

## **Agenda Item Number 3.B.**

### **West Coast Corridor Coalition Resolution**

**Presenter:** Tom Schwetz

**Action Recommended:** Approve Attached Resolution 2003-04

**Background:**

Attached is a proposed resolution of support for the West Coast Corridor Coalition, which is submitted for review.

Over the past 10 years, the Cascadia Corridor Coalition, extending from Vancouver B.C. to Eugene, has been recognized by the federal government as one of the most successful cross-border cooperative efforts on either U.S. border. In FY02, the U.S. Department of Transportation provided funding to the Cascadia Coalition to explore the potential for extending the corridor coalition south from Eugene to Ensenada, Mexico.

This effort has succeeded in the development of what is now called the West Coast Corridor Coalition. This coalition represents a partnership of civic, economic development and transportation interests along the “system of corridors” running north-south along the west coast from Mexico to Canada. It has worked for the past year and a half to build support for additional federal recognition of, and investment in, the infrastructure that supports trade, travel and tourism.

The freight volumes on the West Coast NAFTA corridor are extraordinarily high and growing. Similarly, the population base of the counties within the corridor has grown by 182 percent over the past fifty years-since construction of I-5. This region is being asked to join with other COGs and MPOs from San Diego to Bellingham in working toward a more robust multi-state system. No financial or staff commitment is anticipated.

A resolution in support of joining the coalition was approved by the MPC at its November meeting.

The Board is asked to consider and adopt Resolution 2003-04, supporting the West Coast Corridor Coalition.