



January 14, 2010

The Honorable Members of Oregon's Congressional Delegation
c/o Mr. Travis Brouwer
Oregon Department of Transportation
355 Capital St NE, 5th floor
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Oregon's Congressional Delegation:

Representing the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) is writing to endorse the project proposal entitled "I-5 Willamette River Bridge ITS".

The Willamette River Bridge replacement project is one of the largest construction projects undertaken in the Central Lane MPO area. The bridge is a critical link along the I-5 Corridor and traverses the Willamette River between the cities of Eugene and Springfield. This project is primarily funded with OTIA-III funds and demolition of the old bridge is currently underway.

An important element of the adopted Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan is the area's Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan. Within that plan, several key ITS components are recommended for the south approach to the Willamette River Bridge, including a full motion, closed circuit TV (CCTV) camera to be used for traffic monitoring, incident detection, and general bridge and highway surveillance. A second component is a weather station with pavement sensors for monitoring conditions where early morning topographic shading can create a slick icy roadway. Other traffic sensors for gathering real-time data on traffic conditions are also proposed for this location approaching the bridge.

These and other components of the ITS system are dependent on a communications network that is fast and reliable, and that can carry the very large amounts of data needed for continuous CCTV coverage. These data are destined for the ODOT Traffic Operations Centers in Salem and Glenwood. Certain of the data are made available to travelers through TripCheck. One of the most essential legs of the communication network parallels I-5 and is planned to cross the Willamette River at this bridge. To do this, communication cable must be installed on the bridge.

Incorporating these ITS components into the Willamette River Bridge project is clearly highly desirable and is consistent with the employment of efficient and cost-effective project delivery practices. As we look forward to improving transportation system management and operational efficiency, the ITS infrastructure within the area will become a pivotal resource. We understand that this project would be ready to go almost immediately as the project is within ODOT's existing right-of-way and in an area that has already been reviewed for environmental impacts.

We are very interested in seeing the project supported and forwarded for consideration for a fiscal year 2011 Annual Appropriation. Thank you for this opportunity.

CENTRAL LANE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Sincerely,

Alan Zelenka, Chair
Metropolitan Policy Committee

DRAFT

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