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March 20, 2006

Sandra Bertolani, Region 1 STIP Coordinator
Oregon Department of Transportation
123 NW Flanders Street
Portland, OR 97209

RE: 2008-2011 STIP Update Review

Dear Ms. Bertolani:

The City of Hillsboro staff has reviewed the candidate list of projects within Region 1 identified on the draft 2008-2011 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) update. Our comments center around three primary projects, two of them are on Preservation list of projects while one is a Modernization project.

1. OR 8: Minter Bridge Road to Forest Grove (Preservation)

The Tualatin Valley Highway (OR 8) is a vital east-west urban arterial through Washington County. More than a vehicular corridor, Tri-Met provides frequent transit bus service via OR 8 between Beaverton and Forest Grove. Consequently, a sizeable amount of pedestrian activity occurs as well along both sides of the corridor. The existing lack of sidewalks, broken segments of available sidewalks, and the lack of safe crosswalks represent a hazardous situation for transit riders as they work their way to a nearby bus stop.

The City would, therefore advise that ODOT closely coordinate resurfacing efforts with ongoing pedestrian improvements occurring through existing and future Bike/Ped grants.

2. OR 219: OR 8 to Farmington Road (Preservation)

The portion of the roadway that crosses Jackson Bottom is susceptible to flooding. Furthermore, safety is a paramount concern due to the narrowness of the fill supporting the roadway – particularly for bicyclist. The Jackson Bottom Visitor Center and Clean Water Services Headquarters, - both situated at the southern end of the wetland preserve – are popular destinations for all modes of travel, particularly bicycles. Although flood mitigation and shoulder widening are beyond the scope of the resurfacing project, the City would like ODOT to remain cognizant of these ongoing issues.

3. US 26: 185th Avenue to Cornell Road Widening (Modernization)

As the Sunset Highway continues to widen westward, ODOT must remain mindful of capacity concerns at the 185th Avenue interchange. The relief valve for this potential future chokepoint remains to be the completion of the 173rd Avenue over/under-crossing. Therefore, the City encourages ODOT to give close consideration of this project for future STIP updates.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the project list proposals.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HILLSBORO



Tom Hughes
Mayor

Cc: Kathy Lehtola, LUT Director, Washington County