

August 7, 2003

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Tom Schwetz  
Subject: Item 4c: Letter of Comment on Draft FY06-09 STIP Criteria

### **Background**

As indicated during the July MPC meeting, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) has published draft project eligibility criteria and prioritization factors for the FY06-09 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Those criteria and factors were distributed to MPC members last month in a memo from OTC Commissioner Stuart Foster outlining the process for review of the STIP criteria.

The ODOT STIP Stakeholders Committee, the group responsible for the development and review of the criteria prior to forwarding to the full OTC, has received initial comments on the draft criteria and incorporated modifications as a result of the first round of review. The Committee has requested a second round of comment on draft criteria for project selection for the 2006-2009 STIP process. They have requested that comments be received by August 15<sup>th</sup> in order for the committee to consider these comments at their September 11, 2003 meeting. The committee is expected to forward a recommendation to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) on these criteria for consideration by the OTC in November.

### **MPC Letter of Comment**

The draft criteria were distributed to MPC members as part of last month's packet. Generally, the criteria are very similar to those developed for the previous 2004-2007 STIP cycle. They contain eligibility criteria and prioritizing factors for Modernization, Preservation, and Bridge projects. The most significant change in the criteria and process from the Interim Criteria used for the 2004-2007 STIP is the addition of a Development section in the STIP (D-STIP). The criteria include separate criteria for Development activity on projects (D-STIP) and construction funding for projects (C-STIP). As noted in the cover letter from OTC Chair Stuart Foster, changes or additions to the criteria may be needed based on requirements of the recently approved transportation bill from the legislature.

A draft letter of comment is included as Attachment 1. In the letter, staff is proposing MPC comment on the following:

- Support for comments on the draft criteria made by the Lane County Board of Commissioners (draft letter included as Attachment 2);

- The draft criteria do not include guidance on transit, TDM, Bike, or pedestrian projects. The draft letter requests clarification on submitting and providing input on transit, TDM, Bike, and pedestrian projects.
- Advocacy for more explicit process for identifying and prioritizing citizen-initiated safety projects
- Support for addition of Development portion of STIP (D-STIP)

**Action Requested:** Review and approve draft letter of comment on proposed FY06-09 STIP criteria.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1: Draft MPC Comment Letter on FY06-09 STIP Criteria

Attachment 2: BCC Letter of Comment on FY06-09 STIP Criteria

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