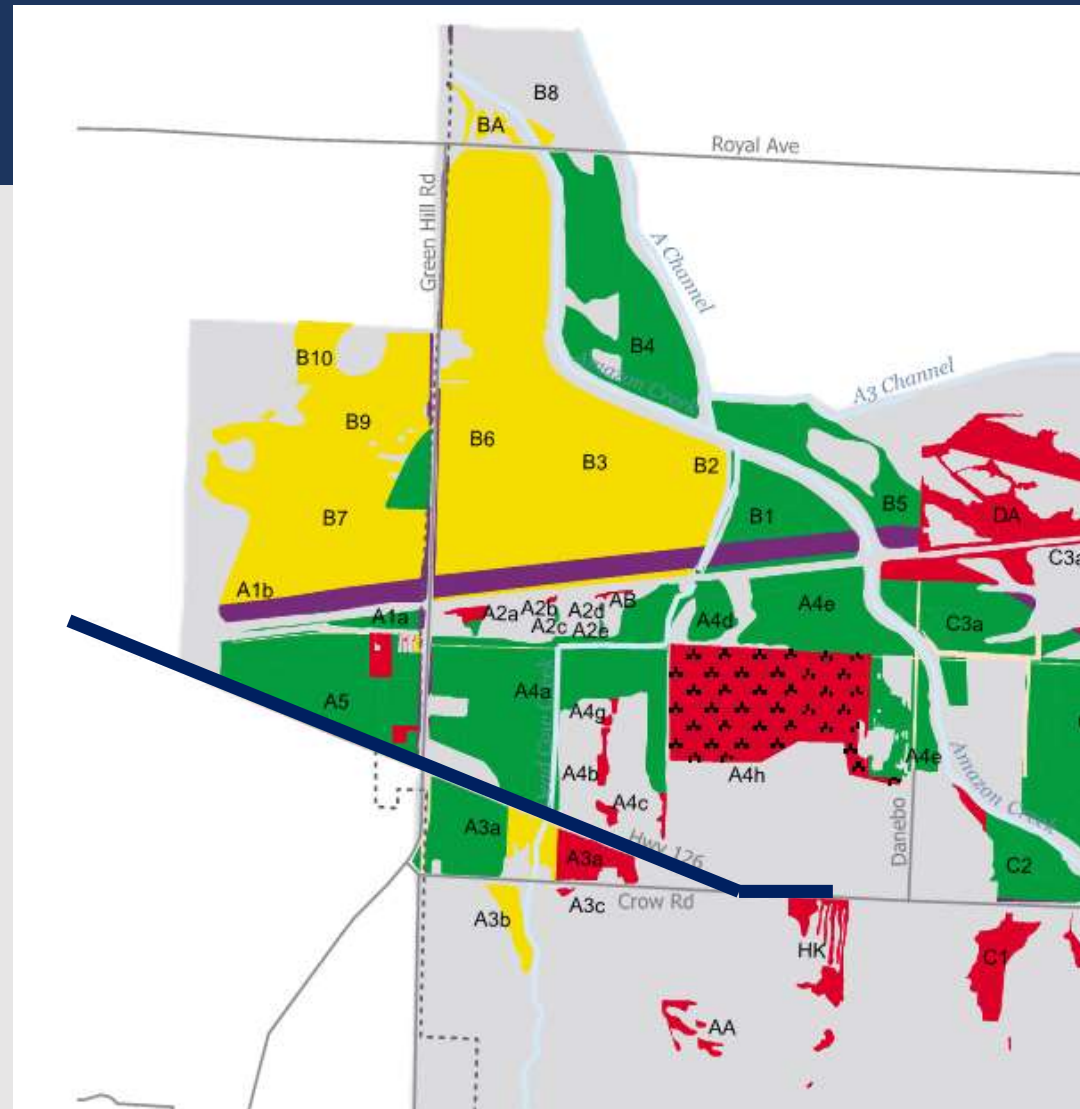
Map 3 Wetlands Designations Map

Wetland Designation

- Protect** Wetlands to be Protected (areas generally unsuitable for disposal of dredged or fill material).
- Restore** Wetlands to be enhanced for Mitigation Credit.
- Develop** Wetlands to be Developed (possible future disposal sites for dredged or fill material).
- Planned Transportation Corridor
- Utility Corridor

OR 126 Project Area

Source: West Eugene Wetlands Plan, May 2004



WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PLAN REVISION

Discussions underway to revise the West Eugene Wetlands Plan

- Type IV land use action – refinement plan amendment.
- Joint action by City of Eugene and Lane County to amend Plan.
- Two coordination meetings held with staff from ODOT, City and County to discuss process, roles and timing.
- Options for applicant and timing.

WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PLAN REVISION – APPLICANT

Applicant	Potential Benefits	Potential Drawbacks
City and County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates local agency support.• Allows local agencies to make other needed changes to the plan.• Separates the OR 126 project planning efforts from the local agency's need to align their planning documents.• Reduces ODOT's cost and staff time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timeline unknown.• Larger scope could increase the time required and/or the risk the process could stall.
ODOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear and defined procedures and timeline to process the application (Minimum six months from time application is deemed complete).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ODOT responsible for cost and staff time to prepare and support applications through the process.• Application focused on OR 126 project may draw additional attention.

WEST EUGENE WETLANDS PLAN REVISION – TIMING

Timing	Potential Benefits	Potential Drawbacks
Near-term (3-6 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains momentum while project constituents are engaged and informed. • Demonstrates ongoing and incremental progress to the public, state and federal officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for controversy during land use process could jeopardize NEPA certification. • May trigger adjustments to project scope, design and environmental documentation, leading to delay and need for additional resources.
Delay (until NEPA cert. and/or funding secured)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separates NEPA process from local land use approvals. • Delays potential for controversy to a later date when agency is prepared to take the risk and expend the effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of momentum could reduce advocate pool engaged and ready to testify in support. • Potential for controversy remains and could delay project implementation if land use process delayed until funding is secured. • Delay may not serve any benefit, increasing delay with the result being a similar outcome.



DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



Preliminary







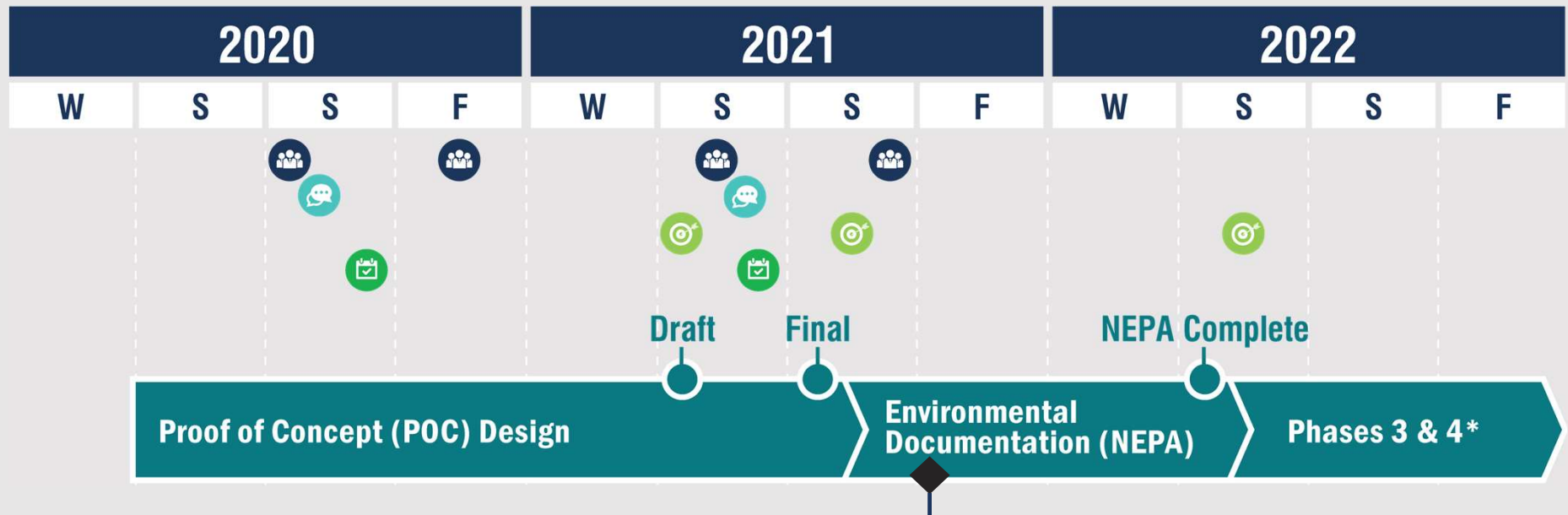
Phase	Phase Name	Phase Description	Length (miles)	Cost (\$M) 2027 Dollars
1	Green Hill	Widen OR126 within City of Eugene from Terry Street to and including Green Hill Road intersection. Extend improvements 0.1 miles west of Green Hill Road.	1.1	\$24.8 to \$34.7
2	CBR Overcrossing	Widen OR126 from west end of Phase 1 to 0.3 miles west of Coos Bay Rail Line (CBR) overcrossing. Construct a new westbound bridge over CBR.	1.0	\$28.1 to \$39.4
3	Fisher Road	Widen OR126 from west end of Phase 2 to 0.1 miles west of Fisher Butte Parking Lot, including intersection upgrades at Fisher Road.	1.5	\$20.7 to \$29.0
4	Fern Ridge Reservoir	Widen OR126 from west end of Phase 3 to and including Ellmaker Road intersection. This phase includes intersection upgrades at Central Road, several bridge replacements and highway widening into the reservoir.	3.0	\$161.0 to \$225.4
5	Huston Road	Widen OR126 from west end of Phase 4 to the project's west terminus, including intersection upgrades at Huston Road.	0.5	\$13.3 to \$18.6
Total Cost:				\$247.9 to \$347.1



PROJECT SCHEDULE

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 Steering Committee Meeting
  Open House
  Constituent Outreach
  Project Milestone



We are here

*Preliminary/final design and construction phases depend on funding

NEXT STEPS

Spring/Summer 2022

- Complete NEPA.



THANK YOU!
