



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



Gregg Dal Ponte (acting)

Director of Aviation

3040 25th Street SE

Salem, OR 97302-1125

Phone: (503) 378-2340

(800) 874-0102

FAX: (503) 373-1688

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Dear Oregon Airport Sponsors:

Many individuals in the aviation community have expressed concern to the Oregon Department of Aviation that the originally prescribed application deadline (11/20/09) for submission of *ConnectOregon* III grant applications was incompatible with timelines associated with the federal AIP grant program. After coordination between Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Department of Aviation (ODA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the deadline for *ConnectOregon* III Rural Airports grant requests has now been extended to **May 1, 2010**, in order to align better with the FAA AIP grant bid timeline.

THIS CHANGE APPLIES ONLY TO THE RURAL AIRPORTS PORTION OF *ConnectOregon* III THE DEADLINE FOR THE REGULAR (non-rural airport component) *ConnectOregon* III PROCESS REMAINS NOVEMBER 20, 2009.

For your planning purposes, please be aware that receipt of funds from either Rural Airports *ConnectOregon* III funds OR funding from the regular *ConnectOregon* III Program are mutually exclusive. This means that for a given project, with a defined scope of work, an applicant MAY APPLY for either or both sources of funding but MAY ONLY RECEIVE funding from one source of financial assistance, either the rural \$5 million rural airport set aside grant funds or the regular *ConnectOregon* III funding. Airport sponsors are advised to carefully consider the implications of this distinction when determining to apply for either or both kinds of grant funds available through *ConnectOregon* III.

Applicants are cautioned not to commit funding prior to *ConnectOregon* III grant approval. Applicants for the Rural Airports portion of *ConnectOregon* III are reminded that Oregon Administrative Rule 731-035-0080 requires applicants to have an approved project agreement PRIOR to disbursement of program funds. The OAR, as well as the *ConnectOregon* III application instruction, page 5, item 2 states; "Project costs that were paid for by the applicant PRIOR the agreement's effective date CAN be used as part of the match, but under current rules, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT." We are aware that there are additional concerns regarding this aspect of *ConnectOregon* III grant administration and we are studying those concerns and possible further adjustments at this time.

At this time there are no projects that have been selected or pre-approved for either *ConnectOregon* III or *ConnectOregon* Rural Airports funds. Additionally, there is no promise by either FAA, ODOT, or ODA that matching grants approved by *ConnectOregon* III will favorably position applicants for additional discretionary funding by the FAA.

Additional details and clarification will be promulgated as required. Applicants are encouraged to visit the ODOT *ConnectOregon* III Website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/COIII.shtml> and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) website at http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/CO/ConnectOregon_FAQs.pdf. If there are still additional questions, please contact Chris Cummings at ODA (503) 378-3168 or christopher.cummings@state.or.us.

Gregg Dal Ponte, (Acting) Director