

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 98-2657  
FY 1999 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM TO )  
INCLUDE THE HILLSBORO TO ) Introduced by  
MCMINNVILLE COMMUTER RAIL STUDY ) Councilor Washington, Chair  
JPACT

WHEREAS, Metro Council approved the FY 1999 Unified Work Program in March 1998 by Resolution No. 98-2604 and it is consistent with the adopted Metro budget; and

WHEREAS, The Unified Work Program describes all federally-funded transportation planning activities for the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area to be conducted in FY 1999; and

WHEREAS, The FY 1999 Unified Work Program indicates federal funding sources for transportation planning activities carried out by Metro, Regional Transportation Council, Oregon Department of Transportation, Tri-Met and the local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Approval of the FY 1999 Unified Work Program is required to receive federal transportation planning funds; and

WHEREAS, The Hillsboro to McMinnville Commuter Rail Study is a privately-sponsored study which intends to seek federal funding for implementation; and

WHEREAS, To compete for federal funding, the region needs to consider this project as part of a Major Investment Study and including the study in the Unified Work Program is the first step in this consideration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the FY 1999 Unified Work Program be amended to include the Major Investment Study for a Hillsboro to McMinnville

Commuter Rail Service as sponsored by the proposed private non-profit corporation and as described in Exhibit A.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 1998.

WITHDRAWN  
Jon Kvistad, Presiding Officer

Approved as to Form:

Daniel B. Cooper, General Counsel

Exhibit A

MAJOR INVESTMENT STUDIES  
FOR HILLSBORO TO MCMINNVILLE COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE

The Hillsboro to McMinnville study is a major investment study (MIS) that will identify the feasibility of commuter rail service in Yamhill and Washington Counties between Hillsboro and McMinnville. This study will be conducted by a private non-profit corporation led by a private citizen. The transportation need that this study will address is the existing and projected traffic congestion on Highway 47 between McMinnville and Hillsboro. In addition, the study proposes to improve freight railroad service and meet the demand for recreational travel on Highway 18.

The Hillsboro to McMinnville Commuter Rail Study is a new program beginning in FY 1999. The project proponent's schedule calls for completing the study within 1998.

The study will:

- . Determine the feasibility of commuter rail service between McMinnville and Hillsboro.
- . Determine funding sources to implement commuter rail service, including the role of private sector funding.
- . Determine compatibility of commuter rail service with land use and economic development goals.
- . Identify public comments on commuter rail investment.
- . Provide cost and benefit information necessary for the state, region and affected jurisdictions to determine the priority of investment in commuter rail service in this corridor compared to other investments.

Within this fiscal year, the project will:

- . Establish a private non-profit corporation to manage the study.
- . Establish a technical review process that involves all affected federal, state and local agencies.
- . Establish a public involvement program that educates the public on the extent of the transportation problems, the options and seeks their comments on a proposed recommendation.
- . Determine the level of public investment needed and the potential for securing private investment in the commuter rail service.
- . Seek support for funding commuter rail service between McMinnville and Hillsboro from JPACT and other state, regional and local elected officials.

No public funds have been allocated to this study.

STAFF REPORT

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 98-2657 FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
AMENDING THE FY 1999 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM TO INCLUDE THE  
HILLSBORO TO MCMINNVILLE COMMUTER RAIL STUDY

Date: May 20, 1998

Presented by: Andrew C. Cotugno

PROPOSED ACTION

This resolution would amend the FY 1999 Unified Work Program (UWP) to include the Hillsboro to McMinnville Commuter Rail Study. The study will be conducted by a private non-profit corporation. This resolution does not allocate public funding to the study although staff will support the effort by reviewing technical analysis and assisting in guiding the project proponents through federal, state and regional requirements.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Hillsboro to McMinnville Commuter Rail Study has been initiated by a private citizen who believes that, with the reconstruction of railroad track, commuter rail service would help commuters in Yamhill and Washington Counties, open opportunities for freight rail service and serve the growing travel demands associated with the Spirit Mountain Casino. Neither ODOT nor Washington County have identified transportation problems on Highway 47 as a high priority and have not proposed consideration of commuter rail in this corridor. Consequently, the UWP adopted in March 1998 does not include the study.

The study proponent would like to seek federal funding for commuter rail implementation. To compete for federal funding, the project needs to have been considered by the region as part of a Major Investment Study. Including the study in the UWP is the first step in this consideration.

No public funds are currently allocated to this study. Metro staff time spent on this project will be included under the local plan coordination category.

Attachment A is the proponent's proposed work program for this study.