



Oregon

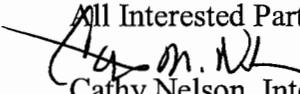
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Transportation

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Date: January 24, 2006

To: All Interested Parties

From: 
Cathy Nelson, Interim Region 1 Manager

Subject: 2008-2011 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Region 1, is asking for you to help shape statewide, regional and local transportation funding decisions for the next STIP update. Please join us to discuss and comment on these important transportation projects.

The draft STIP is ODOT's scheduling and funding document for transportation projects. Region 1 is now in the process of identifying, selecting and scoping candidate transportation projects to be funded with state and federal transportation dollars between 2008 and 2011. ODOT will hold four open house meetings around the region to share information on various programs, funding and candidate projects.

Portland - Tuesday, February 7th 5 - 8 pm

Metro Regional Center
Metro Council Chambers, Room 370 A/B
600 NE Grand Avenue

- This will be a joint public meeting with the Oregon Transportation Plan

Hillsboro - Thursday, February 9th 5 - 8 pm

Hillsboro Civic Center
150 East Main Street (Downtown Hillsboro)
Room 113C

Hood River - Wednesday February 15th 4 - 8pm

Hood River Library
503 State Street

- This will be a joint public meeting with the Oregon Transportation Plan

Oregon City - Thursday, February 16th 4 - 8 pm

Willamette Falls Hospital Community Center (corner of 15th & Washington St.)
519 15th Street

You may also participate by sending your comments in by mail or email to the following addresses:

Region 1 STIP Coordinator or R1STIP@odot.state.or.us
123 NW Flanders St.
Portland, Oregon 97209

Please include 2008-2011 STIP Comments in the Subject Line. **Comments are due by Friday, April 14, 2006.** For more information on the 2008-2011 STIP Update, visit our webs site:
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/0811stip.shtml>



Modernization Program
Project Candidate List for 2008-2011
Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
Region 1, Oregon Department of Transportation

Introduction

The draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is ODOT's project funding and scheduling document. It identifies the transportation projects to be funded from 2008 to 2011. Funding in the STIP is allocated among different program categories, each with different objectives.

This paper focuses on one program category: Modernization. The primary goal of modernization projects is to add capacity to the highway system in order to facilitate existing traffic and/or accommodate projected traffic growth.

This paper also describes how Region 1 developed a candidate list of modernization projects for this STIP update, and how stakeholders and the public can participate in funding decisions. Information about other program categories such as preservation, bridge, safety and operations is not yet available but will be released soon for public review and comment.

Background

The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) adopted funding allocations for the 2008-2011 STIP at their December 2005 meeting. The OTC allocated increased federal highway funds to the Modernization Program to cover debt service payments on the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) bonds that are scheduled to begin in 2008. The result is the Modernization Program funding levels available for new projects will remain flat, at roughly the 2006-2009 STIP levels. Without this action, available modernization funding levels would have dropped in half.

Region 1 received a STIP modernization target of \$74 million in early January 2006 to program for the 2008-2011 STIP. A significant amount of funding will be needed to ensure projects currently programmed for construction are fully funded and remain on schedule, so the amount available to fund new projects will be less than \$50 million.

Region 1 will select and prioritize modernization projects based on the Project Eligibility Criteria and Prioritization Factors approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission in September 2005.

Eligibility Criteria

- Are consistent with the applicable acknowledged Transportation System Plan (TSP) or, in the absence of an applicable acknowledged TSP, the applicable acknowledged comprehensive plan and any adopted TSP.
- Are consistent with the Oregon Highway Plan policy on Major Improvements (Policy 1G, Action 1.G.1), where applicable.

Prioritization Factors

- Project readiness
- Projects that best support the policies of the Oregon Highway Plan
- Projects that support freight mobility
- Projects that leverage other funds and public benefits
- Class 1 and 3 projects that have completed an environmental milestone of a Record of Decision or Finding of No Significant Impact.

A copy of the factors may be found on our web site at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/TP/0811stip.shtml#2008_2011_STIP_Criteria

The Candidate List

Attached is a copy of Region 1's candidate list of modernization projects. This list assumes approximately 150% of the actual amount of funding available for modernization projects in Region 1 between 2008 and 2011. The candidate list of projects was generated from prior STIPs, the Regional Transportation Plan, local transportation system plans and the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee Recommendations for high priority freight mobility projects. It is also based on recommendations from the Northwest Area Commission on Transportation and consultation with local governments and other stakeholders. The cost estimates associated with each project are based on planning level estimates. More detailed project cost estimates will be developed later this spring through project scoping.

Over the next few months, Region 1 will need to fiscally constrain the candidate modernization list to meet its funding target of \$74 million. We are seeking comments to narrow the candidate list of modernization projects to the available funding level. Adding a new project to the list would require eliminating or reducing funding for one or more projects on the candidate list.

There are several ways to participate in the project selection process:

- **Attend one or more public meetings** – There are four public meetings scheduled to discuss the 150% candidate list. These will be open house style meetings where the public will have a chance to learn more about the candidate projects, talk to ODOT staff and provide comments. There will be additional public meetings scheduled in the fall for public comment on the final recommended list of modernization projects for the Oregon Transportation Commission.
- **Mail or email comments to ODOT** – comments received by mail or email will receive equal consideration as comments received at public meetings. Mail comments to Region 1 STIP Coordinator, 123 NW Flanders St., Portland, Oregon 97209 or email to R1STIP@odot.state.or.us.

Next Steps

Region 1 will accept input on the candidate list of modernization projects from **January 27, 2006 through April 14, 2006**. This is just the first step in the process to update the STIP. The following is a preliminary timeline of additional steps and opportunities for public input.

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| April 2006: | <u>April 14th is the Deadline</u> for comments on the Candidate Project List.
Region begins programming projects. |
| May – July 2006: | Develop a recommended list and fiscally constrain all Region 1 STIP project lists to 100%. |
| August 2006: | Region 1 submits Draft Recommended project list to Salem for printing. |
| September 2006: | ODOT prints Draft STIP document and distribute to public. |
| October 2006: | Public comment period begins for the Statewide 2008-2011 Draft STIP. |