



**Staff Report**

For City Council Meeting - 2/1/2023

***Subject - New Business - ODOT - Letter of Support***

**Synopsis:** ODOT Project Manager Ken Shonkwiler presented the final draft of the Gearhart 101 Facility Plan to the Council at the regular September meeting. It was mentioned that Council would later be approached for a letter in support of the project. Attached is the letter staff has prepared for discussion. With a consensus from Council, the Mayor will sign the letter and staff will send it off.

**Recommendation:** N/A

**Legal Analysis:** N/A

**Financial Analysis:** N/A

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Chad", written over a horizontal line.

Chad



February 1, 2023

Ken Shonkwiler  
Senior Transportation Project Manager  
ODOT - Northwest Area  
350 W Marine Dr  
Astoria, OR 97103

RE: US Hwy 101 Gearhart Facility Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Gearhart has been working with our Northwest area ODOT representatives and respective cities and counties to complete the US Hwy 101 Gearhart Facility Plan in Gearhart, Clatsop County, Oregon. This project will address many of the safety concerns and lifestyles of our residents, in addition to meeting specifically stated goals within the City's Transportation Plan.

This multi-agency project proposes improvements to make U.S. 101 a safe and accessible facility through Gearhart. The 2017 Gearhart Transportation System Plan (TSP) identified transportation issues on U.S. 101 including safety for all users, especially related to speeding drivers, difficulty making left turns, and a lack of places for people to comfortably walk and bike. This Facility Plan builds upon the work done for the TSP, as well as other plans, by identifying the needs of U.S. 101 through Gearhart and developing solution investments for a 20-year planning horizon (2040). These investments were conceived and refined through a multi-step process over the course of 18 months.

The coordinated development of this plan, and the investments within it, were done through a multi-step process that was documented in reports and memoranda (Table 3-1 of the plan). These documents were provided in draft form to the SAC and TAC for review, and their feedback informed the final versions. This Facility Plan is the culmination of the progression of these documents through the project. Investments included in this Facility Plan began as concepts from the Gearhart TSP and stakeholder discussions. They were developed to realize the vision and goals established for the corridor and were shaped by feedback from ODOT, the City of Gearhart, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the public. The investments in this plan have been developed to comply with the

ODOT Highway Design Manual (HDM) and to fit the urban contexts as defined in the BUD (Blueprint for Urban Design). Land use along the corridor was closely considered to find appropriate improvements that serve existing and anticipated future needs.

Project investments could be implemented all at once or piecemeal depending on available opportunities. Investments may be implemented as a complete package through the Statewide Transportation Improvements Program or other state funding. Investments could also be implemented as a collection of smaller projects with state or local funding. Elements could be implemented with new private development, e.g., adding a sidewalk as part of frontage improvements required of new development. Timeline estimates take into account the project benefits, the amount of resources and planning required to implement, and whether other projects must be implemented first. Item cost estimation has been designated as near (less than 5 years) or long (more than 5 years).

The City of Gearhart, ODOT, neighboring municipalities, and resident-inclusive Facility Work Group involved have been excellent partners in this project and have coordinated design plans for the proposed improvements.

The City of Gearhart acknowledges the benefit of the plan's goals:

1. Ensure that the U.S. 101 corridor is safe and comfortable for everyone using the highway, including drivers, freight, and people who walk, cycle, use mobility devices, or take transit.
2. Design, operate, and maintain the U.S. 101 corridor to align highway function with the evolving character of the surrounding community.
3. Address stormwater and flooding issues in the corridor that create hazards for all users.
4. Balance corridor travel needs so people and goods can affordably, reliably, and efficiently reach their destinations across all modes of travel.
5. Ensure that the U.S. 101 corridor is convenient and accessible and connects people to destinations throughout the city and beyond.
6. Reduce transportation-related disparities and barriers along the U.S. 101 corridor.
7. Protect the natural, cultural, and built environments with context-sensitive design solutions.

Additionally, ODOT states: *We're committed to developing a modern, reliable transportation system that serves all Oregonians. We're building a system that seamlessly supports daily life and a strong, diverse economy. Oregon's future transportation system will be efficient, innovative and technologically advanced.*

This adoption would make the necessary improvements within the project complete while addressing both local and statewide goals. As Mayor of Gearhart, myself and the City Council support the project.

Thank you for continuing to better the livability of Oregonians and our residents.

Kerry Smith  
Mayor, City of Gearhart