

Region 2
2008-2011 Development STIP
Modernization Project Criteria Summary Report

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Project Name: OR 126: Poterf Creek – Noti Development

Key Number: 12828

Project Location: Florence-Eugene Highway (OR 126W). This project is in Lane County. (MP 37.44 to 41.83)

Total Estimated Project Cost for the Identified Milestone: \$1,000,000

Project Description: The Florence-Eugene Highway has undergone several improvements from Eugene to Noti. The project will look at improving horizontal and vertical alignments as well as upgrading roadway features to meet Federal Highway standards. This milestone will complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to select a build alternative to address transportation needs on this highway segment.

Project Eligibility

Supports Development STIP definition: The project supports the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) definition of a Development-Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (D-STIP) project by including the following characteristics: 1) The project is proposed through a specific milestone of design-level environmental documents; and 2) Needed improvements have been identified, but a final solution has not been determined. Further design and analysis needs to be conducted in order to identify a preferred alternative.

Addresses unmet need identified in an existing plan, or mode and function of a need, or is a statewide significant or federal discretionary project: Deficiencies of this segment are noted in the OR 126W Highway Conditions Report. Noted deficiencies include shoulder width and slope, sight distance, and curve geometry. Policies in the Lane County Transportation System Plan (TSP) support project development and implementation, under *Goals and Policies: Roads, Goal 2*. The most relevant of the four policies listed are Policy 2-a and Policy 2-d:

Policy 2-a: “Safe movement of vehicles on the state system, and where allowed, bicyclists and pedestrians shall be a priority. Lane County supports development and implementation of ODOT projects that improve safety, operation, and structural characteristics of the state highway and bridge system, provided they are consistent with the TSP and federal, state, and local regulations.”

Policy 2-d: “ODOT safety, preservation and modernization projects on the state system shall be consistent with Policies 2a-c above, and need not be identified in the Lane County TSP 20 Year Project List.”

Improving this section of highway has been recognized as a need since the early 1990s. Project development was included in the 1995-1998 STIP, but the project was cancelled because of funding limitations.

Milestone to be completed: The proposed project will complete the environmental process.

Project Prioritization

D-STIP suitability, milestones already completed, identified funding scenario through construction: This funding will be added to previously identified funds in the 2006-2009 D-STIP. The combined funding is anticipated to be sufficient to complete the NEPA documentation process for a construction project.

Support of OHP policies: In the 2005 update of the Oregon Highway Plan, OR 126 was designated a Freight Route. This project would improve freight mobility on OR 126 by vertical, horizontal, and passing improvements (Policies 1C and 4A). The resulting NEPA documentation will help identify constructible solutions and safety problems caused by substandard geometry (Policy 2F).

Leverage of other funds or benefits: There is no leverage opportunity anticipated. The benefits are to improve safety and flow of traffic on OR 126.

Support of additional ACT criteria: Lane County did not add additional criteria to the project prioritization process.