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February 14, 2006

Cathy Nelson
Interim Region 1 Manager
ODOT
123 NW Flanders
Portland, OR 97209-4037

RE: 2008-2011 STIP Comments

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on ODOT's 2008-2011 list of projects for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. It has been a long road, but because of the hard work of ODOT staff and because of our bi-state partnership, the I-5 Delta Park project is nearing it's construction phase. I can think of no other project that dollar for dollar is a better investment for improving the movement of freight, commerce, and commuters through one of the most heavily congested interstates in our area. Simply stated, the Delta Park widening will remove one of the longest standing bottlenecks in the region.

We appreciate the initial programming of construction funds for the Delta Park project in ODOT's current STIP. We also strongly support the proposed programming of an additional \$16 million for the project in ODOT's 2008-2011 STIP. The Delta Park project is expected to have a completed environmental review, design, and Finding of No Significant Impact late this summer. It has many benefits including: a reduction in the peak congestion period by several hours each day thereby significantly improving heavy truck freight movement, it leverages federal funds, and is recognized throughout the bi-state region as one of the single worst congestion bottlenecks.

It would be our understanding that with the combination of SAFETEA-LU high priority federal funding from Washington and Oregon, the previous STIP funding and the proposed STIP funding, Phase I of the project can be built. This project represents a huge opportunity to demonstrate that an investment of public transportation funds can make a difference. We encourage the Oregon Transportation Commission's continued support of the project by retaining the \$16 million as proposed in the 2008-2011 STIP.

Sincerely,

Battle Ground Councilperson William J. Ganley
RTC Chair

cc: RTC Board of Directors