



# CTUIR TSP

## WINTER 2023 OUTREACH SUMMARY

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Project #: 23021.046

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**Project:** Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation Transportation System Plan Update

**Subject:** Winter 2023 Outreach Summary

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## INTRODUCTION

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) staff completed a third round of outreach efforts to guide the development of the CTUIR Transportation System Plan (TSP) Update. These efforts included gaining feedback from an online open house, stakeholder groups, and established committees. The groups and committees engaged in this round of outreach included:

### Winter 2023 Outreach

*CTUIR staff participated in meeting for 10 stakeholder groups and established committees to verify community support of the Draft TSP, in addition to continuing to hear from members of the public through the project website and emails/phone calls.*



- Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Capital Improvements Committee
- Health Commission
- General Council
- Economic & Community Development Committee
- Elders Committee
- Youth Council
- Land Acquisition Committee
- Tribal Staff Review Committee
- Land Protection & Planning Commission

This memorandum summarizes the feedback received from these events as of March 28, 2023. Based on the feedback, the following major edits occurred to the Draft TSP:

- Updated vision statement to better capture the range of users of the transportation system.
- Changed project priorities to better align with community vision.
- Added and/or modified policies based on committee/commission feedback.
- Added discussion of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.
- Provided further information about how the TSP will be reviewed and updated.
- Updated projects where drainage needs to be considered.
- Added information about the bridges within the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- Added a new bridge project for Iskulpa Creek Bridge.
- Added a new pedestrian project for Riverside Avenue and added language to other projects to consider tying future pedestrian connections to that area.
- Added a new speed study project on Short Mile Road.

## FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

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CTUIR staff attended the February 14, 2023, commission meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP. Seven commission members were present.

Comments included:

- Would like to see a Highway 331 road camera, like the ones on I-84 and Tollgate that show road conditions in winter.
- Fixing Emigrant doesn't seem like a high priority – the current conditions keep the traffic low. Some questions about whether repairing Emigrant would lead to the removal or reduction in use of the gate, or increasing the likelihood that road will be used as a detour when I-84 is closed. (keep this “medium priority”).
- Add wildlife crossings planning as a policy – it would be useful to have large culverts for small animals than to have overpasses.
- Expressed concern about the use of the phrase “people who [...] recreate on the reservation”.
- Add a turn lane at Timine Way.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

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CTUIR staff attended the February 14, 2023, committee meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP. Five committee members were present.

Comments/actions included:

- Add to rail policies: coordinate with regional agencies on potential restoration of passenger rail service between PDX and Boise.
- Voted to support the plan.

## HEALTH COMMISSION

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CTUIR staff virtually attended the February 14, 2023, commission meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP. Approximately 10 commission members were present.

Comments included:

- Expressed gratitude at the extent and genuine responsiveness of the community engagement.
- Adjust the Sumac Road pavement, in response to the community concern about additional traffic – part of the pavement project was to upgrade the road to reduce the hazards of the grade washing out. Perhaps this can be addressed by better drainage around the road, rather than by paving.
- Strongly supportive of pedestrian facilities, especially P08. Will need to work with UPRR for route maintenance.
- Concerns about goatheads. Make a specific maintenance plan, since goathead spraying timing is different than for other noxious weeds.
- B03, not specifically supportive of a bicycle lane, but generally supportive of widening the road for safety.
- Made a motion to support the plan.

## GENERAL COUNCIL

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CTUIR staff attended the February 16, 2023 meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP. There were 16 people in attendance and an unknown number joining virtually.

Comments included:

- In the vision statement, we may want to expand the scope of the phrasing from “people who [...] recreate on the reservation” to “people who [...] visit and recreate” on the reservation. We get plenty of short-term visitors (i.e. at Tamastlikt, Arrowhead) who may not recreate but still benefit from these improvements.
- Safety is a high priority with new trails. It’s important to give community members access, but we also want to make sure people are safe when using trails.

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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CTUIR staff attended the February 21, 2023, committee meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP.

Comments included:

- Concerns about speeding and nearby residents/kids safety on Short Mile.
- Proposed a bicycle registration fee for bicyclists using reservation roads. Assert tribal sovereignty.



- Asked about proposed improvements on Umatilla County roads in regards to tribal sovereignty and honoring treaty rights.

## ELDERS COMMITTEE

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CTUIR staff attended the March 3, 2023, commission meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP.

Comments included:

- South reservation roads have begun regularly flooding when it rains. Tutuilla and Motanic roads were identified.
- South reservation is starting to get hit hard with yellow star thistle (which is toxic to horses). The problem exploded last time Umatilla County graded the gravel roads – Conner, Motanic, Best.
- Proposed an alternative trail route – across the “backages” of the Mission area, e.g. to go by the old cemetery, Bus Barn and across Gopher Flats.
- Proposed a program to help elders w/ private road/driveway repair.
- Asked for taxi tickets to come back.

## YOUTH COUNCIL

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CTUIR staff attended the March 5, 2023, commission meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP. The Youth Council members did not have any new comments share after the previous outreach events with the committee for the TSP update.

## LAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

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CTUIR staff attended the March 7, 2023, commission meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP.

Comments included:

- Can we get a “No Air Braking” sign on Highway 331 near the RR crossing? Seen these signs in Washington. It’s flat so it’s not necessary, but trucks do it anyway, very noisy.
- McKay Creek Rd. has flooding issues, especially at the forks.
- Concerned about paving and maintenance of Sumac – wouldn’t that make the drainage and ice issues worse?
- What about the cost of maintenance?
- Could this plan include private driveway maintenance help? Especially for tribal elders.
- One Mission Road property owner (present at this meeting) reiterated that they are in favor of the trail crossing their property (P06).

## ONLINE INPUT

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Members of the public were encouraged to provide input via an interactive map on the project website (<https://www.ctuir.org/departments/tribal-planning-office/transportation-system-plan-update-2022/>).

- B01 Mission Road Bicycle Improvements: This is needed from B01 to P23, the last housing project entrance. this is where kids walk/bike/skateboard to and from school, as well as all the other amenities in the community. there are low-hanging trees also that need cleared...as big gravel trucks haul butt through

there. Also, even with bike lanes now, they are hardly ever swept. gravel and debris on both sides. hard for strollers and walkers.

- B02 Kirkpatrick Bikeway Improvements: Not enough foot or bike traffic on this stretch - low priority. the highest amount of traffic is on mission road, which is THE main artery of the community.
- B03 Cayuse Road Bikeway Improvements: Very little to no foot or bike traffic. gravel, for vehicles. sufficient as is.
- B04 Confederated Way Shared Roadway Improvements: Traffic is slow here, and a curb exists. roads are narrow, and also flood yearly.
- B05 Whirlwind Drive Shared Roadway Improvements: Sidewalks exist. many on-street parking of cars on both sides.
- B06 Cedar Street Shared Roadway Improvements: Sidewalks exist, plus speed in 20-25 mph.

## PUBLIC FEEDBACK

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Throughout the first few months of 2023, CTUIR staff fielded emails, phone calls, and in-person comments from some members of the public.

Comments included:

- Concerned that don't see anything about Riverside in the plan, except the Kayak service proposal. It's a densely populated area with a lot of needs for improved transportation. More tribal member families, especially with young kids, have been moving to this area in recent years.
- New pedestrian project: need a sidewalk on Riverside Ave. Could be a one-side sidewalk. Include lighting.
- Add language to the P07 project: "explore trail alignment potential in the Riverside neighborhood."
- Traffic calming in the Riverside neighborhood – people drive too fast, and poor infrastructure means there are many visibility issues for bicycles/pedestrians/kids.
- Riverside residents on the reservation pay the city of Pendleton a road utility fee, but these roads do not appear to be maintained by the city. Riverside is owned by Umatilla County, and NE Queen and cross-streets on the reservation are owned by CTUIR. Some concern about the basis of this fee and how they can levy a fee on the reservation. May warrant some further research.
- Concerns about maintenance and repair on roads important to the community regardless of road ownership – however they specifically noted poor maintenance on a list of county roads: Mission, Bingham, Cayuse, Pambrun, North Cayuse, Rothrock, Mann, Homly, Johnley, Duff, Tubbs, North McKay, Sumac, Kirkpatrick, South Market Road, Best, Lloyd, Tutuila.
- High priority for flood-impacted roads - Mission highway by old CTUIR campus, Cayuse Road, Motanic, North Mc Kay Creek, etc.
- Highway 331 - past Kirkpatrick Road heading to Highway 11—how many wrecks do have witness before this repaired.
- Seasonal road closures, trail roads, and particularly Buckaroo Creek Road (private trail) washed out.
- ROW issues are a nightmare all across CTUIR. Need a plan of how to fix it.
- Bridges – what are the status of bridges?

## TRIBAL STAFF REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Prior to the LPPC Public Hearing, the project must go through the Tribal Staff Review Committee. CTUIR staff working on the project attended the February 16, 2023. Five commission members were present.

Comments included:

- Why doesn't this plan address culverts? Discussion determined that culvert management is under the purview of the Hazard Mitigation plan/planner.
- Asked whether bridges were considered in this plan.
- Trail roads – some confusion has arisen in the past about what our policies are or should be with regards to informal trails, used by hunters and gatherers, or used for the purposes of timber harvests (and our expectations about what happens to the road when the timber harvest is over). These tend to naturally multiply, as when trails get muddy or washed out people just drive around them and potentially damage valuable harvest areas or wildlife habitat. And if people see jeep trails in wooded areas, they may assume they're allowed to drive on them.
  - Proposed roadway policy language: "Coordinate with the Range, Agriculture & Forestry program and other stakeholders to prepare an Upland Access Management Plan to determine a management approach for seasonal road closures, temporary timber harvest roads, and other publicly-used informal trails."

## LAND PROTECTION & PLANNING COMMISSION

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CTUIR staff attended the March 14, 2023, commission meeting to gather feedback on the Draft TSP. The Land Protection & Planning Commission recommended approval of the TSP with some changes, including those the project team already outlined for the Bridge section, and a couple more that came in through public testimony. Here are those new changes:

- Increase the priority of project P24 to High
- Add this text to the plan, likely in the "TSP Update Process" section of the Introduction chapter, page 16:
  - "Future 5-year updates of this plan should include a list of project revisions, noting which projects have been completed and which have been removed due to changing community priorities."