

November 12, 2004

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4f (1)(ii) – Status Report on ODOT Freight Route Analysis Project

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Issue Summary:

This spring, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) began a review of the State Highway Freight System. An advisory committee representing various stakeholder groups was formed to participate in the discussion and designation of new freight routes on state highways. The State Highway Freight System consists of the state highways that carry a significant tonnage of freight by truck and serve as the primary interstate and intrastate highway freight connection to ports, intermodal terminals, and urban areas.

ODOT sought comment on the proposed freight route designations through the middle of October. At its October 14th meeting, MPC approved a letter to ODOT Director Bruce Warner requesting a 60-day extension of the review period. At its October meeting, OTC approved extension of the public comment period on the Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP) until January 7, 2005.

A revised schedule for the project is attached. The proposal for additions to the State Highway Freight System and changes in text and policy would be amendments to the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP). The revised schedule includes an informational presentation to the Oregon Transportation Committee (OTC) at their April meeting, followed by a public hearing at the May OTC meeting. Both meetings will be in Salem.

Staff will be working to develop a set of more specific comments on the proposed additions to the freight route system in the region. These comments will be brought to MPC for consideration at its December 9th meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Tentative Timeline for Completion of Freight Route Analysis Project (FRAP)

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