



May 26, 2015

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: 5.c: MPO STP-U Funding for Update of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan

Action Recommended: Conduct Public Hearing. Provide feedback to staff.

Purpose

This agenda item requests the addition of a new project to the FFY15-18 MTIP: Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan Update, and the programming of up to \$100,000 of MPO discretionary STP-U funds for the new project.

Background and Discussion

On February 5th, a presentation was given to the MPC that provided an ITS overview in our region. The presentation highlighted current implementation successes, benefits, and trends in ITS; and described the potential to optimize the transportation network through further implementation of advanced technologies and system management techniques. The application of ITS throughout the region can enhance safety for all modes, provide services and information to travelers, and implement traffic management strategies that maintain a seamless, reliable and efficient system. Examples include ramp metering, real-time traveler information signs, and adaptive signal coordination.

In 2003, the Central Lane MPO, with assistance from ODOT, was the first MPO in Oregon to develop and adopt an ITS Plan as a part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). In the 12 years ensuing, progress has been made on implementing the project list, albeit slowly. Meanwhile, technology has advanced very quickly during these years and the ITS plan is in need of an update.

In particular, 23 CFR 940 stipulates that an ITS project must conform to the National ITS Architecture and standards if federal funding is to be used. This is true for both highway and transit projects. The Architecture provides a description of the various components and operators, the communication flows and standards, and the interagency collaboration that are essential to ensure proper functioning.

An update of the ITS Plan and architecture will ensure that the region remains eligible for federal funding of ITS projects. The update will be included as part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update.

Public Involvement

The MPO’s Public Participation Plan (PPP) calls for a range of public involvement when the MPC is considering programming STP-U funds, including a public hearing and public comment period, notice to interested parties and a web notice, and other optional outreach, including an open house and a newspaper display advertisement.

At their May 21st meeting, the MPO’s Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) discussed the proposal to program STP-U funds, and unanimously supported forwarding the funding request for public comment and consideration by MPC. TPC recommended a full 30-day public review process, with notice to interested parties, a web notice, and a public hearing. The public comment period will open Friday May 29th and will remain open until June 28th. Action on the proposed request is scheduled to take place at the July 2nd MPC meeting.

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Attachment

1. ITS Plan Update STP-U Application