



February 1, 2006

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4.f – Endorsement of Local ConnectOregon Applications

**Action Recommended: Review Local Applications. Approve Letters of Endorsement.**

**Issue Summary:**

ConnectOregon is a lottery-bond-based initiative (\$100 million) approved by the Oregon Legislative Assembly (SB71) to invest in air, rail, marine and transit infrastructure to ensure Oregon's transportation system is strong, diverse, and efficient. It is focused on improving the connections between the highway system and the other modes of transportation to better integrate the components of the system, improve flow of commerce and remove delays.

It is the first major funding initiative targeted at multimodal or non-highway transportation in Oregon. This effort will leverage the significant investments in the highway network, (from OTIA I, II and III) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Julie Rodwell, ODOT's Freight Mobility Section Manager, provided an overview of the ConnectOregon program at MPC's October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. An updated fact sheet on the ConnectOregon Program can be accessed through the link provided at the end of this memo. The schedule for implementation of the ConnectOregon program is provided in the diagram below. Applications for ConnectOregon funding are due by February 17, 2006. At this point, there are three applications being developed for the MPO area:

- Eugene Airport Air Cargo Facilities Improvements
- Eugene Depot platform and vehicular improvements
- Lane Transit District Pioneer Parkway BRT

Regarding project selection, the recently adopted permanent administrative rule for ConnectOregon states that the OTC, in selecting projects to be funded, may solicit recommendations from transportation stakeholder and advocate entities not otherwise specified in the rule. Since the funding is based on regions — but the review committees established by SB 71 are divided along modal lines (rail, public transit, etc.), the OTC will solicit recommendations from the state's Area Commissions on Transportation.

In addition, the OTC will convene a “Consensus Committee” comprised of representatives from the State Aviation Board, Oregon Freight Advisory Committee, Public Transit Advisory Committee, Rail Advisory Committee, the ACTs, and the Portland metro area committee. The Consensus Committee will prioritize all the projects and create one draft list of projects for OTC to review at a public hearing on June 28.

The local applications are described in more detail below. A letter of endorsement has been drafted for each project (Attachment 1). Staff is requesting that MPC approve these letters for signature by the MPC Chair.

#### Eugene Airport Air Cargo Facilities Improvements

These improvements include extending a taxiway, widening the existing air cargo ramp, constructing warehouse and distribution facilities, along with utilities to support the infrastructure. The final cost estimate still needs to be refined, but the preliminary estimate is approximately \$2.5M.

The improvements are identified in the adopted Eugene Airport Master Plan, and a preliminary analysis was conducted by the airport’s consulting engineer in 2002. The airport has had to delay advancing progress on these improvements due to lack of funding. The FAA is prepared to approve using AIP Entitlement grant funding to match Connect Oregon grant funding.

The project is needed to improve safety, consolidate air cargo activities at the airport, stimulate economic development, further local employment opportunities, optimize the aviation facilities situated at the airport, and create the necessary multi-modal connectivity to move freight efficiently to and from the community.

Attachment 2 provides additional detail for this project (note that certain maps have been provided to MPC members, but not included in all meeting packets. Copies of these maps have been posted to the MPC Meeting website (see under Links below).

#### Eugene Depot Platform and Vehicular Improvements

These improvements include specialized paving for platform and vehicles, lighting, drainage, covered passenger waiting facilities and amenities, along with selected technology features for security and communications. The preliminary cost estimate is approximately \$1.4M, pending refinement. Eugene has secured commitments for \$1 million of transportation funding in the recently passed federal SAFETEA-LU bill, so the Connect Oregon request is anticipated to be in the \$400,000 range.

This project is needed to improve passenger connectivity between rail and transit, and improve safety of passenger and transit movements within the Eugene Depot site. The improved connectivity will promote economic development, and enhance multi-modal connectivity to move passengers more efficiently.

These improvements support the longer term goals in the City of Eugene’s draft Depot Master Plan and will more effectively utilize the land acquired in 2003 as part of the City’s Depot renovation project. With the commitment of federal funds for the next phase of this project under the SAFETEA-LU bill, the City needs to secure matching funds to undertake these planned improvements.

Attachment 3 provides additional detail for this project.

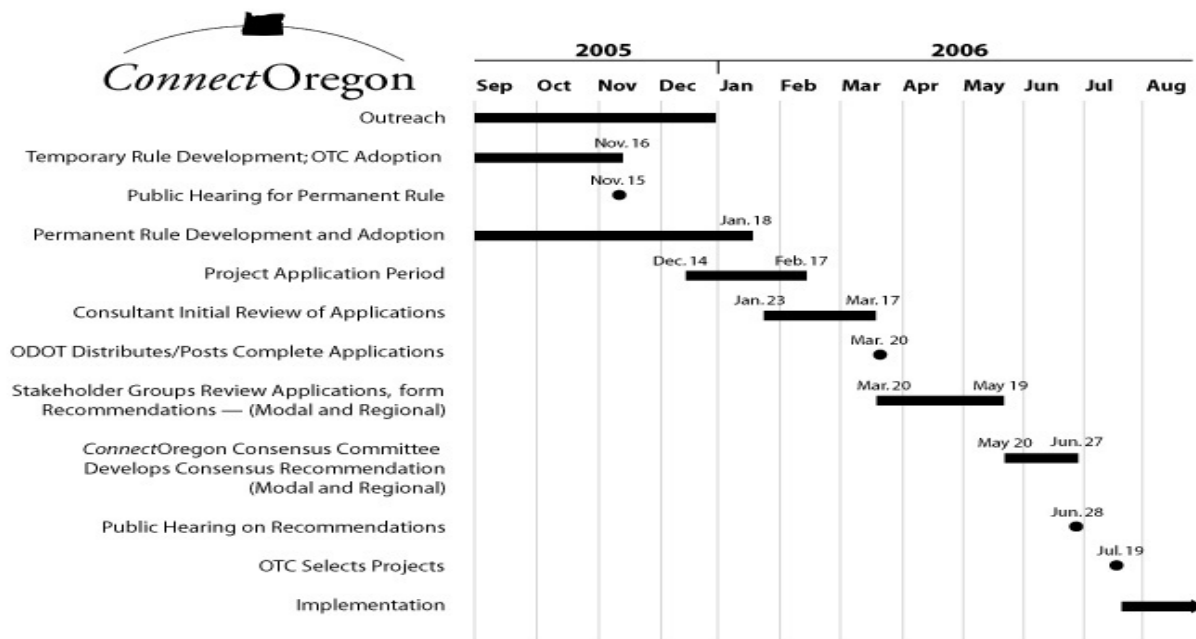
Lane Transit District Pioneer Parkway BRT

LTD is anticipating submittal of an application for ConnectOregon Funding to serve as part of the match required for construction of Pioneer Parkway BRT. The state funds would help leverage \$31 million authorized in SAFETEA-LU, and pay for specific parts of the project, including a new Gateway Station and the transit lanes accessing RiverBend. LTD will be requesting \$7.5 million of ConnectOregon funding.

The Pioneer Parkway BRT is a six mile corridor system that will connect the new downtown Springfield station, Pioneer Parkway, MLK Parkway, RiverBend, International Way and the Gateway area in exclusive transitways, transit lanes and in mixed-traffic with new BRT stations. The project currently is undergoing environmental review in the NEPA process.

The Pioneer Parkway BRT project is listed in the Central Lane MPO, Regional Transportation Plan Financially Constrained project list and also in Eugene/Springfield’s regional transportation system plan, TransPlan.

Attachment 4 provides additional detail for this project.



Oregon Department of Transportation Dec. 15, 2005

**Attachments:**

**Attachment 1:** Endorsement Letters (one for each application)

**Attachment 2:** Materials on Eugene Airport Air Cargo Facilities Improvement

**Attachment 3:** Materials for Eugene Depot Platform and Vehicular Improvements

**Attachment 4:** Materials for Lane Transit District Pioneer Parkway BRT Project

**Links:**

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/ConnectOregonFactSheet12606.pdf>

<http://lcog.org/meetings/mpc.html>