

September 2, 2004

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4c: ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program- letter of support for local applications

**Action Requested:** Review draft letter of support for local Transportation Enhancement Program applications and approve for submittal to ODOT.

The Transportation Enhancement Program is a federally-funded program established under ISTEA legislation and continued under Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21). The Transportation Enhancement Program provides federal highway funds for projects that strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, or environmental value of our transportation system. The funds are available for twelve “transportation enhancement activities” specifically identified in TEA-21. These activities fall into four main groups:

- **Pedestrian and Bicycle**
- **Historic Preservation**
- **Landscaping and other Scenic Beautification**
- **Environmental Mitigation**

The intent of the program is to fund special or additional activities not normally required on a highway or transportation project. Enhancement projects are selected through a competitive process. The funds are provided through reimbursement, not grants. Participation requires matching funds from the project sponsor, at a minimum of 10.27%. Applications are accepted only from public agencies. Private organizations may apply in partnership with local, state, or federal agencies or tribal organizations. All projects must have a direct relationship to surface transportation.

Two project applications are being submitted from the MPO area this year:

- **Division/River Ave. Bikeway and Walkway- City of Eugene**
- **Downtown Springfield Pedestrian Improvement Project- City of Springfield**

Descriptions of these projects are attached (Attachment 1 & 2).

Project applications require endorsement by the MPO. The endorsement is given through a signature on the application form by the MPO Chair. In addition, a letter of endorsement is attached for submittal with the intended projects (Attachment 3- Endorsement Letter).

Lane County, and particularly the Central Lane MPO, have benefited from this program. The table below summarizes the funded Transportation Enhancement Projects in Lane County since 2000.

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>T E \$\$</b>
Springfield (2004-2006)	Glenwood Sidewalks (Franklin Blvd/OR-126):	\$250,000
Eugene (2000-2003)	Fern Ridge Path: Terry St – Greenhill Rd	\$839,872
Lane County (2000-2003)	Lowell Covered Bridge Rehabilitation	\$740,272
Eugene (2000-2001)	High Speed Rail—Station Renovation	\$1,000,000

**Attachments:**

1. Notice of Intent- City of Eugene
2. Notice of Intent- City of Springfield
3. Letter of Endorsement