

MAP-21 National Highway System Expansion Working Group

MAP-21 attempts to standardize the National Highway System (NHS) across states by expanding the NHS to include all urban and rural principal arterials, the main thoroughfares that carry most traffic. This expansion will hundreds of miles of routes to the NHS in Oregon, including many local roads that function as main streets and serve commercial areas and central business districts. The expansion of the NHS has significant implications across a number of areas, including design standards and performance measures, though these potential impacts will be very manageable.

Role of Working Group

The MAP-21 National Highway System Expansion Working Group will work through issues related to NHS expansion to ensure that this transition proceeds smoothly and minimizes impacts on communities. The activities the Working Group undertakes may include:

- Reviewing FHWA guidance on implementation of NHS expansion and developing a comprehensive understanding of the implications of NHS expansion
- Coordination with and education of local governments
- Reviewing designation of principal arterials and working with local governments and FHWA to process modifications to principal arterials
- Reviewing implications of applying AASHTO Green Book standards and Oregon Highway Design Manual standards to the expanded NHS and recommending revisions to the Highway Design Manual, programmatic approvals and modifications to how ODOT and FHWA process design exceptions for NHS routes
- Reviewing implications of applying asset and performance management to the expanded NHS in accordance with the National Highway Performance Program
- Working with the FHWA Oregon Division Office to address major issues, including identifying and clearly articulating potential advantages and disadvantages to designation on local system

The Working Group will generally serve as a coordinating body, with most work undertaken by individual business units. The Working Group will make recommendations to ODOT's leadership, including the Highway Division Administrator and Transportation Development Division Administrator, as well as the FHWA Oregon Division Office. The group's work should be substantially completed by spring 2013.

Membership

The NHS Expansion Working Group will be a multi-disciplinary group including members from federal, state, and local government agencies. Members will be drawn from the following:

- Federal Highway Administration (Emily Lawton and Satvinder Sandhu)
- Representatives from cities (Paul Smith of Portland Bureau of Transportation), counties (Jon Oshel of AOC, Cindy Schmitt and Karen Odenthal of Marion County), and metropolitan planning organizations (Deena Platman of Metro, Ray Jackson of SKATS)
- ODOT Planning Section (Michael Bufalino)

- ODOT Transportation Data Section (Dave Ringeisen, Heather King)
- ODOT Technical Services (Cathy Nelson)
- ODOT Traffic-Roadway Section (Steve Lindland, Dave Polly)
- ODOT Active Transportation Section (Margi Bradway, Sheila Lyons)
- ODOT Government Relations Section (Travis Brouwer)
- ODOT Region 1 (Kirsten Pennington)

Other agency staff and stakeholders will be incorporated into the group or consulted as necessary.

Timeline

The NHS Expansion Working Group will meet as needed (approximately once a month) during the period in which NHS expansion occurs. The group's work will likely be completed in 2013.