

April 1, 2004

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Paul Thompson  
Subject: Item 4.a: FY2006-2009 STIP and OTIA III Project Priorities

**Action Recommended:** Approve FY2006-2009 STIP and OTIA III Priorities and forward to Lane County Board.

### **Issue Summary:**

At the March 11, 2004 MPC meeting MPC considered the Transportation Planning Committee's (TPC) recommendations for the Central Lane MPO's project priorities for funding from the FY2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Oregon Transportation Investment Act 2003 (OTIA III). No action was taken at that meeting on this item.

TPC's recommendations have not been modified since the March 11 meeting. The determination of current Central Lane MPO STIP and OTIA III funding priorities is a necessary step in the statewide process for distribution of these funds. The Lane County Board of Commissioners has rescheduled their consideration of county-wide STIP and OTIA III priorities until April 14, in anticipation of MPC action on April 8 to determine the MPO's priorities.

Staff has included in this April 8 MPC meeting packet the full set of materials prepared for the March 11 meeting. Staff is recommending that MPC take action to approve the recommended FY2006-09 Central Lane MPO STIP and OTIA III project priorities and forward those MPO priorities to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. In summary, the recommended priorities are:

#### Development STIP (D-STIP) Priorities

- Beltline Highway (River Road to Coburg Road) Facility Plan Study
- Interstate 5 Interchange Study – Refinement Plan Completion
- Interstate 5 at Coburg Interchange Environmental Assessment

### Construction STIP (C-STIP) Priorities

- 6th & 7th Avenue Intersections – Intersection improvements for traffic capacity and operations
- W. 11th Avenue (Green Hill Road to Terry Street) – Widen to four lanes

### OTIA III Priorities

- I-5/Beltline – Environmental Assessment (EA) for Phase 1 Reconstruction and Right-of-Way Purchase for EA Phases 1 & 2
- WEP Units 2-A/2-B – New 2-/4-lane arterial

Attachment 1 to this memo provides a copy of questions submitted by Rob Zako of 1000 Friends of Oregon during the March 11, 2004 public hearing on this matter. Where possible, staff has provided answers to these questions.

As noted in the draft minutes of the March 11 2004 MPC meeting, three questions on this matter were directed to staff by MPC members. Specifically, those questions, with staff responses, are:

- *Ms. Bettman asked if the projects were really ready to be built in FY06-09 and whether the money would be lost if the projects were not to be built.*
  - TPC has recommended projects for funding priority that are or can be ready for implementation of the funding request during the appropriate time frame. Projects that are programmed in the STIP but are delayed beyond the scheduled year may “lose” their funding contingent on Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) policy.
- *[Ms. Bettman] also asked if there was a federal law that indicated the jurisdictions would have to take into consideration the impacts a highway would create on low income neighborhoods.*
  - There are federal requirements (generally referred to as Environmental Justice requirements) that state that an analysis of disproportionate impacts of projects on concentrations of low income or minority populations must be conducted.
- *Ms. Hocken asked what the second phase funding for the I-5/Beltline Road Interchange was.*
  - The project description for the proposed OTIA III funding priority related to the I-5/Beltline project states: *Environmental Assessment (EA) for Phase 1 Reconstruction and Right-of-Way Purchase for EA Phases 1 & 2.*