

January 6, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 5a – Central Lane MPO Comments on Proposed Statewide Freight Route Designations

Action Recommended: Discuss proposed letter of comment to ODOT on proposed freight route designations. Consider options of adopting the letter of comment or postponing finalizing letter to February meeting.

Issue Summary:

For the past three months, MPC has had agenda items related to freight route designations being proposed by ODOT through the Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP). At its October 14th meeting, MPC approved a letter to ODOT Director Bruce Warner, requesting a 60-day extension of the review period. At its October meeting, OTC approved extension of the public comment period on the Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP) until January 7, 2005. A December 27th letter from Director Warner (Attachment 1), indicated that ODOT is extending the timeline for submittal of comments to OTC to at least mid-2005.

The Freight Route System additions in Lane County as originally proposed include:

- Highway 126 (Florence-Eugene Highway);
- Highway 126 (McKenzie Highway);
- Highway 20 (extension of McKenzie Highway to Highway 22 and Santiam Pass);
- Highway 99W (Beltline to OR 99); and
- Beltline Highway (Highway 126 to Interstate 5)

The map at the end of this memo illustrates the location of these proposed routes.

Existing Statewide Freight Routes in Lane County include:

- Interstate 5
- Highway 58 (Willamette Highway)
- Highway 105

In the December 27th letter, Director Warner also indicated that the designation of the McKenzie Highway section of Highway 126 (east of its intersection with OR 126 Business) has been removed from the proposal given the initial reaction to that

designation and the fact that a Scenic Byway designation is being finalized for that highway.

Staff Recommendations

To assist in the development of local comment, ODOT staff met with local staff to discuss issues raised by the proposed designations in Lane County. ODOT staff also prepared a Frequently Asked Questions list to assist local agencies in their evaluations of the proposal (Attachment 2).

Based on the meeting with ODOT, staff is recommending the following:

1. Support designation of the limited access portions of the proposed designations. This would include Highway 126 from Main Street in Springfield west to I-5; and Beltline Highway from I-5 west to West 11th. There is no additional impact on those facilities as they are designated as Expressways by ODOT and thus are currently subject to the same standards that would apply under a freight route designation.
2. Support designation of Highway 99 from Beltline Highway to Airport Road. This recommendation reflects the truck use on that segment of Highway 99 and the inconsistency of support for designation of Highway 99 beyond that point.

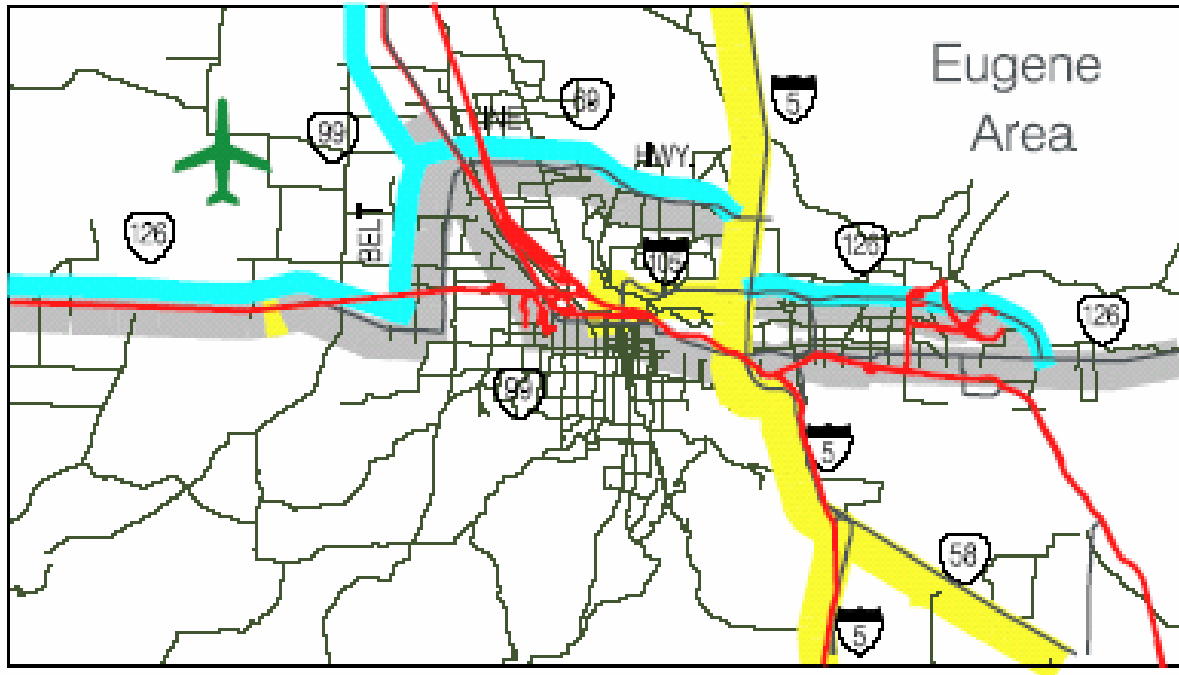
While the state's proposal for Highway 99 in Lane County is from Beltline Highway north to the county line, Junction City is still considering its support for the proposal. In addition, the Cascades West ACT has indicated opposition to the designation of Highway 99 in its area, while the Mid-Willamette Valley ACT has come out in favor of the designation of Highway 99 in its area.

3. Suggest that West 11th from Beltline to its junction with Highway 126 West not be designated and that the West Eugene Parkway be designated upon its completion. Staff recommends this due to the potentially adverse affects of higher access control standards that would accompany a freight route designation on West 11th. While Florence has indicated support for the Highway 126 West designation, Veneta has not yet completed its consideration of the proposal.

Options for Consideration








The attached letter of comment reflects these staff recommendations. While this letter could be submitted to ODOT now, MPC could also postpone its finalization of the comment letter to its February meeting. Given the extended timeframe for submittal to the OTC, local agencies are still in the process of developing their respective comments. Postponing MPC's action to its February meeting would allow the MPO's letter of comment to reflect and support the consensus of the region's local agencies.

Proposed Freight Route Designations



Source: ODOT Transportation Data Section and 2002 Transportation Volume Tables

Key

-  State Highway Freight Route and NHS
-  State Highway Freight Route Only
-  NHS Only
-  State Highway
-  Recommended Additional Freight Route Designation
-  Railroad Line
-  Airports with Freight Service

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Letter of Comment
2. December 27th Letter from ODOT Director Warner
3. Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP) Frequently Asked Questions

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