



August 14, 2008

Oregon Department of Transportation  
355 Capital St NE, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Salem, OR 97301-3871  
Attn: Mr. Galen McGill

Dear Mr. McGill:

Representing the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) is writing to endorse the project proposal entitled "Effecting Operational Efficiencies for Safe Travel in the Beltline-Delta Highway Corridor, Eugene-Springfield Metro Area, Oregon".

This project aims at improving system performance on what is arguably the most important and most performance-challenged state highway corridor in the region. This corridor carries significant freight traffic, provides access between western Lane County and I-5, and access to the major hospital and trauma center of the region. It also carries a large number of commuters between north Eugene and the employment centers of Eugene and Springfield. A major investment has been made by ODOT in the I-5/Beltline Highway interchange, and further improvements are being made at the Beltline Highway/Coburg Rd interchange. This project intends to augment these investments, improve performance at relatively little cost in comparison to a modernization project, and at least delay the need for major and costly modernization projects in the corridor.

The project was developed by a multi-agency group of engineers and managers from Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane County, ODOT and Lane Transit District with additional input from representatives of the Public Access Network (the public agency fiber consortium).

Not only does the project proposal represent a significant new approach to addressing system performance in this area through ITS technologies, it promises to initiate a multi-agency, coordinated approach to corridor and cross-jurisdictional problems within the region. This is a step that we enthusiastically endorse.

We are very interested in seeing the project forwarded to the OTC for their review and hope that it is selected for the official Commission's Earmark Requests list. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sid Leiken, Chair  
Metropolitan Policy Committee

## **CENTRAL LANE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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