



November 30, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Tom Schwetz  
Subject: Item 4.d –ConnectOregon Applications Status

**Action Recommended: None. Information and Discussion Only.**

**Issue Summary:**

ConnectOregon is a lottery-bond-based initiative (\$100 million) approved by the Oregon Legislative Assembly (SB71) to invest in air, rail, marine and transit infrastructure to ensure Oregon's transportation system is strong, diverse, and efficient. It is focused on improving the connections between the highway system and the other modes of transportation to better integrate the components of the system, improve flow of commerce and remove delays.

It is the first major funding initiative targeted at multimodal or non-highway transportation in Oregon. This effort will leverage the significant investments in the highway network, (from OTIA I, II and III) and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Julie Rodwell, ODOT's Freight Mobility Section Manager, provided an overview of the ConnectOregon program at MPC's October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Attachment 1 provides a Fact Sheet on the program. The schedule for implementation of the ConnectOregon program is provided in the diagram below. Applications for ConnectOregon funding are due by January 23, 2006. At this point, there are three applications being developed for the MPO area:

- Eugene Airport Air Cargo Facilities Improvements (staff proposal)
- Eugene Depot platform and vehicular improvements (staff proposal)
- Lane Transit District Pioneer Parkway BRT

These applications are described in more detail below. It is anticipated that MPC will be asked to provide letters of support for each of these applications at its January 12, 2006 meeting.

### Eugene Airport Air Cargo Facilities Improvements

These improvements include extending a taxiway, widening the existing air cargo ramp, constructing warehouse and distribution facilities, along with utilities to support the infrastructure. The final cost estimate still needs to be refined, but the preliminary estimate is approximately \$2.5M.

The improvements are identified in the adopted Eugene Airport Master Plan, and a preliminary analysis was conducted by the airport's consulting engineer in 2002. The airport has had to delay advancing progress on these improvements due to lack of funding. The FAA is prepared to approve using AIP Entitlement grant funding to match Connect Oregon grant funding.

The project is needed to improve safety, consolidate air cargo activities at the airport, stimulate economic development, further local employment opportunities, optimize the aviation facilities situated at the airport, and create the necessary multi-modal connectivity to move freight efficiently to and from the community.

### Eugene Depot Platform and Vehicular Improvements

These improvements include specialized paving for platform and vehicles, lighting, drainage, covered passenger waiting facilities and amenities, along with selected technology features for security and communications. The preliminary cost estimate is approximately \$1.4M, pending refinement. Eugene has secured commitments for \$1 million of transportation funding in the recently passed federal SAFETEA-LU bill, so the Connect Oregon request is anticipated to be in the \$400,000 range.

This project is needed to improve passenger connectivity between rail and transit, and improve safety of passenger and transit movements within the Eugene Depot site. The improved connectivity will promote economic development, and enhance multi-modal connectivity to move passengers more efficiently.

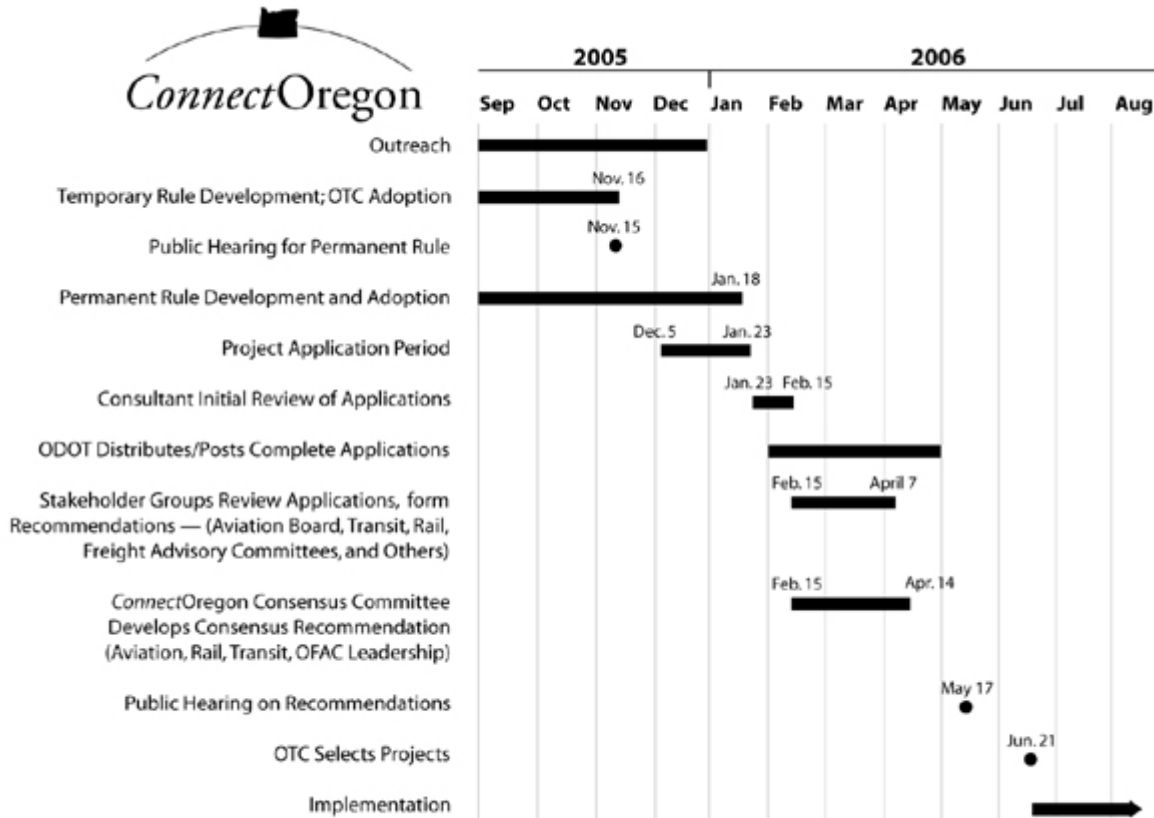
These improvements support the longer term goals in the City of Eugene's draft Depot Master Plan and will more effectively utilize the land acquired in 2003 as part of the City's Depot renovation project. With the commitment of federal funds for the next phase of this project under the SAFETEA-LU bill, the City needs to secure matching funds to undertake these planned improvements.

### Lane Transit District Pioneer Parkway BRT

LTD is anticipating submittal of an application for ConnectOregon Funding to serve as part of the match required for construction of Pioneer Parkway BRT. The state funds would help leverage \$31 million authorized in SAFETEA-LU, and pay for specific parts of the project, including a new Gateway Station and the transit lanes accessing RiverBend. LTD will be requesting \$7.5 million of ConnectOregon funding.

The Pioneer Parkway BRT is a six mile corridor system that will connect the new downtown Springfield station, Pioneer Parkway, MLK Parkway, RiverBend, International Way and the Gateway area in exclusive transitways, transit lanes and in mixed-traffic with new BRT stations. The project currently is undergoing environmental review in the NEPA process.

The Pioneer Parkway BRT project is listed in the Central Lane MPO, Regional Transportation Plan, Financially Constrained project list and also in Eugene/Springfield's regional transportation system plan, TransPlan.



Oregon Department of Transportation Nov. 14, 2005 (draft)

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – ConnectOregon Fact Sheet