

April 12, 2007

Stuart Foster  
Chair  
STIP Stakeholder Committee  
Oregon Department of Transportation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft "Project Eligibility Criteria and Prioritization Factors for the 2010 – 2013 Development STIP and Construction STIP".

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization would like to offer the following comments:

- Page 10, line 40; page 14, line 12; page 15, line 42; and page 18, line 19 – footnotes 4, 10, 15 and 21, correspond to the prioritization factor "Projects that leverage other funds and public benefits."

While the Central Lane MPO agrees with seizing the opportunity to leverage federal, state and local funds and projects whenever possible, we also note with concern the continuing squeeze on local tax revenues, in particular the recent assault at the federal level on the Safe and Secure Rural Schools Act monies; loss of which will mean a reduction of more than \$20 million to Lane County.

We have also noted with dismay recent attempts by ODOT staff to require increasingly large, and utterly unavailable, local cash match in addition to an equal value of local improvements. Although we watched with relief as an earlier agreement was finally honored, the risk of jeopardizing critical local projects because of an inability to come up with excessive amounts of local match is a frightening prospect. Likewise, creation of a distribution system that allowed state money to flow only to the rich would be a disservice to all citizens of Oregon.

We urge the committee not to overemphasize local match when assessing the relative merits of project proposals.

- We also note the limited consideration given transit and transportation demand management (TDM) projects. As our metropolitan area, and other metropolitan areas throughout the state, grow, so does our need for efficient and effective transit alternatives and TDM programs.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy, Chair  
Metropolitan Policy Committee

cc: Jane Lee  
Jerri Bohard