



December 28, 2021

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: Item 6.c: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Flexible Funding Priorities

Action Recommended: Approve input to Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC)

Background and Discussion

After the passage of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which includes reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) initiated discussions and outreach around priorities for allocation of flexible funds resulting from the legislation. At the December 2021 MPC meeting Travis Brouwer, ODOT Assistant Director for Revenue, Finance and Compliance, provided MPC with information on the IIJA, the resulting dedicated and flexible transportation funding coming to Oregon, and options for use of the flexible funding.

During discussion at the December MPC meeting Mr. Brouwer recommended providing the MPC's initial comments to the OTC at its January meeting, with comments at the February and March OTC meetings directed more specifically to the various detailed scenarios that would then be under consideration.

In 2020 and early 2021 the MPC engaged in discussions about input to the OTC on funding priorities for the 2024-2027 STIP. The last slide in Mr. Brouwer's presentation asked "Do the priorities expressed in 2020 – particularly strong support for public and active transportation [the Non-Highway funding category supported by MPC] and Fix-It – remain? Or have these priorities changed in some ways?" December's MPC discussion indicated strong continued support for investment in Non-Highway/Active Transportation investments. MPC also encouraged the OTC to explore ways to use the flexible funding to break down funding silos, seeking ways to move projects forward that require funding from several different silos.

At the December meeting of MPC's staff advisory committee there was a unanimous recommendation to MPC to submit the testimony included with this memo as Attachment 1 to the OTC. If approved by MPC, the testimony can be submitted in advance of the OTC's January meeting in writing, and presented orally at that meeting. (Please note that the attached draft is currently formatted for oral presentation.)

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Attachments

1. Draft testimony to the Oregon Transportation Commission