



PORTLAND FREIGHT COMMITTEE

April 14, 2006

Mr. Jason Tell, Director  
ODOT Region 1  
123 NW Flanders Street  
Portland, OR 97209

Re: 2008-2011 Region 1 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Projects

Dear Mr. Tell:

The Portland Freight Committee (PFC) has reviewed and discussed the draft 2008-2011 STIP. We concur with the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee's (OFAC) assessment that some projects on the 150% list contribute more significantly to freight mobility than others, and we agree with their ranking. The PFC therefore recommends that the OFAC #1 projects be advanced to the next round of STIP decision making. The list of #1 priority projects, as identified by OFAC and supported the PFC, is attached.

We would be remiss, however, if we did not express our concern that the Portland region and the state of Oregon lack comprehensive freight corridor master plans that would help guide investment decisions. For example, the PFC supports projects on I-5 in the Portland metro area but notes that the identified projects appear to move congestion from one bottleneck to another. Of particular concern is the bottleneck the I-5/I-84 interchange, which is reported to be the most congested in the state.

We therefore recommend that planning work leading to project funding begin immediately to address the congestion at the I-5/I-84 interchange, and that other master plans be developed for congested links along the I-5 corridor. Neither the I-5 nor the I-84 corridor in the Portland metro area will function effectively until this situation is addressed.

In closing, we look forward to working with both Metro and the State of Oregon as they develop regional and state-wide freight master plans. Future decision making will be facilitated by these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Gardner, Chair  
Portland Freight Committee

c: Commissioner Sam Adams  
Director Susan D. Keil, PDOT Director