

Lane Council of Governments

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March 5, 2004

To: Lane County Board of Commissioners

From: Lane Economic Committee

Subject: Lane County 06-09 STIP Priorities

The Lane Economic Committee has reviewed the Lane County 06-09 STIP Priority List. A modern, well functioning surface transportation system is a key determinant in the health and growth of the County's economy. We have the following comments regarding the STIP's impact on economic development activity:

1. Given the major role played by the I-5 freeway in supporting our region's access to key markets, we believe that significant improvements must be undertaken to sustain the region's effective use of this corridor. The highest priority should continue to be placed on improvements to the Beltline / I-5 interchange. This interchange provides critical access to important industrial areas in Gateway, Coburg Road, Highway 99, the Eugene Airport and West Eugene.
2. In addition to the Beltline / I-5 interchange, other sections of Beltline deserve significant attention for the reasons described in #1. These sections include widening and improving the segments near Roosevelt and also between River Road and Coburg Road. Frequent bottlenecks in these areas have a negative impact on critical freight movements and industrial and wholesale trade.
3. Our location between major markets makes it important to have efficient access to the Interstate from outlying areas. The West Eugene Parkway is the most important investment the region can make in establishing viable industrial areas in west Eugene and supporting the tourism of west Lane County.
4. The LEC strongly endorses the ongoing I-5 bridge repair effort. It is imperative that we make the necessary improvements and replacements of these bridges in order to assure a continued and uninterrupted use of our major transportation corridor.
5. The LEC also supports all of the current and planned efforts to study the existing system of I-5 interchanges through the County. Improved, modern I-5 interchanges are critical to the future development of Coburg, Glenwood and the Lane Community College area.

John Tamulonis
Chairman, Lane Economic Committee