

August 4, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4.e.1.iii – Reauthorization of Federal Transportation Bill
passes Congress

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Issue Summary:

After 2 years of negotiations (704 days overdue), congress has passed the transportation reauthorization bill, also known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The bill, which retains much of the original structure of ISTEA and TEA-21, passed the House on July 29th by a vote of 412 – 8 and later passed the Senate by a vote of 91 – 4. The bill authorizes approximately \$286.5 billion for programs (38 percent more than the overall spending in TEA-21). The bill is currently being reviewed by the Whitehouse and is expected to be signed by the President before the last short-term extension runs out on August 10th.

Because the first year of the bill is already completed, the remaining funding level over the five years from fiscal year 2005-2009 is \$241.4 billion. If fiscal year 2004 were included, the total six-year funding level would have been \$286.5 billion. Of this amount, 79% is provided for highway programs, 18.5% is provided for transit, and the remaining 2.5% is for behavioral safety grants and enforcement under the jurisdiction of DOT agencies other than FHWA and FTA. Overall, this bill represents approximately 31 percent more funding than under TEA-21.

The bill earmarks a record 5,700 projects (not including transit title) totaling nearly \$20 billion. The attached table provides a listing of the projects in Lane County. The bill also makes changes to some of the planning requirements. For example the Regional Transportation Plan is now on a 4-year update cycle as opposed to the current 3-year cycle. As is typical after the passage of a new transportation bill, USDOT has indicated that it will soon begin rule making around the new planning provisions. Staff is still reviewing the bill for additional changes and details. The bill itself can be found at:

<http://www.house.gov/rules/109textTEALU.htm>

SAFETEA-LU Earmarked Projects in Lane County

Project Description	Dollars
Middle Fork Willamette River Path, Springfield	\$3,000,000
Interoperable communications equipment for emergency and incident response - Linn, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry and Josephine Counties.	\$9,000,000
I-5 Beltline Interchange	\$20,000,000
I-5 Interchange at the City of Coburg	\$8,000,000
Eugene Train Depot	\$1,000,000
Siuslaw River Bridge, Florence (also McCullough)	\$4,250,000
Delta Ponds Bike/Pedestrian Path, Eugene	\$2,880,000
Construct Turn Lane on Gateway Boulevard, Cottage Grove	\$90,000
Lane Transit District, Bus Rapid Transit Progressive Corridor Enhancements	\$2,477,586
Lane Transit District, Buses	\$2,985,714
Cognitive Impairment Study (UO)	\$1,000,000
LTD Loan Cancellation for Defective Vehicles	\$1,032,594
Lane County - Bus Rapid Transit, Phase 2 plus \$31,000,000 authorization	\$1,000,000
Oregon Short Haul Intermodal Projects	\$5,000,000
I-5 Bridge Repair and Replacement (Megaproject)	\$160,000,000
Replacement and Reconstruction of State Maintained Bridges in the State of Oregon (Bridge Discretionary Earmark)	\$40,000,000