

RESOLUTION 2003 - 03

URGING WESTERN COG AND MPO AGENCIES TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THE CREATION OF A WEST COAST TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR SYSTEM COALITION

WHEREAS, the growth in international freight, as well as farm to market and intra-regional truck, rail and inland waterway travel and tourism is overwhelming the West Coast transportation system; and Homeland Security initiatives require additional resources at international border crossings, air and marine seaports; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Asian Pacific trade arrives through major West Coast ports and is forecast to double or triple in the next 20 years. International commerce provides a direct, positive effect on the economy; and local and regional economies are directly influenced by economic activity from investments in transportation; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of American jobs are directly affected by threatened cuts in transportation investments; and state leaders have authorized modest, new transportation infrastructure investment programs; and Congress and the Administration are currently debating the reauthorization of TEA-21 with potential significant impacts for the West Coast; and

WHEREAS, The West Coast's infrastructure is aging and corridor travel and trade demands are growing significantly faster than infrastructure capacity; and historically, our national trade, travel and energy corridors were designed for east-west rather than north-south mobility; and the emergence of NAFTA and the potential for expansion of trade to Latin America has resulted in additional demands on the system; and

WHEREAS, the population along the West Coast is growing considerably faster than the national average, resulting in higher metropolitan housing costs, longer commute times and increased need for both inland and coastal access and increased demand along I-5 and adjacent rail corridors, and requires an interoperable and compatible intelligent transportation system to increase efficiency and maximize existing capacity; and

WHEREAS, the West Coast is the nexus of traditional Asia Pacific and emerging NAFTA trade and travel corridors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Metropolitan Policy Committee agrees to work with its members, in coalition with state and federal officials and private sector leaders, to develop principles, priorities, and methods for the implementation of a multi-state, efficient trade, travel and energy corridor system extending through the states of Washington, Oregon, and California..

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003, BY THE
BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE.

ATTEST:

George Kloeppe
Executive Director
Lane Council of Governments

Bill Dwyer, Chair
Metropolitan Policy Committee