

## Staley's Junction Inter [changes] Project

By Jill Hult

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has, over the past couple of years, been developing a change to the intersection of Highway 47 and US Highway 26-- also known as Staley's Junction. The project was initiated in an effort to address existing and future safety issues.

ODOT, in a partnership with Washington County and Oregon State Parks, are working to develop a new grade-separated interchange to safely facilitate turning movements at Staley's Junction accommodating current and projected increased traffic flows, both turning eastbound onto Highway 26 from Highway 47, as well as northbound traffic turning onto Highway 47 to L.L. Stub Stewart State Park and Vernonia.

The interchange improvements are planned in three separate phased projects beginning with the construction of an overpass from Highway 47 to Highway 26 and are currently in the review process with no expected construction start date.

According to Lou Torres, ODOT Public Information Officer, they are planning two smaller projects that will address safety issues

for the more immediate future.

The first project consists of installing four variable speed signs and some detection devices that will regulate the speed in that intersection. The detectors will determine when traffic is heavy and the variable speed signs will then lower the speed limit for eastbound traffic on Highway 26, making it easier for vehicles on Highway 47 to merge onto Highway 26 eastbound. ODOT stated there will be minimal disruption of traffic for the installation of the signs and detectors, since they are not being installed in any traffic lanes. Construction is scheduled to begin in March, 2010, and should be completed by September 1, 2010.

The second smaller project consists of re-stripping Highway 26, allowing left turns from Highway 47 into the center median where vehicles can then wait for a gap in eastbound Highway 26 traffic and merge in. ODOT is currently conducting a feasibility study to determine the safety aspects of this type of operation; therefore, there is no construction time frame set for this second project.

When asked about the expected time frame for the original overpass proposal, Lou Torres responded, "We should know more about this within the next year."

## Columbia Community Mental Health Implementation Plan

Columbia County has announced they will be holding a community meeting. This is a unique opportunity for the community, to meet and talk about the alcohol and drug and mental health needs of our children, youth, adults and families. Information from this meeting will be used to guide Columbia Community Mental Health's Implementation Plan for the two years.

The meeting will be held on January 14, 2010 from 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM at the Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH) building at 58646 McNulty Way in St. Helens.

After a brief overview, attendees will choose one of the following breakout groups. Each group will review strengths, weaknesses and list priorities for funding and activities.

1. Children's Mental Health
2. Adult Mental Health
3. Alcohol and Drug Services

The breakout groups will share their findings and choose priorities for Children's Mental Health, Adult Mental Health, and the Alcohol and Drug program. These findings will also be used in the development of the County's Juvenile Crime Prevention and Community Comprehensive Plan.

The planning session will begin promptly at 4:00 PM and end promptly at 6:00 PM. Questions? Please call Jan Spika Kenna at 503.397.7225 or email at Jan.Kennaj@co.columbia.or.us.

## Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Training

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Into Action is a three-day training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and will be facilitated by Diane V. Malbin, MSW. The training will take place February 25-27, 2010 from 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM and is intended for parents and professionals who live and/or work with children, adolescents, or adults with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders the training will be held at the Mark Spencer Hotel in Portland, Oregon and the cost is \$325

This session provides information about FASD and the effects of other drugs on behaviors of children, adolescents and adults. FASD is a brain-based condition. The training will educate you on the current status of research for identification and a "best practices" approach to treatment and accommodations. Case examples of successful diagnosis, treatment and accommodation are central to this training.

This is intended for professionals as well as parents of children with confirmed or suspected FASD. Our experience is that the training is enriched by having parents of children with FASD in the same group as professionals.

The Instructor, Diane V. Malbin, MSW, is an internationally recognized authority on FASD. She is the founder of the nonprofit organization, FASCETS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Consultation, Education and Training Services, Inc.). She is the author of numerous papers and publications on FASD,

and conducts trainings throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

Registration is required and seating is limited - please register early. For more information contact: Wendy Temko, Office Administrator, FASCETS, 503-621-1271, wtemko@fascets.org

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