



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



3040 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302-1125
Phone: (503) 378-4880
(800) 874-0102
FAX: (503) 373-1688

November 13, 2009

Dear Airport Sponsors:

This letter is a follow-up to a recent letter distributed on November 2, 2009 concerning clarification of the Rural Airports portion of the *ConnectOregon* III grant program. As we move further along in the *ConnectOregon* III process, Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have received various questions that require further clarification. Inasmuch, the following information is provided.

- *ConnectOregon* III is legislatively bound not to pay for project costs incurred prior to Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) project approval and a fully executed grant agreement that has been signed with ODOT. Any provision for unbridled retroactive application of these grant funds will need to be approved by the legislative assembly. Applicants may include costs incurred prior to OTC approval and grant agreement as part of their overall project costs. *ConnectOregon* III Rural Airport grant funds CAN be used to match project costs that occur at any point in the project life cycle so long as a grant agreement has been signed. In other words, it is not important which particular expenditures get 5% matching funds as long as the intent of 5% total match is met once the grant agreement is signed. This represents our best effort at attaining retroactive payment absent legislative action. We recognize this potentially helps projects that are underway, albeit substantially incomplete, but does nothing for projects already constructed and paid.
- Funds unobligated in the current round of *ConnectOregon* III Rural Airports funding will be carried forward to 2011 for a second round of funding.
- Attached is a revised application for *ConnectOregon* III Rural Airport applicants. The revised application does not disregard the five considerations of *ConnectOregon* III funding, but streamlines the process by concluding that Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds generally comply with the considerations.
- Applicants wishing to apply for the regular *ConnectOregon* III program must have completed applications submitted to ODOT no later than November 20, 2009. Applicants who do not submit by the aforementioned timeline **will not** be considered for the *ConnectOregon* III regular program.

Once again, applicants are encouraged to visit the ODOT ConnectOregon III website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/COIII.shtml> and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) website at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/ConnectOregon_FAQs.pdf. For further information please contact Chris Cummings at ODA (503) 378-3168 or Christopher.Cummings@state.or.us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Dal Ponte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Gregg Dal Ponte, (Acting) Director