



January 2, 2007

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Susan Payne  
Subject: Item 5.c: Prioritization of Projects on the short list for  
Transportation Enhancement funding

**Action Recommended: Approve letter to ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program prioritizing two advancing projects.**

### **Background**

The Transportation Enhancement (TE) program provides federal highway funds for projects that strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, or environmental value of our transportation system. Typical projects include sidewalk and streetscape construction, bike lanes and shared-use paths, viewpoints and interpretive sites, and historic preservation of transportation-related structures and buildings.

In March 2006, ODOT issued a call for applications for suitable projects that could be constructed in 2009 and 2010. The available funding is \$11 million, statewide, with a 10.27% required local match, and a minimum project size of \$223,000. Final project selection will be made in January 2007 with approval by the Oregon Transportation Commission in February or March, 2007.

This region submitted four projects, and at the November meeting, MPC approved a letter endorsing all four projects with Eugene's Delta Ponds Path and Bridge project and Springfield's South "A" St project both ranked as #1.

In December, ODOT released the list of 32 projects that have advanced to the TE Advisory Committee for scoring and selection (Attachment 1). Two of the four projects from this region made the cut: the Delta Ponds project, and the Spring Connector Multi-Use Path. Both are City of Eugene projects. Attachment 2 describes these projects and their funding status.

The TE Program manager has invited MPC to submit a letter prioritizing these two projects. This prioritization will be factored into the scoring by the TE Advisory Committee if received before January 16.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Due to the timing of this notice and the need to reply by January 16, TPC has not met and thus has not been able to consider this issue. However, Eugene transportation staff have indicated that their prior ranking of the Delta Ponds Project as #1 is unchanged:

“The Delta Ponds Path & Bridge 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.

This project is already underway: it is programmed in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), and work has begun with ODOT to detail the project phases and to access the \$2.88 million federal earmark from the SAFETEA-LU Transportation Bill. “

MPC is requested to consider this prioritization, and if in agreement, to approve the draft letter (Attachment 3).

### **Attachments:**

1. Statewide list of advancing projects submitted to TE Program for funding.
2. Details of advancing TE Projects from the Eugene/Springfield region.
3. DRAFT letter of prioritization.