



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 11/30/17
Agenda Item #: R.7
Est. Start Time: 10:35 am approx
Date Submitted: 11/9/17

Agenda Title: **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the Columbia River Highway Congestion and Transportation Safety Improvement Study**

Requested Meeting: November 30, 2017 **Time Needed:** 5 minutes
Department: Department of Community Services **Division:** Transportation
Contact(s): Joanna Valencia
Phone: 503-988-2109 **Ext.** **Email:** Joanna.valencia@multco.us
Presenters: Joanna Valencia and Jessica Berry

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with ODOT for development of the Historic Columbia River Highway Congestion and Transportation Safety Improvement Plan

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Recent increases in visitation to Columbia River Gorge area destinations have been an economic boom for Gorge communities, but have produced negative effects for the natural environment, contributed to traffic congestion issues, and decreased visitor satisfaction due to resource competition. Visitation is expected to continue to increase, and the associated increased economic activity will further benefit Gorge communities, but demand needs to be managed effectively to maintain access to resources and promote sustainable growth. As a result of the increased visitation and a constrained transportation network, traffic and parking congestion have become increasingly frequent occurrences.

Local communities, public agencies, and land managers are looking for ways to better manage congestion and provide expanded transportation options. As such, the agency partners will commence a Congestion Mitigation Study in the Fall 2017 funded through the Federal Lands Access Program. The County applied for and received a Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) grant in 2016 in partnership with ODOT to conduct a transportation planning effort to identify improvements to address congestion and transportation safety along the Historic Columbia River Highway and adjacent County roadways. TGM funding will be used to implement the findings of this

study through the adoption of application amendments to the Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances.

The Historic Columbia River Highway Congestion and Transportation Safety Improvement Plan project study area includes the segment of the Historic Highway within the boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in unincorporated Multnomah County and connecting County roads that lead to and from Multnomah Falls and other popular destinations along the waterfall corridor from the Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint to Cascade Locks.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

TGM Grant award is for \$75,000 toward development of the study. As part of the County Transportation Planning work program, in-kind staff time will be used for the 12% match requirement (\$10,227).

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

This project supports the implementation of the County Transportation System Plan.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The project includes a robust public involvement plan that addresses coordination and outreach between agencies, organizations, groups, and the general public. A public website will be developed, and the project will include a Project Leadership Team and Stakeholder Working Group. Agencies involved in the work so far includes: Multnomah County Transportation, ODOT, the US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks and Recreation, the Columbia Gorge Commission, and the Multnomah County Sherriff's Office.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Kim Peoples /s/

Date:

November 9, 2017
