



April 30, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Paul Thompson  
Subject: Item 5.d: Revised Draft Oregon Transportation Commission Earmark Policy

**Action Recommended: Review and discuss revised draft Policy.  
Consider comments to OTC.**

**Background**

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) considered the initial draft of the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) Policy on *Project Earmark Requests* at their February and March 2008 meetings. At the March 13, 2008 MPC meeting, MPC approved a letter of comment on the draft policy for submission to the OTC.

**Follow Up**

On April 17, 2008 staff received a revised draft of the policy, now titled *Policy on Federal Reauthorization Highway Program Earmark Requests* (Policy), included with this memo as Attachment 1. Also received on that date were an updated draft *Guidance for Preparing ACT Earmark Recommendation Lists*, a *Summary of Major Comments*, and a *Summary of Major Changes*, all included with this memo as Attachments 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

The April 17, 2008 ODOT email accompanying the revised Policy states that “The policy and guidance have been significantly revised in response to comments we’ve received over the last two months of public outreach. The policy will go on the OTC May agenda, and the OTC will be provided a copy of the guidance for their consideration next week. This draft is now being put out for any final comments ODOT staff and stakeholders may have.”

Due to the timing of the release of the revised draft, the May 8 MPC meeting, and the May 13 OTC consideration of the policy, the only viable means for submitting additional comments will be in person at the May 13 OTC meeting.

The Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) briefly reviewed the revised draft Policy on April 24, 2008. While not taking any formal action with respect to the draft Policy, TPC noted that the revised draft was an improvement over the initial draft, but did not go far enough in addressing the MPO’s concerns. At the TPC meeting, Springfield staff indicated that Mayor Leiken will be presenting City of Springfield testimony on the revised Policy at the May OTC meeting. TPC concurred with a suggestion that, at its May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, MPC should discuss the revised draft Policy, hear from Springfield regarding the City’s planned comments, and potentially direct

Mayor Leiken, as MPC Chair, to carry MPC comments to the OTC, either in concurrence with, or in addition to, the City of Springfield comments.

**Action Recommended: Review and discuss revised draft Policy. Consider comments to OTC.**

**Attachments**

Attachment 1 – ODOT draft *Policy on Federal Reauthorization Highway Program Earmark Requests*

Attachment 2 – ODOT draft *Guidance for Preparing ACT Earmark Recommendation Lists*

Attachment 3 – ODOT *Summary of Major Comments*

Attachment 4 – ODOT *Summary of Major Changes*