



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

355 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301-3871

FILE CODE:

February 28, 2007

David Bragdon
President
Metro Council
600 N.E. Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232 2736

Dear President Bragdon:

Janice Wilson, Jason Tell and I appreciate you, Councilor Park, Councilor Burkholder and Robin McArthur meeting with us on Monday, February 26, 2007 in regard to the update of the Regional Transportation Policy ("RTP").

The proposed RTP appears to be a substantial departure from the current RTP and as such we want to clearly state the position of the Oregon Transportation Commission ("OTC") in regard to the update in order to avoid future misunderstandings.

We made the following points at our meeting on February 26th:

1. The RTP needs to comply with State plans, including:
 - a. The Oregon Transportation Plan
 - b. The Oregon Highway Plan
2. Design and mobility standards on state highways and Interstates (collectively the "State System") will remain within the jurisdiction of the OTC as expressed through plans and policies established by the OTC and the Oregon Department of Transportation ("ODOT"). The RTP should not purport to establish design standards on the State System.
3. At this time, the OTC is not comfortable in moving away from the mobility standards set forth in the Oregon Highway Plan.
4. The OTC will conduct a formal review of the final draft RTP similar to the formal review to be conducted by the Federal Highway Administration. It is anticipated that the review will occur in the fall of 2007.
5. In the interim, ODOT staff will consult with you and your staff on a collaborative basis to assure consistency with state plans and to analyze potential methodologies for

transitioning over time from the mobility standards set forth in the Oregon Highway Plan to new methods of determining transportation needs and managing the capacity of the system.

6. ODOT's representative on JPACT has been instructed to abstain from voting on any resolutions concerning the RTP pending the OTC review of a final draft document.

The Cost of Congestion Study for the Portland-Metro region identified that congestion on the State System has reached an unacceptable level. Businesses outside and inside the Portland-Metro region cannot move their freight through, around or out of the region in an efficient manner with a resulting significant adverse impact on the Oregon economy. Automobile trips through the region have been severely impacted. Further deterioration of the State System is not acceptable. In addition to seeking expanded revenue sources, we want to work with you to develop innovative tools to address the congestion on the State System and elsewhere in the region. Any new tools, however, must provide demonstrable results in reducing congestion on the impacted segments of the State System if we are going to be able to support them.

We are looking forward to working with you on a partnership basis to address these critical issues.

Very truly yours,



Stuart E. Foster,
Chair
Oregon Transportation Commission

SEF:lgc

cc: Councilor Rod Park
Councilor Rex Burkholder
Matthew Garrett, ODOT Director
Jason Tell, Region 1 Manager
Janice Wilson
Gail Achterman
Randy Pape'
Mike Nelson
David Cox