



November 2, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Paul Thompson

Subject: Item 5.c: Scoping Central Lane MPO FY08-11 STIP Modernization Projects

Action Recommended: Discuss and provide feedback on MPO scoping priorities for modernization projects on the ODOT system.

Background

At the July 14, 2005 joint meeting of the MPC and the MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) staff presented a schedule for the FY08-11 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process. The MPC and the CAC reviewed the schedule and indicated acceptance of the statewide eligibility criteria and prioritization factors as proposed by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC).

At the August 11th MPC meeting, staff presented a revised FY08-11 STIP schedule reflecting minor adjustments to meeting dates and allowing additional time at several points in the process. At that meeting, staff also presented background information on the MPO-specific factors and evaluation process used in the FY06-09 STIP process two years ago and answered questions on the process and criteria. Attachments 2 and 3 to the August 11th MPC memo presented information on that prior process.

At the September 15th MPC meeting, staff presented the MPO's Transportation Planning Committee's (TPC) consensus recommendation to retain the MPO-specific evaluation criteria and process utilized during the FY06-09 STIP process for use in the FY08-11 STIP process. MPC concurred with that direction. Although the STIP contains funding for numerous ODOT programs areas and activities, the current specific topic under review is the MPO's priorities for funding for modernization activities.

Issue Summary

Attachment 1 to this memo presents the Countywide Modernization Priorities for the FY06-09 STIP as adopted by the Lane County Board of Commissioners on April 14, 2004 (with updated project status as of August, 2005). This table shows the countywide priorities adopted for the prior STIP cycle, which incorporate the MPO's metropolitan priorities adopted for the same purpose. The priorities are divided into three project categories: Construction STIP (C-STIP) Large Roadway Projects; C-STIP Smaller Roadway Projects; and Development STIP (D-STIP) Large Projects. Within each category, the second column in the table (labeled "Metro") shows the MPO's priorities within the countywide priorities.

The MPO's modernization priorities as adopted for the FY06-09 STIP form the basis for developing the MPO's modernization priorities for the FY08-11 STIP. At this point in the FY08-11 STIP process, the MPO must develop a *preliminary unranked* list of priority modernization projects to forward to the Lane

County Board of Commissioners for incorporation into a new countywide set of priority modernization projects for the FY08-11 STIP (at this time, the County has scheduled this topic before the County's Roads Advisory Committee on November 30th and before the Board of Commissioners on December 14th). During December and January, ODOT staff will update project scoping information for the projects on the MPO and countywide lists, with the results of that effort expected sometime in January or February of 2006. At that time, the MPO will be asked to produce a *final ranked* list of FY08-11 STIP modernization priorities in the February-April time frame.

On October 27, 2005 TPC considered a motion to remove the West Eugene Parkway (WEP) project from the MPO's list of priorities for C-STIP Large Roadway Projects. The motion was approved by a vote of five to two, with two abstentions. The vote should not necessarily be construed as a vote to no longer seek funding for the WEP project. TPC voiced the concern, given the action by the Eugene City Council just the previous day, that Eugene's lack of support for the WEP on the FY08-11 STIP priorities list could lead to a situation where the MPO was not able to agree on a set of priorities to forward to ODOT for project scoping. Without the project scoping effort and resulting information, the STIP process for those projects would be in jeopardy. TPC's vote to remove the WEP from the project scoping priority list was at least partly, if not mostly, in recognition of the need to move other projects on the priority list forward to the scoping phase.

TPC is also still considering adjustments to the MPO's projects in the *C-STIP Smaller Roadway Projects* category shown on the FY06-09 list. TPC will bring any recommendations for changes to that category to the December 8, 2005 MPC meeting.

Next Steps

Staff is requesting that, based on the materials distributed in the October MPC packet and this packet, MPC consider the MPO projects on the April 2004 adopted STIP priorities list and provide direction to staff on adjustments to the *unranked* list for the purposes of forwarding to ODOT for project scoping. At the December 8th MPC meeting MPC will be asked to approved the scoping list. Subsequent steps will follow as noted earlier in this memo.

Attachments: Attachment 1 – Countywide Modernization Priorities for FY06-09 STIP

Please also refer to materials included with Item 4.d in the September 15, 2005 MPC packet – those materials are also available on the Internet here
<http://www.lcog.org/meetings/mpc.html>