



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

355 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-3871

May 7, 2009

FILE CODE:

The Honorable Peter Courtney
Oregon State Senate President
900 Court Street NE, S-201
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Dave Hunt
Oregon State Speaker of the House
900 Court Street NE, H-269
Salem, OR 97301

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Hunt:

At Governor Kulongoski's direction, the Oregon Department of Transportation prepared a list of projects benefiting the state highway system that address freight mobility, congestion, safety concerns, or promote economic development. The projects on the list have been publicly reviewed through various Oregon Transportation Commission processes involving the Area Commissions on Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other advisory groups, or identified by the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department as certified industrial lands.

Because this list focuses on freight mobility, congestion, safety and economic opportunity, it does not include all the projects necessary to maintain and preserve the existing infrastructure. Even so, the extensiveness of the limited list reflects the critical need for transportation funding in Oregon. Undoubtedly there are similar needs on county roads and city streets as well.

The Oregon Transportation Commission strongly encourages investments be directed to projects that can be constructed as soon as possible. The commission is critically concerned with delivering jobs for Oregonians quickly, and doing so through projects that have broad public support. The commission believes that these two concerns are best addressed on projects that have clear cost and construction phasing dates, and that have come to the commission from Area Commissions on Transportation through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program process or through other processes, such as federal earmark requests. The commission's sense is that bond proceeds generally should fund capital construction. Projects on the list with no estimated construction start date are less likely to be constructed within the next 5-10 years.

The Oregon Transportation Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide this list of publicly considered projects, and hopes that the list is helpful in moving forward toward sustainable transportation funding this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Gail Achterman
Chair

cc: Governor Kulongoski

