

Notice Of Proposed Amendments To The 1999 Oregon Highway Plan

Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) amendments are proposed regarding freight route designations and highway segment designations. Attached is draft staff report and OHP policy language for affected sections of the Plan. The draft staff report explains the reasons for the changes and the anticipated impacts, including the need to amend access management rule spacing standards for consistency with the OHP amendments.

The staff report on proposed Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) amendments is divided into three sections:

- Amendments related to freight designations
- Amendments related to highway segment designations
- Future amendments related to access management standards

Due to the large size of the files, the maps in Attachment A of the staff report are not being emailed. Attachment A can be found at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/ohpAmend.shtml>. These proposed revisions to the OHP came about as a result of discussion at the January 2004 Commission meeting, when the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) approved changes to Policy 1B of the 1999 OHP. The key components of the 2004 revision simplified the highway segment designation process by recognizing existing characteristics and clarified that written support from local governments is required prior to segment designations. It was during this process, in response to input from a variety of stakeholders, that concern was expressed about the impact of these and future highway segment designations on the function of the freight system. The Commission determined that there was a need to consider the OHP Policy 1B and freight route issues together. The Commission decided that it was also a good time to evaluate whether the current freight route system met the needs of industry, and whether the methodology used to select routes could be improved. In early 2004, an advisory committee was established to provide input on the Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP). Based on their work and additional staff work several additional routes are recommended to be added to the State Highway Freight System.

At this point we would like you, as the stakeholders from all over the state, to review the report and the proposed OHP amendments and give us your input. The proposal includes a significant increase in the mileage associated with the State Highway Freight System, changes to access and mobility standards inside Urban Growth Boundaries where posted speeds are ≤ 35 mph, and changes to how UBAs are designated and how and when management plans will be developed for Urban Business Areas (UBAs) and Special Transportation Areas (STAs).

In order to meet a commitment to allow the OTC to take action at their August meeting, **comments from stakeholders are due July 8, 2005**. Comments received after that date will still go forward to the OTC but we will not have enough time to incorporate them into the staff report. **The August 17th OTC meeting will be held in La Grande**. If you have any questions please contact:

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