

House Approves Funding for Oregon Projects

Monday, 22 November 2004 13:00

Washington, D.C. -This past weekend, the House of Representatives approved legislation funding over \$65 million in Portland area projects. Funding was approved for many of Congressman Earl Blumenauer's (D-Ore) legislative priorities.

"Oregonians will benefit from Congress' approval of funding for these important transportation, environmental restoration and economic development projects," said Blumenauer.

Some of the highlights in the funding bill for the Portland region include:

- \$23.47 million for completion of the new Interstate MAX line.
- \$9 million to begin construction of the Columbia River Channel Deepening project.
- \$2 million for the Lower Columbia River and Tillamook estuary restoration project.
- \$572,750 for design work on the Eastside Portland Streetcar project.
- \$300,000 to fight methamphetamine abuse in Clackamas County.
- \$200,000 for restoration of Kellogg Creek in Milwaukie.

The funds for these projects were included in the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill, legislation funding most federal government programs and agencies for the coming year. The President is expected to sign the bill into law shortly.

Also included in the bill was funding for the following:

- \$13 million for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery program.
- \$60,000 for a dike stabilization project at the St. Johns Landfill.
- \$1 million for land acquisition in the Columbia River Gorge.
- \$300,000 for the James Beard Public Market project.
- \$1 million for land acquisition along the Sandy River.
- \$30,000 for "Our House of Portland," to care for people with AIDS.
- \$450,000 for the Portland Development Commission for construction of affordable

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housing as part of the South Waterfront project.

- \$320,000 for Portland State University, for library collections in the area of Middle Eastern and Judaic studies.
- \$400,000 for PSU's new Center for Transportation Studies, ITS Initiative.
- \$9 million for Washington County's Commuter Rail project.
- \$2.3 million for Tri-Met's Jobs Access Reverse Commute Program.
- \$1 million for new buses for Tri-Met.
- \$72,750 for OMSI for land acquisition.
- \$250,000 for the City of Gresham's new Cultural Arts Center.