

**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. For more information, please contact David Skillman at 503-325-3100 or ds@oregon.gov along with any supplementary materials to David Skillman via email at ds@oregon.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Skillman at 503-325-3100.

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 Troutdale Interchange and Reynolds Industrial Park Access Improvements

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 Brown DOT Federal Affairs Advisor
503-325-3100 0892 (cell) (fax)
tbrown@dot.state.or.us

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

I-84 and 257th in Troutdale

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 I-84 Troutdale interchange at 257th is a major regional interchange for east Multnomah County and carries more than 30,000 vehicles each day. The interchange is a major center for truck traffic traveling through the Columbia River Gorge and serves as an important stopping

point for trucks when inclement weather impacts travel through the Gorge. Freight traffic through the interchange will increase as the Port of Portland develops the nearby Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park, an intermodal freight facility. The industrial park is emerging as a major center of employment and economic activity in East Multnomah County. FedEx Ground is already building a large regional distribution facility there that will initially employ about 700 people. This site, which has good access to the Union Pacific rail line, I-84, and the Troutdale Airport, is expected to attract hundreds of family-wage industrial jobs when it is fully developed.

The interchange area is highly congested in the peak hours, and poor operations regularly plague the interchange due to the combination of the large number of driveways along the frontage road and high traffic volumes. Vehicles exiting I-84 east cannot turn left onto Marine Drive to access the commercial and industrial properties north of I-84. Instead, they must travel a long loop down a frontage road through multiple traffic signs and intersections and past a busy truck stop before being able to get across the freeway. The interchange also has serious safety deficiencies, particularly when traffic backs up onto the freeway, and a high number of crashes take place in the interchange area.

The project will also include local road upgrades that will improve the access of trucks and other vehicles to the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park. The Port of Portland is financing most of the road, trail, utility, and environmental improvements necessary for the FedEx Ground development. However, additional road improvements will be needed to attract other businesses to the industrial park.

ODOT is working with the Port of Portland and City of Troutdale to address these problems at the interchange. Improvements to the interchange and nearby local roads will improve safety, reduce congestion, and provide better access to the Reynolds Industrial Park to facilitate job creation.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes
If Yes, this project is priority 3 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, 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.

Oregon Department of Transportation, Highway Division
355 Capitol Street NE Room 135
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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 make improvements to the I-84/257th Avenue interchange in Troutdale that will reduce congestion and improve safety. A variety of interchange improvements are under consideration, including improving storage capacity and capacity on the eastbound exit ramp and frontage road and constructing a two-way expanded undercrossing for Marine Drive under I-84. This project will also widen and reconstruct Sundial and Graham Roads in Troutdale to improve access to the Reynolds Industrial Park.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> implement | <input type="checkbox"/> realign |

What is the total estimated cost?

\$37,500,000

What amount is being requested? \$30,000,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 80%

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)? Yes

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: Yes

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): 01/2008

Title of the Program: 2008-2011 Final STIP

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

Select One

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 Final Design

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)? Construction should be complete in 2012 to 2013, depending on when federal funds come available.

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).)

The existing interchange has serious safety problems. Congestion in the interchange backs up traffic onto mainline I-84, causing safety issues for drivers on the Interstate. Conflicts between vehicles visiting businesses in the interchange area and vehicles traveling through the interchange result in a high number of accidents. Improvements to local roads that provide access to the Reynolds site will also improve safety for heavy trucks accessin the property.

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

This project will provide improved access to the Reynolds Industrial Park, which will facilitate the development of a major employment center expected to host thousands of family-wage jobs when it is fully developed.

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

Improvements to the interchange will improve mobility on I-84 as well and reduce congestion and delays for freight and passenger vehicles traveling through the interchange area. Widening and reconstructing Graham and Sundial Roads will create a more rational and efficient circulation pattern between the industrial park and Interstate 84.

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

The project will reduce idling in congestion, which will cut emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. These improvements will also reduce out of direction travel that increases VMT.

20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding? Yes

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

Section: 1702

Project Number: 4717

Amount of Funding: \$1,000,000

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated: \$67,298

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? Yes

Source: State of Oregon ARRA Highway program funds

Amount of Funding: \$400,000

Amount Obligated: \$0

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.

Design and construct I-84 Troutdale Interchange and Reynolds Industrial Park access improvements

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:

This project was recommended for authorization funding by JPACT as well as the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee and the Oregon Transportation Commission.

If the full amount requested is not received, ODOT will phase the project to match available funding. This project has multiple phasing opportunities, which ensures that an earmark can be used to deliver a project that will improve the interchange. Additional funding may be needed from the STIP and/or a legislative funding package to complete the project.

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

@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