

March 3, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4a – Central Lane MPO Comments on Proposed Statewide Freight Route Designations

**Action Recommended:** Discuss proposed letter of comment to ODOT on proposed freight route designations. Approve letter of comment.

### **Issue Summary:**

For several 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 27<sup>th</sup> letter from Director Warner (Attachment 1), indicated that ODOT is extending the timeline for submittal of comments to OTC to at least mid-2005. At its January Meeting, MPC elected to postpone comment until local agencies had completed their reviews.

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
- Interstate 105
- Highway 58 (Willamette Highway)

In the December 27<sup>th</sup> 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).

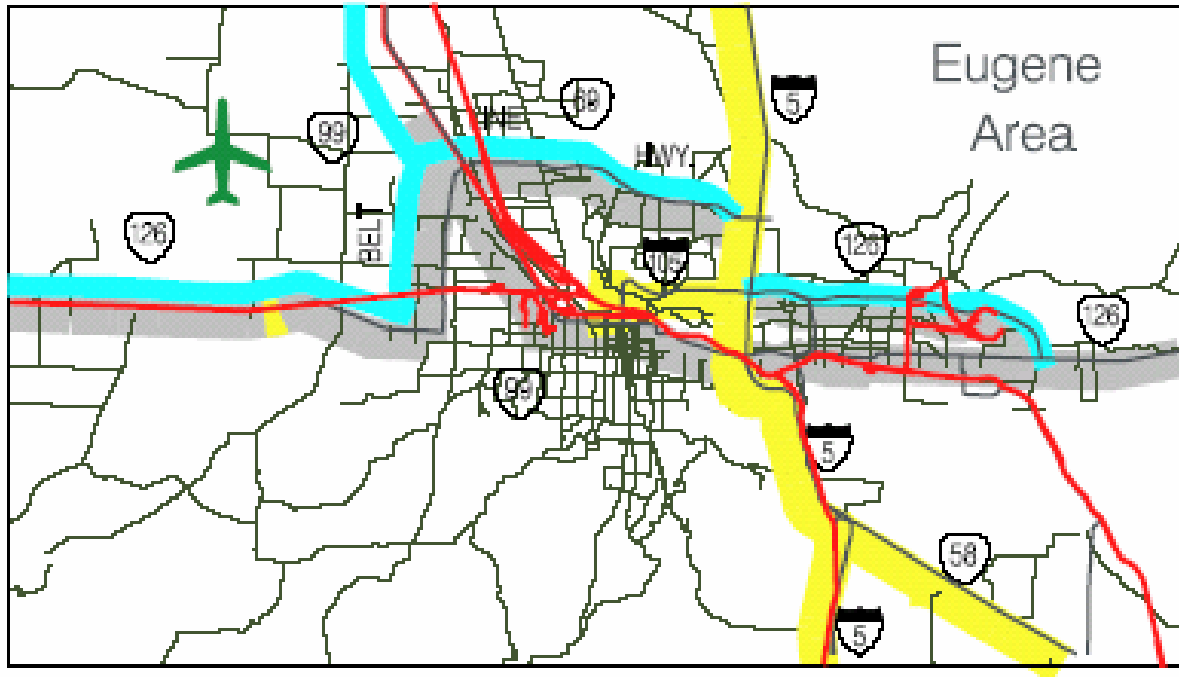
Based on the meeting with ODOT, staff is recommending the following:

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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. This segment of Highway 99 is currently designated as a National Highway System Connector route.

While the state's proposal for Highway 99 in Lane County is from Beltline Highway north to the county line, Junction City does not support the designation. 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>. Both Florence and Veneta have indicated support for the Highway 126 West designation.

## 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 27<sup>th</sup> Letter from ODOT Director Warner
3. Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP) Frequently Asked Questions

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