

# Harmony Road neighbors asked to plan

**The Oregonian** - September 20, 2007

DENNIS McCARTHY

Residents and businesses in the Harmony Road area will get a chance to help shape future development planning for their area soon.

The first in a series of three meetings will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Oregon Institute of Technology, 7726 S.E. Harmony Road.

It is billed as a visioning workshop to explore the best ways to coordinate three projects in the Harmony Road area with the least amount of disruption for neighbors and businesses in the process.

A second meeting is tentatively set for Nov. 13, and a third will be sometime in January. The time, date and location of those meetings has not been announced.

## **The three projects are:**

- \* Construction of a \$20 million Clackamas Community College health education center along the south side of Harmony Road.
- \* A proposed, privately operated fitness center addition to the North Clackamas Aquatic Park. The North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District also has plans to create a nature park in the Three Creeks area south of the Aquatic Park.
- \* The \$50 million Southeast Harmony Road widening project and construction of a vehicle bridge over the Union Pacific railroad tracks south of where Harmony Road intersects with Linwood and Railroad avenues.

Plans to widen the one-mile stretch of Harmony Road from two to five lanes between Southeast 82nd Avenue and Linwood Avenue have been kicking around for several years.

But last summer, Clackamas County transportation planners received some 40 suggested road alignments from residents and businesses attending a series of project scoping sessions.

Several attendees suggested extending Southeast Sunnybrook Boulevard west of Southeast 82nd Avenue --a move that could affect the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District's plans.

Ron Weinman, county transportation planner, said the county's project advisory committee hopes to narrow the alternatives to about 10 by the end of September and to whittle that number to three to five choices by the end of the year so the

county can proceed with an environmental impact study of the project early next year.

Weinman said the environmental study could take as long as 18 months to complete and construction could begin within the next three to five years.

Kandi Ho, Aquatic Park supervisor, said there's been virtually no discussion on the proposed fitness center since last summer, when the county commissioners authorized Eastside Athletic Club to go ahead with a proposal to operate a full-service facility.

"But nothing has moved forward (since then)," Ho said. "We don't have enough parking to handle the extra facility." She said the parks district hopes the Harmony Road visioning process will help resolve issues about how the area develops, access to future facilities and parking.

This spring, the college broke ground on its three-story urban nursing and allied health building along the south side of Harmony Road. The new building, which will contain 47,000 square feet of classroom and laboratory space, will be equipped with the latest in medical technology to train students for nursing and health care specialty positions.

But Shelly Parini, Clackamas Community College dean of college advancement, said the college needs to coordinate its project with those of its many partners in the Harmony Road area.

"We have the community to help us do visioning for the area," she said. "We are asking them to (help) create a unified vision and master plan for the Harmony (Road) area."

Dennis McCarthy: 503-294-5914;  
dennismccarthy@news.oregonian.com

**Edition:** Sunrise

**Section:** Metro South Neighbors

**Page:** 08

**Record Number:** MERLIN\_10551980

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