

**DATE:** November 2, 2006

**TO:** Oregon Transportation Commission

**FROM:** Matthew L. Garrett  
Director

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda E** ~ Cancel Oregon 126: West Eugene Parkway, Unit 1, Part A and Oregon 126: West Eugene Parkway Wetland Mitigation, Unit 2, from the 2006-2009 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

**Requested Action:**

Approve an amendment to the 2006-2009 STIP to (1) cancel the Oregon 126: West Eugene Parkway, Unit 1, Part A, project and the Oregon 126: West Eugene Parkway Wetland Mitigation, Unit 2, project and, (2) obtain direction from the Oregon Transportation Commission about the use of the funding freed from the cancellations.

Project Name	Oregon 126: West Eugene Parkway, Unit 1, Part A, Key 07990	
PHASE	YEAR	COST
PE	1994	\$1,400,000
RW	2002	\$750,000
UR		\$0
CN	2007	\$15,587,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$17,737,000</b>

Project Name	Oregon 126: West Eugene Parkway Wetland Mitigation, Unit 2, Key	
PHASE	YEAR	COST
PE		
RW		
UR		
CN		
OTHER	2008	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,000,000</b>

Of the total funding shown above, \$12,200,000 remains. About \$500,000 will be needed to close out the existing project. That leaves available \$11,700,000 in STIP Modernization funds that were allocated to Region 2 in previous Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs.

**Background:**

The West Eugene Parkway project proposed to build a new major east-west arterial between Oregon 126 and Oregon 99 in Eugene. The project began almost three decades ago and has generated significant controversy in the Eugene area for years.

Despite two affirmative votes by Eugene residents to build the parkway in 1986 and again in 2001, the Eugene City Council voted in October 2005, to oppose adopting the 2008–2011 Metropolitan

Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) unless the West Eugene Parkway project was removed from the MTIP list of projects. Since that City Council vote, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Oregon Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration have worked with local officials, suggesting compromises, in an attempt to keep the project moving forward. No compromise was reached. In June 2006, ODOT sent a letter to local officials stating that it was time for ODOT to recommend a "no build" alternative to FHWA.

The Record of Decision was revised to recommend a no-build alternative. That Record of Decision was sent to FHWA and its final approval should be in place by mid November.

The parkway projects (both the main project and a corollary environmental mitigation project) now need to be cancelled from the STIP.

If these cancellations are approved, we also ask that you give us general direction and set project selection criteria for the redistribution of the available funds.

*Attachments:* Vicinity and Location Maps

Copies (w/attachments) to:

Doug Tindall	Mike Marsh
Joan Plank	Patrick Cooney
Jeff Scheick	Jane Lee
Darel Capps	Jill Vosper
Debby Corey	