



CITY OF NORTH PLAINS

31360 NW Commercial St. North Plains, Oregon 97133

February 10, 2006

Cathy Nelson, Interim Region One Manager
Oregon Department of Transportation
123 NW Flanders Street
Portland, Oregon 97209

RE: Comments Regarding 2008-2011 STIP

The City of North Plains provides the following comments regarding the proposed 2008-2011 STIP. Preliminary engineering and protective right of way acquisition is funded in the year 2009 for the US26 Sunset Highway @ Glencoe Road project. The access management and environmental assessment is scheduled for 2006 for this project. The city requests that the funding for the Glencoe Road Interchange project (preliminary engineering and right of way acquisition) be moved further up in the STIP funding. The city also requests that the funding for the actual construction of the interchange be included in the 2008-2011 STIP.

The Staley's Junction improvement project has been prioritized higher than the Glencoe Road project, however, the Glencoe Road project would benefit many more people than would the Staley's Junction project. Vehicle counts taken by the county during the preparation of the county's TSP showed a traffic volume of over 20,000 vehicles per day on the south side of the interchange and over 8,000 vehicles per day on the north side of the interchange. These volumes are much greater than the volume of traffic using Staley's Junction.

The sidewalks on the Glencoe overpass have been closed to pedestrians due to the unsafe conditions. The bridge is over 45 years old and cannot meet the current design standards for earthquake safety.

The North Plains Urban Growth Boundary has been expanded to the north and east of the existing city. The north expansion area, which will accommodate approximately 350 new dwelling units will be accessed by the Glencoe Road Interchange.

For the above reasons, the Glencoe Road Interchange needs improvement sooner than programmed in the proposed STIP. The city urges ODOT to review the ranking of projects in the STIP and give Glencoe Road a higher priority.

The City Council of North Plains is urging the Oregon Department of Transportation to re-evaluate the priority list concerning the Glencoe Road project and Staley's Junction Improvement Project.

Sincerely,

Cheri Olson,
Mayor