

W. T. a.

AGENDA COVER MEMO

DATE: February 15, 2006

TO: Lane County Board of Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works Department

PRESENTED BY: Tom Stinchfield, Transportation Planning Engineer

TITLE: ORDER/In the Matter of Endorsing Project Applications for *ConnectOregon*

I. MOTION

Move approval of the Order.

II. ISSUE

Applications for the *ConnectOregon* program are due to the state on February 17, 2006. The application form provides for letters of support for these applications. A Board Order has been prepared authorizing the Board Chair to sign letters in support of applications in Lane County.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

The legislature provided \$100 million in funding for the *ConnectOregon* program. This program is intended to fund transportation improvements related to freight movement and multi-modal operations. It is not intended to fund projects that are eligible for highway projects. The Board held a work session on October 19, 2005 to discuss this program with the ODOT project manager.

Applications are due February 17, 2006 and must be complete with any supporting letters. The Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to consider letters for three metro area applications on February 9, 2006. Action taken at that meeting will be reported to the Board on February 15th.

The Port of Siuslaw and the City of Florence Airport are also expected to submit applications.

B. Analysis

Staff is pulling together information on the applications that we know about. All of the applications we know about are proposed by government entities. There may also be applications from railroads or other private businesses.

The letters of support are not required as part of a complete application and are optional. However, the applicants have requested these letters. The process continues

to evolve as time passes. The complete set of applications will be reviewed by state staff and then sent out for review and comment.

Between Late March and early May, the four ODOT advisory bodies to rail, air, transit and freight will review and prioritize their individual project lists for *ConnectOregon* funds. During roughly the same time frame, Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) and other advisory groups will review and prioritize for their areas. Region 2 ACTs and Lane County will be asked to prioritize projects in their areas. We think the Region 2 Manager will arrange a meeting in May for Region 2 areas to consider a Region 2 recommendation to the OTC. The Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) will receive recommendations from the four advisory committees and the ODOT Regions. The OTC is scheduled to approve *ConnectOregon* funding for projects at their July 2006 meeting.

At this time, we are aware of five potential applications: Eugene Airport Cargo Handling Facility; Eugene Train Depot Passenger Improvements; Florence Airport Improvements, LTD EmX (BRT) funding; and Port of Siuslaw Maple Street Landing and Transient Dock Project. We will provide additional details on these projects by supplemental materials prior to the meeting on February 15th.

C. Alternatives / Options

1. Adopt the Order approving letters of support.
2. Decline to provide letters of support for all or some of the projects.

D. Recommendation

Option 1.

E. Timing

Action is requested today to meet the application deadline.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW-UP

Staff will continue work on *ConnectOregon* and the subsequent requests to comment later on project priorities.

V. ATTACHMENTS

ORDER

Exhibit A

ConnectOregon Applications In Lane County

Eugene Airport Air Cargo Project

Eugene Depot Passenger Improvements

Florence Airport Improvements

Lane Transit District Bus Rapid Transit Project (EmX)

Port of Siuslaw Maple Street Landing and Transient Dock Project