

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION  
HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST FORM**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009**

This form must be filled out in its entirety. It must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from a state, regional, or local governmental official specifically supporting the project request. This letter should discuss the merits of the project; specify the process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the project; and identify the other sources of Federal, state, or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase. This letter must contain an explicit statement of support for the project. In addition, if you are requesting less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost. Please use **boldface font** to highlight these statements in the letter.

**The deadline to submit this form and the support letter is Friday, April 24, 2009. No exceptions.** Please submit this form along with any supplementary materials to David Skillman via email at David.Skillman@house.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David at

**Form instructions:** This form contains drop-down menus to answer some questions. To access the drop-down menu, run your cursor over "Select One" or "Select One if Applicable" and click your mouse. A drop-down menu will appear and you can select the appropriate answer. Additionally, written answers should be typed in the gray boxes provided.

**1. Project Title:**

Congressional District 3 Trails/Bikepath Program

**2. Organization (project sponsor) Name and Address:** (if state or local entity, please identify specific department requesting funding)

Metro  
600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232

**3. Primary contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number, and e-mail:**

Lake McTiernan  
phone: 503 560  
r: 552  
fx: 553  
lak@oregonmetro.gov

**4. Project location address (if different from organization):**

Portland metropolitan region in Congressional District 3

**5. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The purpose of this project is to build key bikepath and trail projects that will move the region forward in realizing increasing the biking mode share to 25% in the City of Portland and to 8.5% in the region within the next 15 years.

Elements of the projects include trails, bike boulevards, bike parking, bike signals, signage, crossings and lighting.

Studies have indicated that when safe and comfortable biking and walking infrastructure are available, people will often choose to bike or walk rather than drive. Biking and walking has the potential to carry a significant part of the overall transportation load. With short trips under three miles representing nearly half of all trips, walking and biking are poised to bring healthy, clean transportation to communities in the region.

Investing in trails and bikeways provides a high return on investment for taxpayer funds and addresses many pressing issues today, including rising gas prices, increased congestion, climate change, rising levels of physical inactivity and constrained personal and public budgets.

Using methodology developed by the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, the region would see a \$213 million annual benefit if the region can double its biking/walking mode share for trips that are less than 3 miles, and double its public transit mode share for trips that are less than 15 miles. These benefits would include:

- Consumer fuel savings (excluding tax) of \$123.4 million
- Market based CO2 reductions of \$9.6 million
- Healthcare savings of \$79.8 million

An on the ground example shows that while the City of Portland has invested approximately \$50 million over the last three decades in its 300 mile network of bikeways, an amount that would not even fund one modern freeway interchange, the biking mode split has risen from less than 1.0% to somewhere between 4.5% and 8%. No other expenditure of transportation dollars can provide a similar return on investment in terms of mode share.

Severe congestion is expected to rise from 2% of roadways today to 10% by 2035. Fuel costs have gone from 3% of household budgets in 2002 to 8.5% in 2008. After last year's spike, gas prices have come down for now, but there is no mistaking the long-term trend. Providing nonmotorized transportation options can give people ways to reduce their transportation costs and can free up roads for other users.

More and more studies are linking the built environment to the growing national trend of inactivity and rising obesity levels, especially among children.

Building these projects will positively impact the region's environment. Recent studies have shown that making communities more bike/pedestrian-friendly can contribute significantly to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by driving down VMT. Overall, creating bike/pedestrian-friendly communities can result in between a five to fifteen percent reduction in overall VMT. The reduced savings associated with CO2 emissions (with an assumed market price of avoided CO2 at \$10/ton) could result in \$9.6 million annually for the region - if we can double our bicycle mode share for trips that are under three miles.

Trails and bikepaths are good for the region's economy in the short and long term. The design and PE, construction, and education elements will create approximately 140 jobs. The completed

biking and walking network will also bring long term economic benefits to the region. Mounting new evidence shows an almost universally positive connection between well-designed open spaces and trails and important economic indicators. Trails and greenways are helping to shape urban growth in ways that support economic development and neighborhood revitalization.

**6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes**  
**If Yes, this project is priority 2 of 4 total requests for your organization.**  
(For example, priority 1 of 3 requests or priority 3 of 3 requests.)

**7. Are you requesting funds from other Members of Congress? Yes**  
**If Yes, which Members?** Similar requests for \$10 million are being requested from Congressman Schrader and Congressman Wu, for a total of \$30 million for the region.

**8. Please select which type of eligible project under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the U.S. Code for which you are requesting funding.** (Note: The Committee will not accept requests for non-surface transportation projects, such as transportation museums, horse trails, or historic battlefields, as part of the High Priority Projects program.)  
**Highway Project (Title 23)**

Type: Bicycle/Pedestrian Project

Located on a Federal-aid highway? No

Located on the National Highway System? No

Located on the Interstate System? No

**Public Transit Project (Chapter 53 of Title 49)**

Indicate Type with an 'X':

Passenger Vehicles

Transit Bus or Van

Transit Rail Car or Locomotive, including Streetcars

Transit Ferry

Transit Facilities

Vehicle Maintenance or Administration Facility

Passenger Facility, including Intermodal Facilities, stations, and terminals

Transit Rights-of-Way

Property Acquisition  Corridor Development

Rail Track Construction or Maintenance

Bus-only Lane Construction or Maintenance

Transit Equipment

Vehicle-related Equipment  System-related Equipment

New Start Project (A New Start project is a major *new* fixed guideway capital project seeking more than \$75 million in Federal funds.)

**Small Start Project** (A Small Start project is a *new* fixed guideway capital project seeking less than \$75 million in Federal funds and with a total estimated net capital cost of less than \$250 million.)

**Rail**

Intercity Passenger Rail (Not commuter rail. Commuter rail should be requested under public transit)

Is the project located within a corridor previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 104(d)(2) of Title 23, United States Code, or the Northeast Corridor? Select One

If Yes, which Corridor: Select One

Freight Rail  
Select Rail Class

**Research**

University Transportation Center  
 Other

**9. Did the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, State Department of Transportation, or public transit agency confirm that the project is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code? Yes**

If Yes, which entity confirmed the project eligibility?

FHWA, FTA, State DOT, or Public Transit Agency:

DOT

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

Portland,

Local Agency Liaison,

According to the \_\_\_\_\_, is the project eligible under Title 23, Title 49, or both:  
Title 23

**10. Please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity that is an eligible recipient of the funds. Please include an address.** (For example, a State Department of Transportation, public transit agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, local government, or Federally-recognized tribe.) Note: If a project is a multi-state project, please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity which will serve as the lead agency for the project.

Metro  
600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232

**11. Please identify and describe the specific segment or activity for which project funding is requested.** (The request must finance at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity by either (1) the amount requested; or (2) the amount requested in addition to other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources.)

Project Description: (Include the specific terminus points of the project or activity, as appropriate.)

The projects for the Trails/Bikepath Program includes design, PE and construction of trails and bikeways, including bike and pedestrian bridges, and connections to public

transit and local on-street bike lanes. Other elements of the demonstration projects will include bike parking, bike signals, signage, crossings, lighting, and education.

The following projects are candidates for construction as part of the Trails/Bikepath Program and were included in the Portland Metropolitan Region's list of priorities approved by the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Metro Council. These projects represent only a fraction of the planned 450 miles of regional trails and 733 miles of regional on-street bikeways that make up the region's non-motorized transportation network. The long term vision of the Non-Motorized Mobility Strategy will complete the entire network, supported with educational programming.

**Congressional District 3:**

- Gresham/Fairview Trail, phase 4/5
- Springwater Trolley Trail - 17th Ave. from Ochoco to McLoughlin Blvd
- Mt. Scott Creek Trail - Mt. Talbert to Springwater Corridor
- Scouter's Mt. Trail - Springwater/Powell Butte to Springwater
- Phillips Creek Trail - I205 Trail to N. Clackamas Greenway
- Monroe Bike Blvd

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> construct            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> design               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conduct                         |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> environmental review |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> acquire right-of-way |  | <input type="checkbox"/> conduct alternatives analysis   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> research                        | <input type="checkbox"/> develop         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> demonstrate          | <input type="checkbox"/> deploy              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reconstruct                     | <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitate    | <input type="checkbox"/> replace                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> retrofit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> install              | <input type="checkbox"/> mitigate        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> implement            | <input type="checkbox"/> realign             |

What is the total estimated cost?

\$25,540,000

What amount is being requested? \$10,000,000 Design and PE: \$3,000,000

Construction: \$7,000,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 39%

If the percentage is less than 80% identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding that when combined with this request equal at least 80 percent.

Source: In addition to this funding request, it is Metro's intent to aggressively implement the full program using federal transportation funds allocated through formula (such as Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Surface Transportation Program (STP)) and funds from Metro's open space bond measure and other local parks and transportation funding sources. In addition, the overall funding strategy includes seeking funding support in the Oregon Legislature (which is currently considering the creation of a Non-Motorized Transportation Fund as part of HB 2001, a comprehensive transportation funding package), obtaining grants from state lottery dollars dedicated to parks obtaining grants from state lottery dollars dedicated to parks (Measure 66), securing commitment for increased investment from local jurisdictions and pursuing private partnerships.

Amount of Funding: XX

**12. If you are requesting funding for a specific segment or activity, please describe the overall project of which this segment/activity is a part.**

Project Description: (Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences; up to 500 characters.)

The regional trail system has been identified as a 930-mile network in three counties. The highest priority trails within the network are approximately 450 miles. Congressional District 3 has a total of 172.3 miles of gaps in the priority trails of its trail system.

Total Project Estimated cost: \$378,966,726

**13. Is the project included in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan? No**

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): NOTE: the Oregon Transportation Plan is a policy document and is not project specific.

Title of the plan:

**14. Is the project included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)? No**

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the program(s), and the title of the program(s).

Listed in TIP: Select One

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): NOTE: However, many past projects have been funded through the TIP (see the list attached to this request).

Title of the Program:

Listed in STIP: Select One

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the Program:

**15. If the project is an intercity passenger rail project is it included in the State Rail Plan?**

Not Applicable

If Yes, please provide the date on which the Governor approved the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

**16. Please describe the current status of the project and the expected schedule for its completion.**

Federal-aid Highway projects:

Under Construction

Public Transit projects:

Select One if Applicable

Rail projects:

Select One if Applicable

Research:

Select One if Applicable

**17. What is the expected date of completion of the project for which you are requesting funding (Between FY2010-FY2020)? FY2018**

**18. Does the project have regional or national significance?** (A project of regional and/or national significance is typically a high-cost transportation infrastructure facility that often includes multiple levels of government, agencies, modes of transportation, and transportation goals and planning processes that are not easily addressed or funded within existing surface transportation program categories. These projects have national and/or regional benefits, including improving economic productivity by facilitating international trade, relieving congestion, and improving transportation safety by facilitating passenger and freight movement.)

**Does the project have regional or national significance?** Yes

If Yes, Please describe the regional or national significance of the project. Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences (up to 500 characters):

This project has the potential to significantly increase the number of trips made by bike and on foot in the region, lowering VMT and greenhouse gases and reducing congestion. The region's economy benefits from the green branding and tourism development associated with a well connected trail and bikeway system. The region supports a thriving bicycle and outdoor industry. The Portland region has a \$90 million bike industry and the state has a \$150 million bike industry.

**19. Describe the safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits associated with completion of the project.**

Safety Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

Biking and walking provide a safe mode of travel. The safety record of the type of facilities that will be included in this project is very good. Increasing the number of people biking and walking lowers the number of cars on roadways and increasing safety conditions for drivers.

Economic Development Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The project will create an estimate 952 direct jobs during implementation. Other economic benefits include supporting the region's \$90 million bike industry and Oregon's \$4.6 billion outdoor sports industry.

Greenways and trails bring in tourism dollars. The region has enormous potential to become an international destination for biking. Business considers quality of life benefits such as commute time and access to nature when deciding where to relocate or start up.

Mobility Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

This project will increase the number of biking and walking routes available in the region, providing direct access to jobs and housing. Increased walking and biking routes provide a low cost transportation option. The project has the potential to double the mode split for biking in the demonstration areas.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

Increasing biking and walking will reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation is responsible for nearly 40% of the region's overall climate change gases. Achieving bicycle mode splits of 8.5% for the region and 25% for the City of Portland in the next 15 years will reduce pollution from particulates and other air toxins, and will reduce water pollution from antifreeze, grease and other toxins from cars that enter the watershed.

**20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding?** No

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L.109-59)

Section:  
Project Number:  
Amount of Funding: S

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) (P.L. 105-178)

Section:  
Project Number:  
Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) (P.L. 104-59)

Section:  
Project Number:  
Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (P.L. 102-240)

Section:  
Project Number:  
Amount of Funding:  
Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Appropriations act(s)

Public Law Name:  
Public Law Number:  
Section:  
Project Number:  
Amount of Funding:  
Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Other legislation:

Public Law Name:  
Public Law Number:  
Section:  
Project Number:  
Amount of Funding:  
Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

**21. Has the project received any prior funding from a state, local, or private source? No**

Source:

Amount of Funding:

Amount Obligated:

**22. Please provide the proposed legislative text (in no more than 250 characters) of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill.** Please use action verbs to begin the description (for example, "construct," "plan," "design," "engineer," "research," or "rehabilitate"). Please note that project line items carry the force of law, and can only be amended through subsequent public laws. If Congressional intent (as established through answers listed on this form) is different from the legislative text, the entity administering the project is required to adhere to the statutory language.

Plan, design, engineer and construct regional on and off street trails and bikeways, connections to transit and supported by educational programming.

**23. Are you enclosing the letter referenced at the top of this form with the required formatting? Yes**

**24. Notes or anything else we should know about the project request:**

Metro has submitted a \$75 million request for a Non-Motorized Mobility Strategy, in coordination with The City of Portland's \$25 million request for Bike Boulevards. Together the City of Portland and Metro submitted a "case statement" to the Rails to Trails Conservancy in support of \$100 million of proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements in the Portland Metropolitan Region. The Non-Motorized Mobility Strategy, together with the \$25 million dollars of projects being requested by Portland is understood as one way to begin to achieve the goals outlined in that joint case statement.

This request for \$10 million each in Districts 1,3, and 5 for a High Priority Projects "Trails/Bikepath Program" is submitted as a back up request should the Non-Motorized Mobility Strategy not be created.

**Please return this form and at least one local or state letter of support  
no later than Friday, April 24, 2009 (via email) to:**

ouse.gov

**Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skiff  
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterso**