



January 6, 2010

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Andrea Riner
Subject: Item 6.a1: Willamette River Bridge Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
FY11 Annual Appropriation Request

Action Recommended: Approve Letter of Endorsement for Funding Request

Purpose

MPO staff recently learned that ODOT has included the Willamette River Bridge ITS project on the statewide list of federal FFY11 appropriation requests to Congress. Letters of endorsement from local stakeholders, including MPC, are requested.

This memo provides background information on the proposal. A letter of endorsement for the proposal is also enclosed for MPC review and approval (see Attachment 1).

Background

The Willamette River Bridge project is currently underway to replace the temporary bridge on Interstate 5 over the Willamette River. While certain infrastructure to support the addition of ITS components was included in the scoping of the bridge project, the components themselves were not included due to funding constraints.

ODOT is requesting an FY2011 Annual Appropriation of \$450,000 to fill the funding gap that exists for the following components: fiber across the bridge for communications purposes, a road and weather information station with pavement sensors in the bridge deck and roadway surface, a full motion camera for traffic and incident management, and traffic sensors for gathering traffic condition data.

The project will allow ODOT maintenance and operations staff to monitor ice, snow, or other weather conditions on the bridge, and to assess their impact on traffic operations and safety. The proposed camera will also allow ODOT's transportation operation center to monitor this segment of Interstate 5 for incident response and traffic management purposes. The weather data and camera images will be posted on ODOT's TripCheck traveler information website for use the public. Access to the camera will also be made available to local TV news stations for traveler information purposes. Conduit across the bridge will allow local transportation agencies a means to get their fiber optic communications across the bridge for future projects.

Discussion

This project was previously proposed by ODOT Area 5 for funding through the 2009 economic stimulus program but that request was unsuccessful.

In December 2009, ODOT indicated that the Willamette River Bridge ITS project proposal made the statewide ODOT list for the FY11 Annual Appropriations request to forward to Oregon's Congressional Delegation. The funding request of \$450,000 will cover the remaining ITS components for the project. Attachment 2 is a copy of ODOT's proposal.

This project is the only one from the Lane County area to be included on the request list:

- I-5 Columbia River Crossing (Blumenauer)
- I-205 bike path (Blumenauer)
- Newberg-Dundee Bypass (Wu)
- I-5 Kuebler interchange (Schrader)
- I-5 Willamette River Bridge ITS (DeFazio)
- US 199 pedestrian safety/signal in Cave Junction (DeFazio)
- US 20 pedestrian upgrades in Sisters (Walden)
- US 30 East Idaho Avenue in Ontario (Walden).

A minimum of three letters of support for the project must be forwarded to Oregon's congressional delegation. Attachment 1 provides a draft letter of endorsement from the MPC.

Action Recommended: Endorse Willamette River Bridge ITS Project Proposal

Attachments

1. Endorsement Letter for ITS Project Annual Appropriation Earmark
2. ODOT Appropriations Request Project Information, FY11

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