Question #1: Please describe the decision making process by which you will identify the exact improvements and locations to be implemented from the list of potential improvements.

Answer #1:
To identify the exact improvements and locations Metro will conduct a data driven alternatives analysis that will provide further technical investigation to further quantify benefits for transits and other roadway users. This analysis will include and refine the list of potential improvements and locations included in the application. This effort will be conducted through close coordination with local jurisdictions to get their full supports in determining a list of projects to be carried forward into design phase.

The planning phase of this project will include a screening and evaluation of potential improvements. Potential improvements will be developed based on existing transit speed and reliability data, city plans and policies, public outreach, and input from the cities along the corridor to provide a broad collection of improvements for consideration. Improvements will be evaluated based on a series of qualitative and quantitative criteria. Input from city staff on the potential improvements, as well as coordination with the cities, will be a critical part of the screening and evaluation of potential improvements.

An initial screening of improvements using qualitative information and city input will be completed to screen out improvements that are infeasible. Then, a more detailed and quantitative evaluation of the screened improvements will examine the potential benefits of each improvement in more detail, including transit travel time savings, reliability benefit, traffic forecasting, and cost estimates. This quantitative evaluation will result in a final list of recommended concepts for the corridor. Once confirmed by city staff and Metro, the recommended set of concepts will advance into the design phase. City staff will continue to be engaged in reviewing design plan as well as facilitating construction permits needed during the implementation.

Question #2: Please explain what the “enhanced HOV lanes” are, as referenced in the application.

Answer #2:
High-occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes are critical to ensuring rapid, reliable transit operations. The extent and exclusivity of these lanes helps to dictate the quality of the service and protect operational reliability as traffic congestion increases. “Enhanced HOV lanes”, as referenced in the application would include an evaluation of existing HOV lanes to determine where we can
eliminate unnecessary delays for the buses that are using them. This analysis would look at safety, existing traffic operations on HOV lanes, and enforcement issues. We would gather accident data and look at traffic/delay data to determine where there are bottlenecks or safety hazards that can be eliminated and closely examine the best way to minimize potential conflicts among all HOV users and Metro buses.