

**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@mail.house.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Skillman at 503-326-1111.

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:

Airport Way/I-205 Interchange

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, Oregon Department of Transportation, Highway Division
503-326-1111 (phone) 503-326-3432 (fax)
travis.brown@odot.state.or.us (e-mail)

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

I-205/Airport Way interchange, 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?

Portland International Airport is an economic gateway to Oregon and the Portland metro region. The I-205/Airport Way interchange in Portland serves the airport and provides a connection for travelers flying to and from PDX. The interchange is also used for high-value and time sensitive

air freight. A significant amount of industrial lands lie along Airport Way, and many industrial firms have located along this corridor due to its strategic location along marine, rail, and highway infrastructure. These businesses use the I-205/Airport Way interchange to access the freeway system and travel through the interchange to get to PDX.

During the evening rush hour, more northbound traffic gets on I-205 at Airport Way than at any other interchange on I-205 in Oregon. The interchange can't handle this high level of traffic, and significant congestion results in delays for both eastbound and westbound traffic that can reach up to 45 minutes and stretch for up to one mile. As bad as congestion is today, it is expected to increase. Within five years traffic is predicted to be 50 percent higher than the existing roadway can handle, which will significantly impede freight and passenger travel through the interchange.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes
If Yes, this project is priority 4 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, Chapter 53, 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
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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.)

ODOT has been working to address congestion at this interchange by expanding its capacity and improving traffic flow onto I-205 north from Airport Way. ODOT has developed a series of small-scale incremental improvements to the interchange that together will deliver significant congestion relief at a reasonable cost.

These projects include:

- Widening of the northbound on-ramp
- Upgrades to traffic signals
- Longer left and right turn lanes to provide additional vehicle storage

ODOT will also be examining the possibility of ramp metering and adding acceleration distance on I-205.

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?

\$21,000,000

What amount is being requested? \$13,000,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 62%

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: Port of Portland, SAFETEA-LU earmark

Amount of Funding: \$7,000,000, \$1,000,000 (respectively)

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 Environmental Review

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)? 2013

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).)

This project will reduce lines of cars that currently stack beyond the ramp, blocking oncoming traffic and potentially resulting in accidents. The project will create additional storage for vehicles waiting to get on I-205, allowing through traffic to continue through the interchange. Separating cars getting onto the freeway from through traffic on Airport Way will reduce conflicts and crashes.

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

Portland International Airport is an economic gateway to Oregon and the Portland metro region, and the I-205/Airport Way interchange is the primary entrance to PDX. The interchange is used for high-value and time sensitive air freight. A significant amount of industrial lands lie along Airport Way, and many industrial firms use the I-205/Airport Way interchange to access the freeway system.

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

This interchange is over capacity at rush hour and is one of the most congested on I-205. These improvements will significantly improve mobility for passenger and freight vehicles using Airport Way to access the freeway or traveling to and from PDX.

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

This project will reduce idling in congestion, thereby reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollution.

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: 4718

Amount of Funding: \$1 000,000

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated: \$712,596

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: Port of Portland

Amount of Funding: \$7,000,000

Amount Obligated: \$405,000 (for preliminary engineering)

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-205/Airport Way Interchange 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, the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee, and Oregon Transportation Commission. The Port of Portland supports the project because it would improve access to and from PDX.

Because it consists of a number of small incremental improvements that each have independent utility, the project is very phasable, and ODOT will be able to move forward with interchange improvements even if the full amount requested is not secured.

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

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Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: *Dan* Skillman,
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503