

Blanton Street Community Event Meeting Summary

Date: Saturday, January 28th, 2012

Time: 10:00a.m. – 1:00p.m.

Location: International School of Beaverton
School Cafeteria
17770 SW Blanton Street
Aloha, OR 97007



On Saturday, January 28, 2012, residents along Aloha-Reedville’s Blanton Street were encouraged to get a fresh start to the New Year at a community event sponsored by the TV Highway Corridor Project (TVCP) and the Aloha-Reedville Study and Livable Community Plan. The event offered a free document shredding service, a clothing swap and donation to the ARC of Washington County, and a chance to learn about community organizations based in Aloha-Reedville.

This event served several purposes. As the TV Highway Corridor Plan has now entered into the Transportation Solutions Development and Evaluation phase of the project, event participants were encouraged to provide feedback on solutions under consideration. Similarly, as the Aloha-Reedville Study approaches its second phase of the project, the project team gathered feedback on what residents value or would like to change in their community. The decision to locate the event on Blanton St. and focus outreach on Blanton neighborhood residents was a strong consideration for the planning of this event.

Project team members from Oregon Department of Transportation, City of Hillsboro, Washington County, and consultant project team members staffed the event along with several community advisory committee member volunteers from both projects.

Much of the success of this event is due to participation by several community organizations, which provided valuable information on services and activities in the Aloha-Reedville area. The following organizations provided information at this event:

- Aloha Library Association
- Aloha Business Association
- Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District
- Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Tualatin Valley Water District



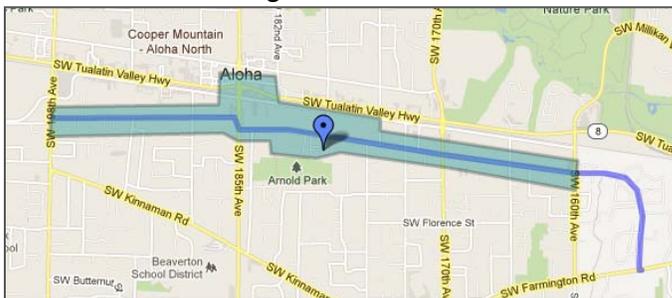
All 70 participants were greeted by project staff outside the entrance of the International School of Beaverton, at the document shredding station and inside the school at an optional sign-in table. At both welcome areas, participants were encouraged to complete a joint-project survey.

With a large population of Spanish-speaking residents living within the Blanton St. neighborhood, TVCP and the Aloha-Reedville Study provided Spanish newsletters and project surveys.

Notification

A total of 480 door hangers with event flyers were handed out to residences located along Blanton St. and Shaw St., between SW 198th and SW 160th. Certain businesses on TV Highway and SW 185th also received event flyers.

Blanton Event Door Hanger Area



Members of the TVCP and Aloha-Reedville Study interested parties lists were also invited to the event through email. Additionally, the event was advertised on the TVCP project website (www.tvhighway.org), as well as on news websites including OregonLive, KGW, and FOX news. Finally, a Facebook event was created on the Central Beaverton Neighborhood page.

Project Information Stations and Materials

Project Stations included the following materials and information:

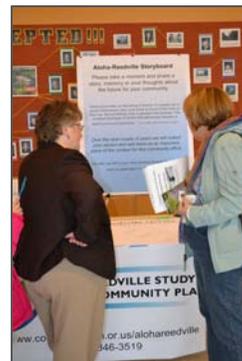
TV Highway Corridor Plan:

- Project area maps – Participants were encouraged to point out potential solution areas
- Large-format map of the TVCP study area
- English and Spanish newsletters



Aloha-Reedville Study and Livability Plan:

- Story Board – Participants were encouraged to share personal stories of the community
- Large-format map of Aloha-Reedville
- A Wordle made up by the most common feedback terms from Aloha-Reedville residents
- An Aloha-Reedville crossword puzzle
- Student drawings from project team education outreach at Aloha High School and Reedville Elementary School



Community Feedback

At least 70 community members participated in the event; completing 42 project surveys (or 60% total participation).

The following are the common themes and comments received by meeting participants:

General Comments

- Please clean up our little town. It needs better road lighting, sidewalks, recreation areas that are open and safe.
- It would be nice to live in a community with pride of ownership. Where the planners listened to the people who actually live in the area.
- Aloha needs to stop pretending that being part of Beaverton or Hillsboro is bad. We need the infrastructure support a city offers.
- Please do what you can to make Kinnaman safer for pedestrians. It's dangerous, dark, no sidewalks with room to walk.
- Washington County response to resident thoughts and ideas is better than 10 years ago, but could be better.
- We have two dogs and our primary concern is being able to walk them on sidewalks during the day and night with safe lighting. 188th near Westford St. is where we are most concerned about.
- My kudos to the committee – so much progress in a short time.
- Thank you for hosting this event and others as it concerns Aloha-Reedville and the TV Highway Corridor. It is my hope that decision-makers act on the ideas and suggestions offered and not just play lip service to them and do what they think is right.
- As a gerontology student, I am learning about the need increasingly for adding a generational cohesion to our communities. Hopefully, to increase the young and elderly together in the same neighborhood. Pedestrian access ways for both bikes and walkers (and wheelchairs), level parks and holding more community-building events, so neighbors can get to know who their neighbors are. This event does that very well!
- Thank you for doing these kind of events, so we learn more about our community.

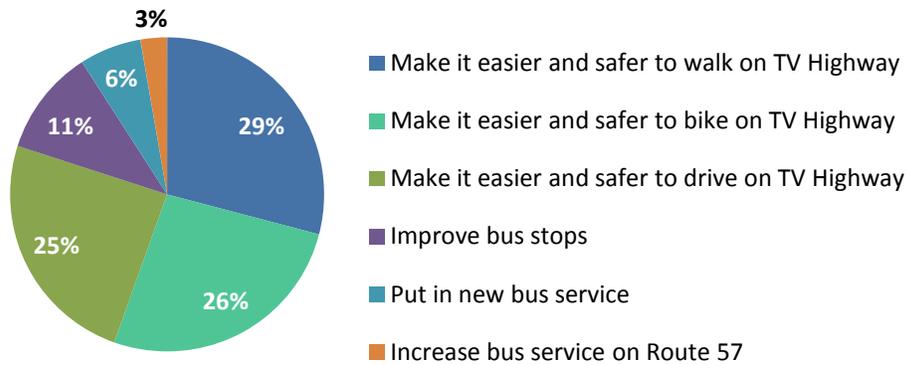
Survey Results

As previously mentioned surveys were distributed at both welcome stations and made available in English and Spanish. The following is a summary of the survey findings by question.

1) Please check the three transportation solutions that would MOST benefit you. (choose three)

Response Summary: Consistent with other TVCP findings, the top three solutions that participants felt would benefit them the most were to make walking (32 responses), biking (29 responses), and driving (27 responses) easier and safer on TV Highway.

Most Beneficial Transportation Solutions



Respondents who chose “put in a new bus service” as a priority provided the following suggestions:

- 185th on Cooper Mountain; south of Farmington
- 170th
- 192nd
- Along Baseline between 185th and Brookwood
- Cornelius Pass

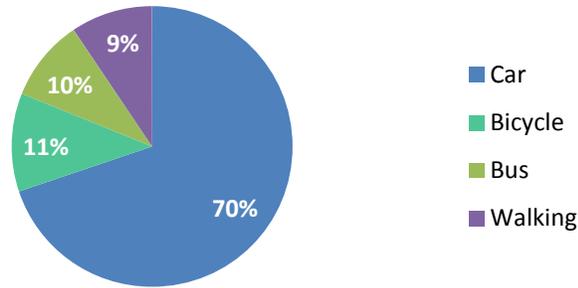
In addition to the multiple choice options listed below, respondents listed the following additional solutions as priorities on within the corridor:

- Improve light timing, widen TV Highway and give it a purpose
- Make consistent speed limit
- More trash receptacles
- Improve sidewalks on Kinnaman and Farmington
- Improve crosswalks across TV Highway
- Improve 209th intersection
- More bus shelters

2) What mode do you use to make MOST of your trips?

Response Summary: The personal automobile (37 responses) was the top choice of transportation for most respondents at the time of the survey, with bicycle (6 responses), bus (5 responses) and walking (5 responses) all being about equal in popularity for transportation for most trips.

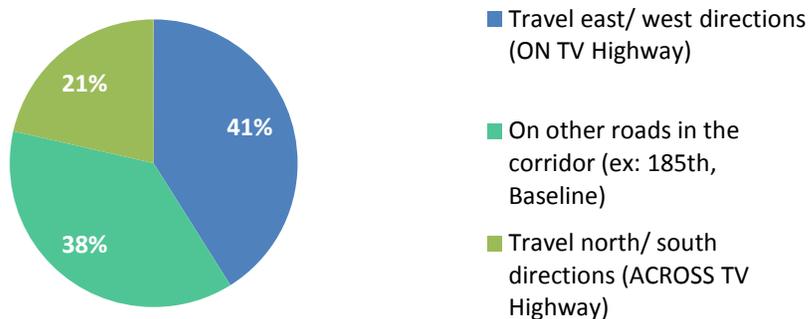
Most Popular Transportation Mode



3) How do you use TV Highway Corridor MOST?

Response Summary: The most common direction of travel within the TV Highway Corridor is east/west on TV Highway (23 responses). Some respondents that travel on other roads in the corridor most added that they most commonly travel on Farmington and SW 170th.

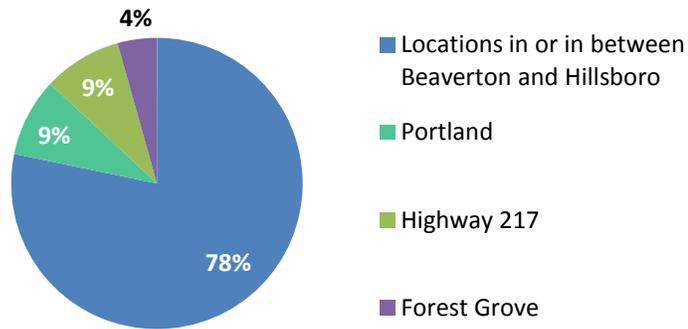
Most Common Use of TV Highway



4) On TV Highway, where do you travel MOST?

Response Summary: Survey participants confirmed that the most common destination for travelers on TV Highway are to local locations between Beaverton and Hillsboro (36 responses), followed by Portland and Highway 217 (4 responses each), and finally Forest Grove (2 responses).

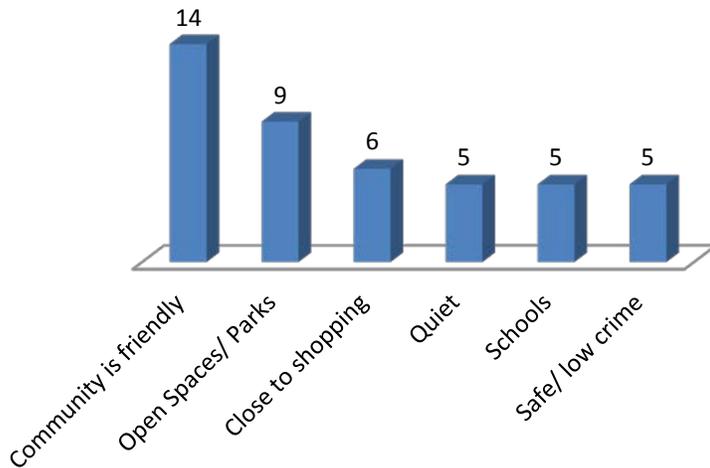
Most Common Destination from TV Highway



5) When you think about the quality of life in the Aloha-Reedville area, what would you say are your top two or three things that are great?

Response Summary: Based on the findings of this survey question, there is a great appreciation by members of the Aloha-Reedville community for the friendliness of their neighbors and community members. The chart below indicates the most popular qualities that make life in Aloha-Reedville great, indicated by response count.

Top Benefits of Living in Aloha-Reedville



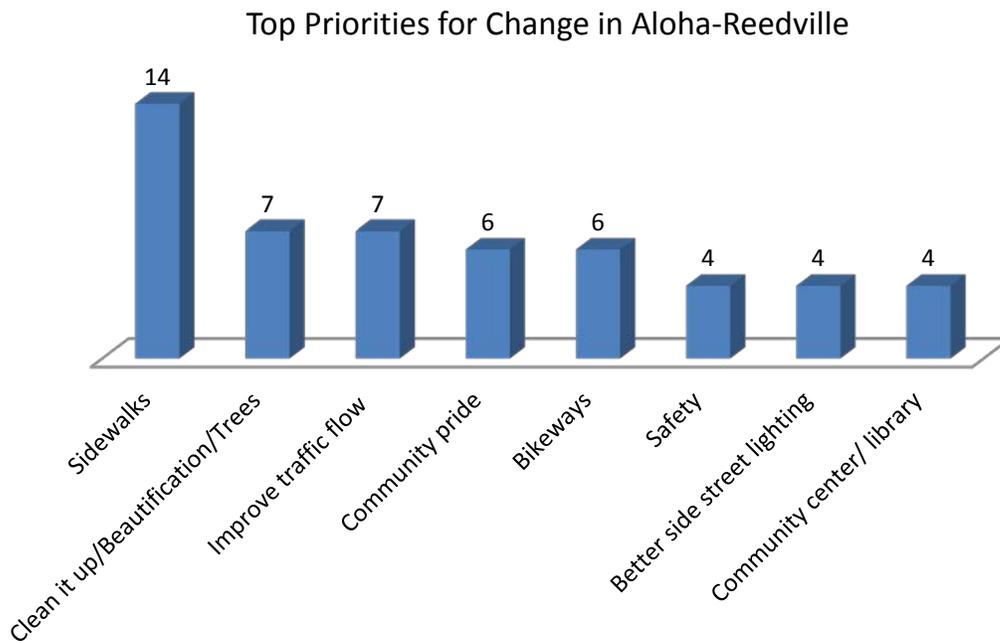
There were also several additional qualities that survey participants indicated contributed to life being great in Aloha-Reedville. Those include:

- Small (2)
- Population diversity (2)
- Close to urban growth boundary (2)
- Walkability (2)
- Close to services (2)
- Close to work (2)

- Community engagement (2)
- Family friendly (2)
- Close to church (1)
- Proximity to Beaverton and Hillsboro (1)
- Bike trail (Power line Trail) (1)
- Community identity (1)
- Maintained neighborhood (aesthetics) (1)
- Affordable housing (1)
- Code enforcement (1)
- Traffic (1)

6) If you could change three things in your community, what would they be?

Response Summary: Similar to other Aloha-Reedville Study and TVCP findings, incomplete sidewalks is the number one issue that residents in Aloha-Reedville would like to change. The chart below indicates respondent’s top priorities to change in Aloha-Reedville, indicated by response count.



The following were additional items that respondents would like to change in the Aloha-Reedville community:

- Pedways on TV Highway (2)
- Farmers Market (2)
- More community events (2)
- Better shopping (1)

- More human services (1)
- Rundown businesses (1)
- More family restaurants (1)
- More jobs (1)
- Keep bikeways off main roads (1)
- Speedbumps (specifically on 188th between Blanton and Kinnaman) (1)
- Railroad tracks need to be cleaned up (1)
- Business incentives (1)
- Park with seating (1)
- Make Aloha it's own city (1)
- More businesses (1)
- Housing along TV Highway (1)
- Senior center (1)
- Make it more multi-modal (1)
- Add welcome wagon (1)
- Old-fashioned downtown (1)
- Code enforcement (1)

7) To the extent that Aloha-Reedville area has- or should have – a gathering place, or a single Community center, where would that gathering place or central location be?

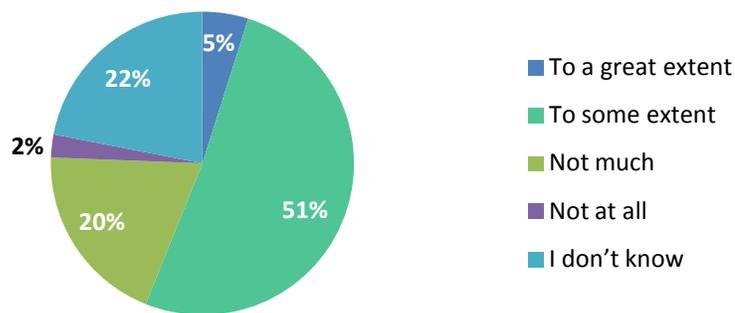
Response Summary: The most common response by survey participants for a future location of community gathering place or central location is the area of 185th and TV Highway. The following are the additional suggested locations for such a space.

- In the area of 185th and TV Highway (8)
- Aloha High School or Bale's area (3)
- Unsure (3)
- Interested, but no location suggestion (3)
- Mountain View (2)
- In Aloha, how about the old mall that had the Sunshine Pizza Place inside. That all needs to be opened up and renewed (2)
- There isn't one (1)
- Farmington and Kinnaman (1)
- TV Rec center: 158th and Walker Rd (1)
- A nice centrally located park with a fountain, playground, space for a farmer's market, and library
- 18th and Baseline (next to MAX stop) (1)
- Farmington Shopping Center (1)
- 170th - 180th (1)
- International School Beaverton (1)

8) To what extent do you believe Washington County listens to the thoughts and ideas of area residents like you?

Response Summary: More half of survey participants feel that Washington County listens to the thoughts and ideas of its residents “to a great extent” or “to some extent.” Many also responded that they didn’t know. In fact, one respondent provided the comment, “I hope so.”

Perceived Resident Influence on Washington County Decisions



Participant Demographics

The event was participated by a wide range of people from Aloha-Reedville. While the average age of survey participants was 57 years old, there were several young families and active seniors who attended the event.

On average, more women (58%) completed the survey, compared to men (42%), and few people described themselves as having a disability (8%). While most participants consider their ethnicity white (92%), 8% of event participants identify as Latino/Hispanic.

Finally, 8% of participants completed project surveys in Spanish and most commonly speak Spanish at home, 3% of participants most commonly speak German at home, and 89% of participants most commonly speak English at home.