



April 2, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Susan Payne

Subject: MPC 4.b – ODOT Modernization Projects FY10-15 Task 3 Straw Proposal

Action Recommended: Respond to ODOT Region 2 Task 3 Straw Proposal

Background:

In early December 2007, the MPO received a letter from ODOT requesting input from the MPOs on four tasks in which various scenarios of ODOT modernization program funding were to be considered. MPC has responded to all four tasks, as described in Attachment 2.

In March, ODOT Region 2 reviewed the MPO's prioritized list for Task 3 together with the project lists received from all other areas within Region 2. With a total funding target of \$241.6 million based on 2008 project estimates, a Regional Straw Proposal was developed (Attachment 1).

MPC is requested to review the MPO area projects from this straw proposal and provide comments back to the Region. As with the earlier task 2 review in March, this feedback will be considered with the straw proposal at an All Area ACT meeting on May 21, 2008.

Discussion

The Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) considered the straw proposal at its March 27, 2008 meeting. ODOT staff indicated that, as with the other tasks, the Region funding falls short of the requests submitted. And, as before, ODOT staff indicated that the primary feedback being sought on the straw proposal was each Area's indication of whether the funding level proposed for that Area was appropriately targeted at the Area's top priorities.

While Attachment 1 Page 2 estimates the effect of inflation on the project costs, ODOT staff indicated that the task being asked of MPC is to review the projects as estimated in 2008 dollars. The funding target for Task 3 is an estimate and may change at the time of consideration by the legislature.

Region 2's straw proposal for the MPO area fully funds MPC's #1 and #3 priorities and most of priority #4. However, it omits the area's #2 priority, the Gateway/Beltline: International Way to Postal Way project, with required funding estimated at \$15 million in 2008 funds.

The \$35 million estimated for the I-5/Beltline Interchange Project in the original Task 3 submission represented funding of several discrete elements of Phase II:

- Construct Soundwall #2 (south side of Beltline, west of I-5); Construct D line: eastbound Beltline auxiliary lane and southbound I-5 on-ramp. Estimated cost of \$10 million.
- Construct F-line: I-5 southbound to Beltline westbound. Estimated cost of \$25 million

Springfield staff indicated that the Gateway/Beltline project is and has always been recognized as an integral component of the I-5/Beltline project, necessary to the successful operation of the freeway interchange investment currently underway as well as subsequent future phases. The Gateway/Beltline project elements are part of the approved I-5/Beltline Environmental Assessment preferred alternative. Springfield staff further indicated that the project is ready to proceed, possibly in a phased approach, once sufficient funding becomes available. Utilizing available funds as soon as possible will reduce the impacts of inflation.

The Gateway/Beltline project is also considered significant to the successful operation of the Pioneer Parkway EmX which is scheduled for opening in 2010. The River Bend PeaceHealth Hospital campus is directly served by Beltline Road, and improvements to the Gateway/Beltline intersection area are necessary to maintain mobility in this important corridor.

The I-5/Beltline interchange and the Gateway/Beltline project scored identically using both the ODOT STIP prioritization factors and the MPO's expanded set of prioritization factors.

ODOT staff indicated that \$25 million for the I-5/Beltline interchange would provide sufficient funding for discrete and viable element(s) of the project that could be constructed in the 2010-2015 time frame. This leaves \$10 million available from the original ODOT request of \$35 million for I-5/Beltline.

Recommendation

While understanding the limitations of the current level of anticipated funding, discussions with ODOT staff present at the meeting led TPC to unanimously recommend that MPC respond to the straw proposal by indicating that the following best represents this area's priorities:

1. I-5 Beltline Interchange, \$25 million
 2. Gateway/Beltline: International Way to Postal Way, \$15 million
 3. I-5/Coburg Interchange (Phase 2), \$19.5 million
 4. Beltline Hwy: River Rd – Coburg Rd (Phase 1), \$15 million.
- TOTAL = \$74.5 million

(with the caveat that \$5 million of the \$15 million of proposed Gateway/Beltline project funding cannot place the other priority projects' funding at risk.)

Attachments:

1. March 11, 2008 ODOT Letter: *Region 2: SB566 – Task 3 Straw Proposal 2010-2015 STIP Years*
2. Summary of ODOT Requests and MPC Actions concerning ODOT Modernization Program Funding