

## Final Meeting Minutes – WSNA – 2018-03-12

(Approved at the 2018-03-19 Meeting)

Jim Allhiser called meeting to order at 7:02pm. 55 members signed the attendance roster, yet more were present.

### **Presentation:**

(This is the text of the Powerpoint Presentation in case you cannot access the presentation)

WSNA Concerns: Salem Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)

West Salem...

You're on Your OWN!

The SEMP is Salem's action plan to mitigate for, respond to and recover from a disaster...

The objective of the SEMP is to provide effective emergency management capabilities within the City to:

minimize loss of life

preserve property

protect the environment

SEMP includes the National Preparedness Goals:

Mitigating loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters

Responding quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident

The SEMP is supposed to protect...

Critical Infrastructure that supports the delivery of critical and essential services. Damage to this infrastructure could significantly disrupt those activities, produce cascading effects, and result in large-scale human suffering, property destruction, economic loss, and damage to public confidence and morale. Key facilities that should be considered in infrastructure protection planning include:

Public and private utilities and infrastructure that are vital to maintaining or restoring normal services to areas damaged by hazard events.

According to 2012 Seismic Lifelines report, Center and Marion Street bridges are Critical Infrastructure

Our bridges won't be there when we need them...

"After Cascadia, ALL of the bridges will be gone. There won't be any help for West Salem for at least 14 days...and probably much longer!" – Roger Stevenson, Emergency Manager, City of Salem (WSNA Meeting 2/19/2018)

2012 ODOT Report – Seismic Lifelines Evaluation

Center and Marion Street bridges identified as our Seismic Lifeline

Neither bridge is expected to survive Cascadia earthquake

2012 City of Salem Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Salem bridges are HIGHLY vulnerable to earthquakes

2017 ODOT Bridge Condition Report

Center Street bridge – “Functionally Obsolete”

Marion Street bridge – “Structurally Deficient”

We know what’s coming...

2012 City of Salem Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Likelihood of major earthquake – HIGH within 10 – 35 years

50 – 75% of population expected to be displaced from homes

Emphasized – “physical infrastructure are critical during a disaster and are essential for proper functioning and response. The lack or poor condition of infrastructure can negatively affect a community’s ability to cope, respond and recover from a natural disaster.” (4-29)

“Considering, Salem is the State Capital and the second largest city in Oregon, it is critical to maintain the quality of built capacity (transportation networks, critical facilities, utility transmission, etc.) throughout the area, as it is likely that surrounding jurisdictions will seek assistance from Salem.” (4-29)

Capital Manor 2018                      2019?

Brush College Elementary 2018                      2019?

Some perspective from City Council

Councilors Opinions ([Youtube Video - https://youtu.be/CJHFR1caVIU](https://youtu.be/CJHFR1caVIU))

The facts are clear...

Cascadia is overdue

The bridges will fail

West Salem will be cut off from critical services:

Salem Hospital Trauma Center      Police      Water      Equipment to dig out survivors      Public health – body disposal

Salem needs a real plan... time is running out

In the urgent interest of public health and safety,

WSNA respectfully requests Salem City Council to:

Move rapidly to build the new bridge

Allocate funding in the 2018 budget to provide essential services in West Salem as enumerated in our letter submitted to the City Manager

Amend the SEMP in collaboration with federal, state and county stakeholders to accurately reflect known risks

Work with WSNA to devise effective plans to mitigate these risks, and make response and recovery possible after a Cascadia event

---End Presentation---

**Discussion:**

Neighbor: The presentation is good, but drawing the conclusion that the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge is the answer doesn’t seem to be right. Retrofitting the existing bridge seems like it would be a better choice.

Craig: The information from ODOT seems to be contradictory, from an engineering standpoint, that the money provided in the budget for retrofitting is sufficient.

Neighbor: 60 million allocated for retrofit, in the budget. I suggest a floating bridge to deploy in emergency, such as plans in Portland have.

Herb Shaw:

*There has been concern for the Center Street and Marion Street Bridges relative to the projected Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, and it is imperative the City is prepared for this and any other potentially disruptive hazard by providing supplies, materials, equipment and facilities in West Salem. Preparedness is a topic that should stand on its own merit, and I trust there are not ulterior motives to promote the proposed ill-conceived Salem Alternative Third Bridge project.*

*It's also wise to ensure that everything used to promote an emergency response is factual and representative of the seismic issues facing us. Doom-and-gloom reports concerning seismic vulnerability of the existing river bridges are unfortunate and seriously misleading. It is a false narrative to suggest the Marion Street Bridge has a Condition Rating of "1", and the Center Street Bridge a Condition Rating of "2":*

- *Condition Rating "2" identifies a "critical" condition whereby the bridge is inadequate to support any traffic and must be closed, or immediately temporarily-shored and repaired.*
- *Condition Rating "1" identifies a "critical" condition whereby the bridge is closed to all traffic and could be rehabilitated and reopened.*
- *Condition Rating "0" identifies a bridge that is closed and beyond repair.*

*You should note that neither bridge is or has been rated a "poor" condition, and neither bridge is in a condition resulting in absolute collapse in the event of an earthquake. Furthermore, condition ratings only address current conditions and do not address nor rate seismic vulnerability issues.*

*Admittedly, further confusion to the situation has been fueled by two reports issued by ODOT (3/1/2016 and 7/25/2017) stating the Marion Street Bridge had "limited" updates in the early 1980's, and is in "poor condition"; these reports do not reflect conditions found in ODOT records for this bridge. What the record does show is the bridge was constructed originally in 1953, but received major widening and rehabilitation in the early 1980's and has continually been maintained to Condition Ratings of 6's and 5's.*

- *Condition Rating 6 is a Satisfactory condition where the structural elements are sound with minor deterioration of non-critical elements.*
- *Condition Rating of 5 is a Fair condition where all primary structural elements are sound but may have minor section loss or deterioration in non-critical areas.*
- *These are not ratings of concern as the majority of older bridges in the country fit into these two categories and are functioning satisfactorily.*

Steve Evans is recognized and yields time to Herb Shaw

*It has been said that Marion Street Bridge cannot be seismically retrofitted, and this has merited reasonable concern because the main waterline for West Salem is located on this bridge. Presently this statement is correct, but I've been told ODOT engineers are looking into options that might in fact achieve the necessary seismic repairs. Furthermore, that waterline is not the only source of water for West Salem.*

*Center Street Bridge is the site for the original river crossing, was replaced in 1953 and received major rehabilitation and widening in the early 1980's, including new piers in the channel. This too has been maintained to Condition Ratings of 6's and 5's. The Center Street Bridge is currently on the ODOT STIP, is funded by the HB2017 Transportation Funding bill, and will receive seismic upgrades in the near future.*

*The current two bridges were included in the 2009 seismic vulnerability study of Oregon bridges titled "Mitigation Strategies to Reduce Major Mobility Risks." This study rated every bridge in the state and determined which are and which are not vulnerable to seismic damage. Four categories were established to target retrofit needs: Phase 1 being the most vulnerable, to Phase 4 being the least vulnerable, but vulnerable to some degree, none-the-less. Center Street and Marion Street Bridges were placed in Phase 4 vulnerability status. This is in part the result of AASHTO Design Codes implemented from 1975 to 1990 requiring the design for seismic forces equal 8% to 12% of the structure's weight, resulting in a moderate structure collapse potential. Both bridges received major structural upgrades in the early 1980's and as is, are considered a Slight Collapse Risk in the event of a Magnitude 8.3 Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake in the northern region off the Oregon Coast. In addition, both bridges are considered a Moderate Collapse Risk in the event of a Magnitude 9 CSZ earthquake.*

Neighbor: Visting w/ governor of Canterbury – bridge built to seismic condition was shaken down. 3 greatest needs – medical, water, transportation. Largest concern should be to stage more resources on this side. Water, and food. Police and Fire people won't be the problem.

Steve Evans: We need those counselor's votes, not their animosity. That was disrespectful to quote them out of context.

Ms. Ventura: CERT certified resident – can you discuss how CERT factors into the discussion?

Bob Elliott: We should be positive and work together.

Neighbor: Cascadia event is real, but is impossible to predict. The urgency within the next few years may be overblown. What is the explanation of how you could fund a \$500 million bridge? Asserts federal funding is nil, and that state's transportation commitments are not a new bridge. Has the current SEMP been approved by officials? What are the specific concerns from within the plan that we would like to address?

Jim Allhiser: I believe it is the city's plan to revise SEMP every 5 years. WSNA wants to work together on that.

Jan Margosian: Asserts that union street rail bridge would survive, and that emergency vehicles could use it. Why wouldn't we work on getting our other fire station open?

Fire Chief Niblock: FEMA has vetted our SEMP. They are well vetted plans. They just updated the natural hazards mitigation plan, this January. This addresses all of the bridges (60+ over mill creek, pringle, others). An open station would add 3 more stations on duty at all times. We have many firefighters and we have equipment we can put them on to press them into service. Our response will be delayed. We must first stand up hospital and other critical services.

Paula Fordham: Traffic congestion issue doesn't go away by retrofitting.

Steven Anderson: I think Mike and Craig raised some good issues; such as staging equipment, water, and food supply. Commitment from ODOT to upgrade the center street bridge. After the feasibility study. I think we do have some good questions to ask the city.

Craig: The WSNA is on the record that it supports the 3<sup>rd</sup> bridge. That's not our issue tonight.

Greg Walsh: new emergency manager / Chief Niblock – thank you for being here. IF the bridges are down, how and where are people going to be transported? Dallas is not a Trauma center.

Jim Elliott: The river will not be passable with chunks of bridge obstructing it

Sarah Duval: I hear a lot of talk about reaching the hospital. How do you know the hospital will be standing? Building A wasn't seismically sound or built to withstand a Cascadia event when I worked there.

Mike Evans: We do need to be self-sufficient. We should each independently have the resources we need for ourselves and our family. There is a reason, however, the bridges are declared as a "seismic lifeline." We can do CERT training, and we will, but the crux of the issue is being able to cross the bridge immediately after a Cascadia event.

Herb Shaw: In 2009, a study to reduce risk bridges were rated and studied to declare which are or are not vulnerable to seismic damage. Ratings were phase 1, most vulnerable to phase 4, least vulnerable. Center and Marion were placed in phase 4 vulnerability standard. This determination was made due to the physical properties of construction.

Question from resident: Herb, do you believe the seismic retrofitting would make the bridges stand/be passable after a Cascadia event?

Herb Shaw: You can't be 100% sure, but the work would bring the bridges up to a standard.

Darrell Hoggenburg: The gentleman you need to be talking to is Albert Nockle (Naugle?) Nacko? – Seismic Standards Engineer for ODOT. He would be the guy who would seismic retrofit any bridge in the state. His seismic engineer will figure out the cost. "bailey bridge" – ODOT owns that structure, it's near I-205. Money is going go to the Columbia river crossing long before anything in Salem.

Evan Sorce: To respond to the 60 million quote – the 60 million figure came from ODOT as a rough estimation, Region 2 website, Oregon 22 / center street bridge – “Final Bridge Type, Size, and final report” – that report will give the total cost, and when it will happen (the seismic retrofit).

Steve Anderson: In terms of a letter to city council from WSNA – Stage Equipment? Upgrade fire stations? A helipad? What about water above/beyond injection wells? What from now/today until the completion of seismic upgrades?

Julie Warnicke - Transportation planning manager City of Salem: Seismic Analysis of Center Street Bridge – project is funded, they are still in the RFP process to get an engineering firm on board. They are hoping the work will be done by the end of this calendar year. Once the report from that is available, the 60 million estimated dollars (it may end up the needs are greater or lesser) – 2025 is the construction date, with design work to happen before that of course.

Mike Jaffe – SKATS: Bruce S. at ODOT bridge section is also who you should talk to. Estimate was \$60 million, very high level, planning level estimate, a few years ago. No one knew where the money was going to come from. In 2017 when the transportation package was developed, we asked for that money. A representative at the legislature was, of course, instrumental in getting that money for the project. I believe they will not close all lanes of a bridge to retrofit it.

Julie Warnicke - We will look at the center street bridge water lines.

**Motion:**

Mike Evans: I move that WSNA leadership present the need to provide emergency mitigation, response, and recovery for West Salem in anticipation of bridge failures resulting from an earthquake or other catastrophic event, as soon as possible, to Salem City Council and request that they:

Allocate funding in the 2018 budget to provide emergency management capacity in West Salem as described in the SEMP including but not limited to:

Access to trauma facility

Public works equipment/personnel

Police

Hazmat response

Coroner

Amend the SEMP in collaboration with federal, state, county, and local stakeholders to include WSNA and accurately reflect known risks including bridge failure.

Work with WSNA to devise effective plans to mitigate these risks, and make response and recovery possible after a Cascadia event.

---end---

Bob Elliott seconds the motion

Friendly amendment from Steve Evans to change the year from 2018 to 2019.

Mike Evans accepts the amendment to the motion.

EM Easterly: Stop a minute and think what was the most recent catastrophic event in our country? Puerto Rico. Electricity will not be around for a period of time. For water, 47% comes across bridges. 53% comes from Keizer, under the river and along the road Riverbend. Electricity to push the water up the hills in West Salem is necessary. The ponds won't last long. We need to come together and strategize. We have a neighbor to the north in McMInville. They have a hospital, and believe they have bridges across the river.

Mike Niblock: Salem Plan is a local plan, which feeds into the county plan, then Federal Plan (FEMA). Friendly Amendment – change federal, state, county, and local to read “WSNA and local stakeholders.”

Mike Evans accepts the amendment to the motion.

Steve Anderson, other neighbors: Helicopter access point / helipad, water supply, construction equipment?

Linda Bierly: Question – was the city staff emergency manager here? Do you think this is necessary? Is it necessary to send this letter?

Chief Niblock: The WSNA can send any letter or make any presentation they would like to send or present. We have helicopter landing sites evaluated in West Salem already.

Herb Shaw: I think it is appropriate that we keep this in the forefront and that we let the city council know that we support them, but be clear about where we stand.

Neighbor: Is there funding in the existing budget to address the bulleted items?

Chief Niblock: I can only answer the bullet of Hazmat. Further elaboration. We used the plan and activated the Emergency Operations Center at the last major flood.

Herb Shaw: How hard would it be to activate and use the empty fire station?

Chief Niblock – It is in the proposed budget, right now, to reactivate that station.

**Restate the motion as amended:**

**I move that the WSNA leadership present the need to provide emergency mitigation, response, and recovery for West Salem in anticipation of bridge failures resulting from an earthquake or other catastrophic event, as soon as possible, to Salem City Council and request that they:**

**Allocate funding in the 2019 budget to provide emergency management capacity in West Salem as described in the SEMP including but not limited to; Access to trauma facility, Public works equipment and personnel, Police, Hazmat response, Coroner, Helipads, Water, Heavy equipment for “digging out.”**

**Amend the SEMP in collaboration with WSNA and local stakeholders to accurately reflect known risks including bridge failure.**

**Work with WSNA to devise effective plans to mitigate these risks, and make response and recovery possible after a Cascadia event.**

**Vote:**

Most of body yea, 5 nay, 1 abstention. Motion passes. Actual count was not performed or requested, although attendance registers show 55 attendees yet secretary notes that some attendees chose not to sign in on the register.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:17