



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

Office of the Director, MS 11

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Date: March 3, 2016
To: Oregon Transportation Commission

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From: Matthew L. Garrett
Director

Subject: **Agenda E** – Allocation of additional federal funds from FAST Act

Requested Action:

Request approval to allocate additional federal funds from FAST Act programs in the 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and receive feedback on projects proposed to be amended into the 2015-2018 STIP.

Background:

The FAST Act authorizes federal highway, transit and safety programs through 2020, with small annual funding increases over the course of the bill. The funding levels in the FAST Act provide additional funding above the levels assumed when ODOT developed the 2015-2018 STIP and the 2018-2021 STIP. As a result, the Commission has the opportunity to program additional funding in both STIPs. Much of the additional funding coming to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) must be allocated to freight-related projects on high-volume, high-priority truck freight routes, primarily the Interstate.

2015-2018 STIP

ODOT proposed a list of projects to be amended into the 2015-2018 STIP, including both projects to be funded out of the state's allocation of National Highway Freight Program funds as well as projects funded from other sources (see attachment).

ODOT Region 4 and Region 5 managers have sought feedback from their respective Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) on the non-freight projects included on this list and will provide that information to the Commission; these projects are included on the consent calendar for this meeting.

ODOT intends to provide the entire list of projects to the ACTs and the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee (OFAC) to explain the decision-making process that led to selecting these projects and address questions and concerns. In order to meet federal requirements for obligating these funds the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) will be asked to amend the freight projects into the STIP no later than June 2016.

2018-2021 STIP

ODOT has proposed allocating \$196 million in additional unanticipated FAST Act funding as follows:

- \$77 million Fix-It Programs
- \$35 million Seismic Phase 1
- \$5 million ADA Ramps
- \$5 million Enhance Non-Highway
- \$49 million Freight
- \$25 million Strategic Investments

The allocations to Fix-It programs, ADA ramps, and Enhance Non-Highway add to existing allocations already approved by the commission in July 2015. Approval of this proposal in March will allow for project selection in Enhance Non-Highway and Fix-It programs to move forward on the existing timeline.

Projects in the Freight and Strategic Investment categories will be selected by the commission over the course of the next year in a process that seeks inputs on priorities from the ACTs and OFAC. The freight projects, which will be selected in conjunction with the Strategic Investment category, will come back to the commission as part of the update to the Oregon Freight Plan that is required before obligation of these funds. ODOT anticipates bringing the commission a draft of the proposed changes to the plan, including the investment strategy, no later than October.

In the near term, ODOT intends to use the Freight and Strategic Investment funds as match for an application under the federal Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program, which will allocate \$800 million nationally this year to major projects through a competitive grant process. At this meeting ODOT will discuss potential opportunities to leverage significant federal funding through this program, which is currently soliciting applications.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Proposed Projects for 2015-2018 STIP
- Attachment 2 – Proposed 2018-2021 STIP allocations

Copies (w/attachments) to:

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