

November 24, 2004

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz

Subject: Item 4f (1)(ii) - Update on Development of Comments regarding ODOT Freight Route Analysis Project

Action Recommended: Discuss comment on State freight route designations

Issue Summary:

As discussed at the November MPC meeting, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) extended the time for public comment on the proposed freight route designations developed as part of ODOT's Freight Route Analysis Project until January 7, 2005. As explained at the MPC meeting, this January 7th deadline is for comment to get into the Freight Route Advisory Committee's meeting packet materials. The OTC will not be considering the issue until April and May of 2005.

TPC staff is meeting with ODOT staff to get answers to a series of questions regarding implications of the freight route designations within the MPO area. Unfortunately, this meeting could not be scheduled until December 8, one day prior to the MPC meeting. At this point, TPC staff is considering a recommendation that would support designation of the freeway portions of Beltline (from I-5 to West 11th), Highway 126 E. (From I-5 to Main Street), and Highway 99 (the designation runs on Highway 99 starting north of Beltline). Staff still has concerns with the designations on West 11th and east Main St. These concerns will be that focus of the December 8 meeting with ODOT staff.

Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County are still planning to prepare separate letters of comment. Staff will bring a draft letter of comment to MPC at its December 9 meeting incorporating the tentative recommendations described above and additional recommendations based on results of the meeting with ODOT staff.