



January 11, 2007

Ms. Patricia Rogers Fisher  
ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program  
355 Capital Street, NE, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Dear Ms. Fisher:

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization has received notice that two of the region's Transportation Enhancement Program applications have advanced to the final selection phase.

Representing the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) is writing to prioritize these two projects, as follows:

- #1 - Delta Ponds Multiuse Path – (*Eugene*)
- #2 - Spring Connector Multiuse Path – (*Eugene*)

The **Delta Ponds project** leverages a nearly \$5M investment partnership in Eugene to enhance the Delta Ponds natural area and link the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail System to Eugene neighborhoods and commercial employment centers for non-motorized users while bridging over the physical barrier of Delta Highway. In linking the entire Willakenzie neighborhood to the river trail system, this project serves a larger population than does the Spring Connector project. It is already programmed in both the Metropolitan and Statewide Transportation Programs (MTIP, STIP), and work on the prospectus has already begun with access to \$2.88 million from a federal earmark in the SAFETEA-LU transportation bill.

While the Delta Ponds project is our number one priority, we want to underline our continued support and enthusiasm for the **Spring Connector project**. This project would provide a safe connection between two neighborhoods separated by the major roadway of 30<sup>th</sup> Ave, and would enhance the commute to Lane Community College for students and staff who bicycle to the campus.

Thank you for the opportunity to emphasize our support for these projects. We look forward to a positive outcome for our region.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy, Chair  
Metropolitan Policy Committee