



January 31, 2007

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Susan Payne
Subject: Item 4.d.1.iii: Air Quality Report – Carbon Monoxide levels for 2006

Action Recommended: None. For information only.

Background:

Since 1994, the Eugene/Springfield area has been designated by US-EPA under the Clean Air Act as a maintenance area for carbon monoxide (CO). The other pollutant for which this area is listed is particulate matter of 10 micrometers or less (PM10). Transportation was found to be a significant source of CO but not PM10.

Due to the CO status, the MPO is required to show that a new or amended Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) does not cause carbon monoxide levels to exceed the CO budget established in 1994 when the region was designated as in attainment of the CO standard. This is done through use of the regional transportation model and the US-EPA emissions model (MOBILE6), and is known as making an “air quality conformity determination”.

An important component of ensuring that this and other air quality standards are maintained is the measurement program conducted by Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) at various locations throughout Lane County. The CO sensor is located near Lane Community College downtown campus. LRAPA has collected CO data at this location since 1976. The MPO uses observed measured trends in CO levels to corroborate the trends shown by the modeling.

In 2006, the highest 8-hour concentration of CO was measured as **2.1 ppm**. The second highest was 2.0 ppm. For a violation to occur, there must be 2 or more days per year at or exceeding **9.5 ppm**. The data show that the region was at no risk during 2006 of exceeding the standard. Further, the trend in measured CO levels since maintenance designation was achieved in 1994 shows that CO levels are on a continuous and steady downtrend (Attachment 1). No intervention thus needs to be taken by the MPO to ensure that the CO standards are maintained.

Attachment 1. Eugene-Springfield Carbon Monoxide Levels: 1975-2006

Attachment 1.

Eugene-Springfield Carbon Monoxide Levels, as measured at LCC Downtown Center, 1975 to 2006.

