



August 6, 2008

Ms. Patricia Rogers Fisher  
ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program  
355 Capital Street, NE, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Dear Ms. Fisher:

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization has received an invitation from ODOT to provide our input on local project priorities for Transportation Enhancement funding. Three projects were submitted from our region – all from the City of Eugene.

Representing the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) is writing to prioritize these projects as follows:

1. Westmoreland Park Path and Lighting
2. Amazon Path Lighting
3. West Bank Path Extension and Lighting

Our highest priority is the Westmoreland Path and Lighting project, as it will greatly improve safety, reduce out-of-direction travel, and improve the quality of experience for path users. Pedestrians and bicyclists will no longer have to mix with automobile traffic in the school parking lot to connect to the existing Westmoreland Path and those traveling east-west and north-south will be able to ride through the park and avoid busy streets. The lighting will further improve safety and help to discourage crime.

Our second priority, the Amazon Path Lighting project, will also improve safety for the many bicyclists and pedestrians who use this path. Amazon Path is the most important bicycle-pedestrian facility in Southeast Eugene. However, the current lack of lighting discourages many people from riding at night. This can also limit fall and winter bike riding.

Our third priority, the West Bank Extension will improve the quality of experience for users. It would fill one of the remaining gaps in the riverbank trail system and eliminate the need for on-street bicycle travel in this area.

Thank you for the opportunity to emphasize our support for these projects. We look forward to a positive outcome for our region.

Sincerely,

Sid Leiken, Chair  
Metropolitan Policy Committee

## **CENTRAL LANE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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