



February 9, 2011

To: MPO Citizen Advisory Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: Item 6: Primer on Least Cost Planning

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Issue Statement

This agenda item is intended to provide a primer on the development of the Oregon Least Cost Planning (LCP) methodology.

Background

In an effort to more fully quantify—and therefore identify—the most cost-effective investments, the Oregon legislature provided direction to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to develop a least cost planning (LCP) tool for transportation decision making. According to Section 6 of House Bill 2001, least cost planning is:

“a process of comparing direct and indirect costs of demand and supply options to meet transportation goals, policies or both, where the intent of the process is to identify the most cost-effective mix of options.

The Department of Transportation shall, in consultation with local governments and metropolitan planning organizations, develop a least-cost planning model for use as a decision-making tool in the development of plans and projects at both the state and regional level.”

ODOT identified the existing STIP Stakeholder Committee (SSC) to advise and assist in the development of the LCP methodology, and since May, 2010 has been working with the SSC to provide background information, develop a work plan, and commence the technical work.

Discussion

As this agenda item is an educational primer on the topic, and does not involve discussion toward a recommendation or decision at this time, the remainder of the information is conveyed in a series of five attachments to this memo.

At the February 17, 2011 CAC meeting, staff will present a brief overview of the LCP background and work to date, and will devote the majority of the agenda time to facilitating discussion and responding to questions from the CAC members.

Action Recommended: None.

Attachments

1. Least Cost Planning Legislative Report
2. Least Cost Planning Overall Summary Timeline
3. Least Cost Planning Stage 1 Timeline
4. Least Cost Planning Draft Categories and Indicators
5. Least Cost Planning Glossary