

October 11, 2007

Ms. Angel L. Jones
Eugene City Manager pro tem
777 Pearl St., Room 105
Eugene, Oregon 97401

RE: MPC's Endorsement of City of Eugene *ConnectOregon II* Grant Application for Eugene Depot Phase 2 - Platform and Vehicular Improvements

Dear Ms. Jones,

The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), representing the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, strongly endorses the grant application submitted by the City of Eugene for improvements to the Eugene Passenger Rail Depot. A strong multimodal transportation hub is an important part of our regional and statewide transportation goals and objectives.

The Eugene City Council has adopted a set of policies that identifies the Eugene Depot as the site to provide links between urban bus service, Amtrak intercity bus service, Greyhound intercity bus, passenger cars, taxi, bikes and pedestrians. As stated in the Eugene Depot Multi-modal Transit Station master plan, "The Eugene Depot is a unique opportunity to enhance a vibrant commercial district, rehabilitate significant historic structures, create a transit gateway connecting Eugene to major Northwest cities, and to consolidate multiple modes of transit, including intercity bus, local transit, train, automobile, bike and pedestrians in a single facility."

The Eugene Depot serves as the multi-modal transportation hub for the lower Willamette valley. The Depot is the terminal for Amtrak's interstate passenger rail service, serving the Lane County and surrounding areas to the east, south and west. The Eugene Depot is also designated as the southern terminus of Amtrak's high-speed rail system serving the Willamette Valley north to Vancouver, B.C. A number of regional bus services connect travelers with passenger rail services at the Depot. Amtrak also operates a bus system supplementing rail service, using the Eugene Depot as the terminal.

With the commitment of federal funds for the next phase of the Eugene Depot project under the SAFETEA-LU bill, and the design of the project underway, the City needs to secure non-federal matching funds to construct the Depot improvements. ConnectOregon grant funds provide the ideal means to leverage these federal funds. MPC enthusiastically lends its support to fully funding this grant application.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy
Chair, Metropolitan Policy Committee