

Fellow Mayors Along I-205,

As you know, in 2017 the Oregon legislature passed a \$5.3 billion transportation funding package (HB 2017). The bill included limited funding to advance the design work for the I-205 Expansion/Abernethy Bridge Reconstruction and Seismic Improvements, with the understanding that when design and refined costs were more certain, the legislature would determine a path to fund and advance these projects. In 2019, ODOT will complete final design and construction cost estimates, and therefore it's time to prepare a funding package for project implementation.

West Linn is facilitating draft legislation to present to the 2019 legislative session which would provide base funding to support project implementation either as one project or in phases with supplemental funding; the draft bill is in the packet for the C4 meeting on December 6, 2018, and the total I-205 project is likely to be approximately \$450-500m. Below are key elements of the draft legislation:

- Provide \$250 million for construction/renovation/seismic improvements for the Abernethy Bridge.
- Provide \$100 million to begin the construction process for the improvements between the Abernethy Bridge and Stafford Road.
- Require that ODOT actively consult and engage with local communities adjacent to any highway project over \$200 million to ensure that State and local transportation system plans and long term strategic goals (e.g., redevelopment of the Willamette Falls Locks and Riverfront areas) are coordinated.

Some details may change during the legislative process, but the bill gives us the opportunity to advance important discussions and understanding to achieve a successful outcome this next year. ODOT estimates that each year of delay will add approximately \$50 million to the cost of the projects, so it is important that we act quickly and with strong regional support.

While tolling approaches to support highway construction is being assessed by the State as directed under HB 2017, tolling is not considered a viable option for funding the I-205 project which needs to be constructed as soon as possible. Should a tolling source become available at a later time, those funds could potentially be used to repay the bonds issued under the proposed legislation.

The proposed bill will ensure that the region's most significant transportation bottleneck, and one of the state's most severe seismic concerns, will move forward in the most cost-efficient manner that minimizes impacts to our citizens and taxpayers.

West Linn seeks your support and endorsement for this important bill. Following discussion at our next C4 meeting, we are suggesting to prepare a joint letter signed by the key cities along I-205 in Clackamas County to support the bill.

I look forward to further discussing these plans at our next C4 meeting. Thank you in advance for your leadership and support on this important issue.

Russ

Russell Axelrod

Mayor

City Council