



Clackamas  
County  
Coordinating  
Committee

*Promoting partnership among the County, its Cities and Special Districts*

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March 13, 2017

Members of the Clackamas County Legislative Delegation

Re: State Transportation Funding Package

Dear Clackamas County legislators:

The Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4), made up of representatives of Clackamas County, its 14 cities, 6 transit providers, special districts, and community planning organizations would like to share with you their full support for a robust state transportation funding package that addresses the critical funding needs of the state, counties, cities and transit providers. Based on information from the Oregon Transportation Commission, we believe that a funding package of \$1 billion per year is necessary to meet the transportation needs of the state. In particular, we want to emphasize four categories of critical needs that should be addressed in any legislative package:

**Support Increased Funding for Transportation System Preservation and Maintenance**

We request that you support transportation funding legislation that provides increased and predictable funding mechanisms needed to maintain and improve our roads and highways in the most efficient manner possible. The state, counties and cities have all identified large gaps between needed and available funding for preservation and maintenance. Clackamas County alone has a shortfall of \$17 million per year, and many counties and cities face similar challenges as they struggle to preserve deteriorating roads. An increase in ongoing funding for preservation and maintenance will allow ODOT, counties, and cities to complete more projects and ensure that our transportation system is well-maintained.

**Relieve Metropolitan Area Congestion**

Funding for projects to relieve congestion at bottlenecks like I-205 in Clackamas County between the OR99E interchange in Oregon City and the Stafford Road interchange, including the Abernethy Bridge, is essential. Widening I-205 to three lanes at this location has been identified by C4 members as the highest priority in the county and is recognized statewide as one of the most important congestion relief projects in Oregon. This project, along with the I-5 Rose Quarter project in Portland and the OR217 project in Washington County, must be treated as critical investments for a sustainable Oregon economy. Delay in fixing these high congestion segments affects not only local residents and businesses, but also businesses throughout Oregon that must use these routes to move product to the Port of Portland and the Portland International Airport.

**Prioritize Transit**

We request that you support new funding resources for the transit systems in the state. In Clackamas County we depend on service from the largest transit system in Oregon (TriMet) but also are home to five medium to small transit systems in our outlying areas. All six are vital to the Clackamas County economy and

the health and welfare of our citizens. One of the consistent messages from the input meetings conducted by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation was the need for funding mechanisms to support transit throughout the state. From small towns to the major cities, the people of Oregon have come to recognize and value the contribution of transit to meeting the state's transportation needs and improving our quality of life. Data shows that Oregon ranks among the five lowest states in the nation in the amount of funding provided to transit. It is time for Oregon to step up and prioritize this issue.

#### **Investment in Creating Jobs through Increases in ConnectOregon Funding**

ConnectOregon has proven to be one of the best investments that the Legislature makes to increase the economic advantages of Oregon. C4 members ask that you support restoring the ConnectOregon program to its original funding level - \$100 million each biennium. The ports, rail networks and airports of the state are critical to Oregon's economic competitiveness. The ConnectOregon grant program provides funds to improve all of these vital "non-road" transportation systems to help keep Oregon's economy strong and vibrant.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with you to provide state and local transportation systems that support our economy and enable the rapid and safe movement of people and freight throughout Clackamas County and the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Bernard".

Chair Jim Bernard, Clackamas County  
C4 Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Hodson".

Mayor Brian Hodson, City of Canby  
C4 Co-Chair

C4 Membership: Clackamas County; the Clackamas Cities of Canby, Estacada, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Molalla, Oregon City, Rivergrove, Sandy, Tualatin, West Linn, Wilsonville; Clackamas CPOs, Hamlets, and Special Districts