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January 21, 2016

Oregon Transportation Commission
355 Capitol Street NE, MS #11
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Agenda I – Process for Allocation of Funds from FAST legislation

Dear Oregon Transportation Commissioners,

For the record my name is Gerik Kransky, Advocacy Director with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. We are a nonprofit organization that creates healthy, sustainable communities by making bicycling safe, convenient and accessible in our work over the last 25 years.

Please consider these potential options for allocating a portion of Oregon’s anticipated \$39M in additional freight funding from the FAST Act in the 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP) and ~\$196M in additional funding in the 2018-2021 STIP. It is increasingly rare to see unanticipated dollars in these programs and we hope you’ll agree to fund the following impactful projects.

Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Projects

ODOT’s draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan needs to be implemented, including protected bicycle facilities on ODOT roads as a key tool to keep freight moving and get people safe, easy access to jobs. Considering that both the Oregon Transportation Options Plan and the Oregon Freight Plan include maps of routes and service areas, ODOT should anticipate construction of bicycle and pedestrian projects in accordance with plan goals in the future.

Please consider using today’s windfall from the FAST Act to establish dedicated funding for the badly needed bicycle and pedestrian projects that help people access jobs and reduce congestion.

Preliminary Engineering on ODOT Facilities

In the Portland Metro region we are having conversations about how to fund preliminary engineering and project development for future highway interstate projects. The new dollars from the FAST Act, especially those dedicated to freight projects, are an excellent source of funding to help advance the planning and project readiness for these projects.

Please consider dedicating a portion of the new freight funds, as applicable, to the preliminary engineering and project development on ODOT highway interstate projects.



Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Fund

Over 40 percent of Oregon air pollution comes from cars and trucks. We can save \$100 million per year in healthcare costs and keep more Oregonians working by funding projects that improve air quality and provide transportation options. Please establish a dedicated fund to invest in projects and programs that have a proven track record of reducing tailpipe emissions. ODOT should be a leader in Oregon’s approach to meeting our statutory emission reduction goals.

Please consider creating a dedicated fund to ensure these projects and programs move forward.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to developing and maintaining a safe network of multimodal transportation facilities in Oregon. Oregonians need you to be successful in your work and The Bicycle Transportation Alliance stands ready to support you as a community partner and advocate.

Sincerely,



Gerik Kransky
Advocacy Director

Cc; Matthew Garrett
Rian Windsheimer

