



July 4, 2008

To: Metropolitan Planning Committee (MPC)
From: Byron Vanderpool
Subject: Item 4.g.1.iii: LCOG Board Actions

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background

Recently, ODOT forwarded two items to the MPO with very short turnaround requirements. Both items were sufficiently important to require a response, but not critical enough to warrant a special MPC meeting. With cancellation of the June MPC meeting due to failure to meet quorum, MPO staff referred them to the LCOG Board for a policy response.

On June 11, ODOT sent Oregon MPOs an e-mail indicating an imminent failure of the federal Highways Trust Account, which could lead to a reduction in ODOT and MPO federal funding of up to 40% in the fiscal year starting October 1. ODOT requested the MPO sign a letter of support for the Baucus-Grassley bill in Congress by June 16. Full details of the ODOT request are included as Attachment 1.

This item was referred to the LCOG Executive Committee at their June 12 meeting. After some discussion, during which the Executive Committee recognized the need to act, but were very reluctant to act in MPC's stead, the Executive Committee unanimously authorized LCOG Board Chair Greg James to sign the letter of support.

Four projects have been developed by local agencies under ODOT's "Transportation Operations Innovation and Demonstration Program." Under ODOT rules, applications for projects occurring within MPOs require MPO endorsement. Applications were due June 30. Summaries of the projects are included as Attachment 2.

At its June 26 meeting, the TPC unanimously endorsed all four projects. The matter was referred to the LCOG Board at its June 26 meeting. The LCOG Board unanimously authorized Board Vice Chair Chris Pryor to endorse the applications.

Action Requested: None. Information Only.

Attachments

1. Cover Letter to LCOG Executive Committee on Support for Baucus-Grassley Bill.
2. ODOT ITS Program Application – Project Summaries