

**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 [skillman@mail.house.gov](mailto:skillman@mail.house.gov). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Skillman at [503-986-3432](tel:503-986-3432).

**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:**

I-84 Corridor Intelligent Transportation Systems Solutions (Multnomah County)

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

Oregon Department of Transportation, Highway Division  
355 Capitol Street NE Room 135  
Salem, OR 97301

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

Travis Brouwer, Federal Affairs Advisor  
503-986-3432 (cell); 503-986-3432 (fax)  
tra\_brouwer@dot.or.us

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

Gresham and Portland

**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?**

I-84 is a key route for commuters from east Portland and the communities of east Multnomah County, and the freeway is frequently congested during peak travel times. There are no opportunities for westbound traffic to exit I-84 and take alternative routes between NE 181st

Avenue and NE 43rd Avenue except for the I-205 interchange. As a result, it is difficult for travelers to make use of parallel arterials when congestion occurs.

Currently the only variable message sign on I-84 is two miles past the 181st Avenue exit, long after drivers have already committed to continuing westbound on I-84. To address this issue and advise drivers of incidents and congestion prior to their last exit opportunity, the first element of the I-84 Corridor ITS project would be the installation of a variable message sign for westbound traffic on I-84 about one mile east of the 181st Avenue exit. This sign would be connected to ODOT's Traffic Management Operations Center and could be used to display travel times, incident alerts, general advisories and alternative routing information.

A second component of this plan to improve travel on the I-84 corridor would involve using traffic signal timing technology to reduce congestion on the arterials that parallel I-84. Gresham recently installed an adaptive traffic signal on Burnside that can adapt to changing traffic conditions to maximize traffic flow. Early data shows that this relatively inexpensive technology has resulted in travel time reductions along the corridor of up to 20 percent. This project would extend similar technology to dozens of other intersections on Halsey Street, Sandy Boulevard, and Airport Way that would be connected to signal systems in Portland or Gresham. By changing their operations based on traffic volumes, these "smart" signals will improve traffic flow on these parallel arterials, providing additional capacity on the transportation system without requiring building additional lanes. The upgraded signals will help manage the additional traffic diverted from the freeway during periods of congestion by the variable message sign when incidents occur.

A final component of the project would expand a planned real-time east Multnomah County arterial speed map by adding east-west routes to already collected and displayed north-south route data. With this additional information, travelers diverted from the freeway would be able to select an efficient route based on real-time data.

Together, this bundle of Intelligent Transportation System solutions will improve traffic flow and provide additional information to help travelers choose an efficient route, without having to expand the roadway.

**6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes**  
**If Yes, this project is priority 7 of 8 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? No**  
**If Yes, which Members?**

**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: Highway/Road

Located on a Federal-aid highway? Yes

Located on the National Highway System? Yes

Located on the Interstate System? Yes

**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:

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):  
John Baker, ODOT Federal Funding Coordinator  
According to the entity, is the project eligible under Title 23, Title 49,  
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.

Oregon Department of Transportation, Highway Division  
355 Capitol Street NE Room 135  
Salem, OR 97301

**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.)

This project will consist of three related elements.

1. A variable message sign for westbound traffic on I-84 about one mile east of the 181st Avenue exit. The sign would advise drivers of incidents and congestion prior to their last exit opportunity.
2. Installing traffic signal timing technology to reduce congestion on the arterials that parallel I-84. This project would extend smart signal technology to dozens of other intersections on Halsey Street, Sandy Boulevard, and Airport Way that would be connected to signal systems in Portland or Gresham.
3. Expanding a planned real-time east Multnomah County arterial speed map by adding east-west routes to already collected and displayed north-south route data.

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

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

What is the total estimated cost?  
\$3.35 million

What amount is being requested? \$3 million

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 89%

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:

Amount of Funding:

**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.)

Total Project Estimated cost:

**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):

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):

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:

In Planning

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)? 2012**

**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? No**

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

**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).)

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

Expanding smart signals technology to the arterials parallel to I-84 will improve traffic conditions and make the adjacent industrial properties more attractive to develop.

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

This series of ITS projects will reduce congestion by redirecting traffic away from congestion and freeway closures, saving time and money for trucks and passenger vehicles.

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

Reduced idling while stuck in congestion will reduce emissions and improve air quality.

**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:

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.

Develop and implement I-84 corridor ITS solutions, Multnomah County

**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:**

Because this project consists of three separate ITS elements, each of which have independent utility, the project can move forward if only partial funding is secured. The number of elements completed will depend on the funding made available through an earmark and other sources.

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

D @mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillman, (202) 225-4811  
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503) 231-2300