

October 2, 2003

Chairman Dwyer and Metropolitan Policy Committee Members
99 East Broadway, Suite 400
Eugene, OR 97401-3111

**RE: Draft FY04-06 Transportation Improvement Program and Federal Surface
Transportation Program urban Fund Allocations**

Dear Chairman Dwyer and Metropolitan Policy Committee Members:

This letter provides comments from the City of Eugene on the Federal Surface Transportation Program Urban (STP-U) fund allocations during the public review period established by the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) at its September 11, 2003 meeting.

At the Eugene City Council work session held on September 24, 2003, the Council passed the following motion:

“Move to direct city manager and city TPC representatives to work with LCOG and the MPO to modify the STP-U programming and evaluation criteria in order to enable jurisdictions to facilitate and prioritize the funding of Operations, Maintenance and Preservation of the road system, if they so choose.”

The City of Eugene Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) representative discussed this motion with the TPC at a recent Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC) meeting. The group concurred that the failure of a similar motion at the MPC’s September 11, 2003 meeting provided policy direction for the TPC. The group felt that the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program update and STP-U fund allocation process should move forward to adoption consistent with the MPC’s action in September. It was suggested that the most effective way for the City of Eugene to address its Council’s direction was to seek to have MPC reconsider the issue at its October 9, 2003 meeting.

In order for the City of Eugene staff to be responsive to its Council’s direction, the City of Eugene requests that the MPC consider the following two alternatives:

1. Combine the funding for the Modernization and Preservation categories for STP-U fund allocations. With the new combined category, allow jurisdictions to withdraw or resubmit project applications. Direct the TPC to reprioritize the projects in the new combined category.

2. Eliminate the Modernization category and move the funding to the Preservation category. With the increased funding in the Preservation category, allow jurisdictions to withdraw or resubmit project applications or submit new project applications. Direct the TPC to reprioritize the projects in the Preservation category.

The City of Eugene requests that the MPC adopt the second alternative eliminating the Modernization category and reallocating the funding to the Preservation category. This alternative would be consistent with the Federal guidelines for STP-U fund allocation. It would also direct more funding to preservation to meet the region's increasing backlog of pavement preservation needs.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Eugene's comments. I intend to speak to this issue at the MPC public hearing scheduled for October 9, 2003.

Sincerely,

Mark Schoening, P.E.
City Engineer