



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Transportation

Region 2 Headquarters

455 Airport Road SE Building B

Salem, Oregon 97301-5395

Telephone (503) 986-2600

Fax (503) 986-2630

DATE: July 21, 2005

TO: Region 2 ACT Chairs and Vice Chairs
Lylla Gaebel, NWACT Chair
Shirley Kalkhoven, NWACT Vice Chair
Richard Bjelland, MWACT Chair
Ken Woods, MCWACT Vice Chair
Don Lindly, CWACT Chair
Roger Nyquist, CWACT Vice Chair
Bobby Green, Lane County Commissioner
Anna Morrison, Lane County Commissioner

FROM: Jeff Scheick
Region 2 Manager

SUBJECT: Region 2 Large Project Priority List

In our past process improvement meetings, we have agreed on the importance of large projects, yet we also have recognized the considerable issues on how to deal with these projects that are long standing priorities in the ACT's. These projects are important to their various constituencies and address long-held needs. In our process paper for prioritizing projects for the 2008-2011 update of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Region 2 described a process for identifying and prioritizing these large projects (defined as projects over \$15 million). This memo begins the process of establishing Region 2's large project priority list.

Attached is a spreadsheet which contains information about all of the "large projects" that Region 2 staff understands are priorities. The list comes from existing ACT/Lane County modernization priority lists, local agency comprehensive plans, and transportation system plans. The information contained in the spreadsheet demonstrates that most of the projects have a long-term planning and funding history; and establishes the necessity for the project through the purpose and need statements.

Over the next two months, I would ask that your ACT/Lane County Commissioners do the following:

- Validate the large project list for your area. That is, please review the list and ensure that it includes all of the large projects in your area that have been included on your previous modernization priority lists or have been identified in a local comprehensive plan/transportation system plan.
- Prioritize the large projects. Using the project prioritization factors provided by the Oregon Transportation Commission and the process established by your Commission, rate and rank the projects.

On **September 29th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** the ACT/Lane County Chairs/Vice Chairs will meet with Erik Havig, Region 2 Planning and Development Manager and me. At that meeting, each ACT/Lane County member will share their respective priority lists and describe the rationale for the ratings. This will help foster a cross Area understanding and appreciation of each Area's respective prioritized lists. Next we would like to discuss how many of these projects should be moved to a Regional list. Regional staff will then take the prioritized lists and information from our discussions to develop a Regional "Large Project Straw Proposal List." This list will be sent to the ACTs/Lane County for final review and comment, with a final Regional Large Project List supported and endorsed by each ACT and Lane County Commissioner. This list will be shared with all ACTs, ODOT management, and the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC).

There have been some questions posed to the region as to the possibilities of inclusion of our large project priorities in the OTC Large Statewide Significance (LSS). In May 2002 the OTC approved a definition for projects that would be designated LSS. That definition is as follows:

Projects that require funding that cannot be achieved within the standard STIP allocations but are viewed by the agency as projects of statewide significance. Identified funds would be used to either keep existing work on very large projects current, or to support development of very large projects (for example, funding an EIS or updating an existing EIS).

The LSS list established by the OTC includes eight projects, two of which are in Region 2 (Newberg-Dundee and Pioneer Mountain-Eddyville). The projects on the list have been discussed and requested by the public for many years and come with significant costs (most over \$100 million). While it is not intended that our Large Project Priority List will lead directly to inclusion of these projects on the LSS, it will provide a conduit for us to raise the Region's large project issues and needs with ODOT management and the OTC. I will keep you informed about any OTC discussions on the LSS project list.

Thank you in advance for your help, and the help of your commissions, in developing this Region 2 Large Project Priority List.

Attachment