

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Tammy Baney, Chair
Oregon Transportation Commission
Oregon Department of Transportation
Communications Division
355 Capitol Street NE, MS 11
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Dear Chair Baney and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I am writing to express our support of the list of ConnectOregon VI projects as prioritized by the *Final Review Committee*. The process went very well and it effectively recognized the rankings of both the Modal and Region Review Committees. We urge you to approve the list as presented.

We would also like to testify to the state wide significance of project 4A0365, the Redmond Airport Taxiway B Rehabilitation, ranked 37th by the Final Review Committee. This project is right at the *cut line* for funding, and deserves to be funded. Taxiway B connects the primary runway with the US Forest Service area of the airport which includes smoke jumpers, hot shots, the regional training base, a national cache and fire retardant operations. The taxiway pavement index is rated '0', which means C-130 aircraft cannot use it, when it is needed for fire retardant *fill-ups* during fire-fighting operations across the northwest. Another important statewide consideration is the FEMA designation of Redmond Airport as the operations hub for Oregon during the Cascadia event.

We urge you to support the list as prioritized and include Redmond Airport. Thank you for the consideration, and for the opportunity to provide input to ConnectOregon and other transportation investment decisions affecting Central Oregon.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Bob Bryant, ODOT Region 4
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4
Scott Turnoy, ODOT ConnectOregon VI Program

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from ODOT for the Hwy 372: Haul Trail Undercrossing Project for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the Hwy 372: Haul Trail Undercrossing Project will improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the Deschutes National Forest by replacing an at-grade highway crossing with a grade-separated undercrossing. The project builds on previous ODOT-Forest Service investments in the Lava Lands Regional Trail System, which include an undercrossing of Hwy 372 at the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station, the Paved Sun Lava Trail connecting Sunriver to the Lava Lands Visitor Center, and extensions of the Haul Trail on either side of the Hwy 372: Haul Trail Undercrossing Project. The proposed project eliminates a major gap in the region's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure network, and is a great example of how the Forest Service and ODOT are planning for the region's active transportation future.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from ODOT for the US 97: Multi-Use Trail Planning Study (Baker/Knott Road – Lava Lands Visitor Center) for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the US 97: Multi-Use Trail Planning Study (Baker/Knott Road – Lava Lands Visitor Center) will lay the foundation for improved bicycle and pedestrian access and mobility along the US 97 corridor, between Bend and the Lava Lands Visitor Center. The proposed US 97 Multi-Use Trail will provide safe, convenient, and direct non-motorized access for all ages and abilities to the Deschutes National Forest, Lava Lands Visitor Center, Newberry National Volcanic Monument, Sunriver, and many other popular destinations. The project also builds on previous ODOT-Forest Service investments in the Lava Lands Regional Trail System, which include an undercrossing of Hwy 372 at the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station, the Paved Sun Lava Trail connecting Sunriver to the Lava Lands Visitor Center, and extensions of the Haul Trail on either side of the Hwy 372: Haul Trail Undercrossing Project. The proposed project would eliminate a major gap in the region's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure network, and is a great example of how the Forest Service and ODOT are planning for the region's active transportation future.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from Jefferson County for the Willow Creek Trail: City of Madras to Deschutes River Project for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the Willow Creek Trail: City of Madras to Deschutes River Project. Will provide improved recreation opportunities to the public. Well thought-out and designed trails can create positive outdoor recreation experiences for the public, connect youth with their public lands, and provide economic opportunities to local communities.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from Jefferson County for the Perry South Campground Connection for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14, 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the Perry South Campground Connection will provide the main access to two USFS campgrounds, one USFS boat launch, access for firewood permits, alternative emergency exit from wildfires, accessing Warm Springs Tribal Trust land, and other private cabins bordering Lake Billy Chinook. This roadway is the eastern access for the public to enter the newly created (2009) Metolius Area of Critical Statewide Concern (Oregon House Bill 3298).

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from ODOT for the US 97: S. Century Drive to USFS Boundary project for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the US 97: S. Century Drive to USFS Boundary project will increase vehicle capacity and improve safety throughout the project area by constructing a four-lane divided highway with wildlife crossing improvements, upgraded signs and guardrails, rumble strips and durable striping and intersection improvements; much like the 15 miles of divided four-lane highway located immediately to the north of this proposed project. Review of recent crash data show 3 fatalities and 80 reported crashes within the proposed 6-mile long project. There were over 150 deer/elk collisions reported to ODOT dispatch in the past five years. This proposed project is another great example of how the Forest Service and ODOT are working to address increasing user-demands and the safety of the traveling public in harmony with the surrounding natural environment.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from Oregon Department of Transportation and the City of Sisters for the US20@Barclay (Sisters) Roundabout project for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the US20@Barclay (Sisters) Roundabout, located within the City of Sisters and the Deschutes National Forest, will reduce conflicts among vehicles, bicyclist and pedestrians while improving traffic flow for all users at this busy and important intersection. It will also improve access to and from the Barclay/Locust alternate route and provide an aesthetically pleasing gateway feature for Central Oregon and for the McKenzie Pass - Santiam Pass National Scenic Byway.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the joint application from Crook County and Deschutes County for the George Millican Road Chip Seal Project for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the George Millican Road Chip Seal Project will provide essential preventative maintenance necessary to sustain the public's investment in this transportation facility.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from Deschutes County for the Cascade Lakes Highway Bicycle Facilities Study for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the Cascade Lakes Highway Bicycle Facilities Study will assess the need for potential bicycle safety improvements on this highly used recreational route through the Deschutes National Forest.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 14, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from Deschutes County for the Cascade Lakes Highway Chip Seal Project for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the Cascade Lakes Highway Chip Seal Project will provide essential preventative maintenance necessary to sustain the investment that has been made in this critical recreational transportation facility.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4

CENTRAL OREGON AREA COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION COACT

July 19, 2016

Program Decisions Committee
Oregon Federal Lands Access Program
Office of Federal Lands Highway
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E 5th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Program Decisions Committee:

On behalf of the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT), I would like to express our strong support for the application from the Bend Park and Recreation District for the **Bend Haul Road Trail Improvement Project** for Federal Lands Access Program funding. COACT reviewed the project proposal at our July 14 2016 meeting. The project was determined to support priority transportation goals that are supported by the COACT membership, and is therefore considered to be a priority transportation project by the COACT membership.

The COACT membership agreed that the Bend Haul Road Trail Improvement Project will not only improve and update the original 2-mile segment of the Haul Road Trail, but also extend the paved portion of the path from its current terminus out to the Bend City Limits where it will seamlessly connect with the new 3.4-mile paved trail extension being constructed by the USFS on federal land outside of the Bend City Limits. The completed path will provide direct non-motorized access to the Deschutes National Forest including the new Welcome Station (opened 2016), Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway, Phil's Trail Complex and various Deschutes River recreational sites.

We encourage FLAP funding for this project.

Sincerely,



Alan Unger, COACT Chair
Deschutes County
Commissioner

Cc: Commissioner Wayne Fording, Jefferson County
Judge Mike McCabe, Crook County
Lonny Macy, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Gary Farnsworth, ODOT Region 4