



CITY OF West Linn

March 16, 2011

Tom Hughes
President, Metro Council
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Sam Adams
Mayor, City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Ave. Rm. 340
Portland, OR 97204

Jack Hoffman
Mayor, City of Lake Oswego
567 9th St.
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Lynn Peterson
Chair, Clackamas County Board of
Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Jeff Cogan
Chair, Multnomah County Board of
Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, OR 97214

Hakeem Olaurewajn
Clackamas County Chair, TriMet
Board of Directors
4012 SE 17th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

Matt Garrett
Director
Oregon Dept. of Transportation
1158 Chemeketa St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Ms. Peterson and Messrs. Hughes, Adams, Hoffman, Cogan, Olaurewajn and Garrett:

I am writing to you on behalf of the West Linn City Council.

The City of West Linn would like to express its interest in the long-term performance of vehicular, bike, pedestrian, and transit operations in the Highway 43 corridor. Of specific importance is the impact to the corridor resulting from a potential streetcar alignment between Portland's South Waterfront and the City of Lake Oswego, as recommended as the Locally Preferred Alternative by the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project (LOPT) Steering Committee in February 2011.

We are concerned that the evaluation of potential project impacts does not fully anticipate the added inconvenience for public transit users south of Lake Oswego; the added vehicular congestion on Highway 43 resulting from higher density mixed-use development in the Foothills District of Lake Oswego and in Portland's John's Landing Neighborhood; and the desire of West Linn's residents to participate in this process.

TriMet's Route 35 provides frequent peak hour service between Oregon City and Portland via Highway 43 during the weekday. Currently, Route 35 provides uninterrupted service to employment, college, business, and recreation for West Linn residents. Under the streetcar alternative of the LOPT Project, transit riders boarding Route 35 south of Lake Oswego will be required to transfer to the streetcar in Lake Oswego before continuing their trip north. This additional transfer(s) will increase inconvenience, add time, and add navigational complexity for Portland-bound residents boarding south of Lake Oswego.

Furthermore, a new streetcar terminal in Lake Oswego is likely to increase the density of commercial and mixed-use development along Highway 43. Increased density in the Foothills and John's Landing areas of Lake Oswego and Portland and new transit park and ride parking lots in Lake Oswego will



CITY OF West Linn

contribute to additional congestion; queue spillback and overflow at many intersections; and increased vehicular delay for West Linn residents accessing jobs in Portland.

Finally, we regret the limited participation afforded to our community throughout this decision-making process. While one of the build options (streetcar) does not enter West Linn, the no-build and enhanced bus options do. We remain convinced that impacts from a potential streetcar extend beyond the proposed termini and will affect West Linn's residents. Therefore, we believe this process should have accounted for the unique needs and specific interests of our community.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you consider the following:

- Provide traffic forecasts through West Linn based upon expected changes to zoning in Lake Oswego. This will provide more accurate information concerning the actual impact of the project upon transit in West Linn;
- Consider the increased cost of maintaining and enhancing Highway 43 through West Linn;
- Maintain the performance of vehicular and transit operations in the Highway 43 corridor through West Linn and ensure that West Linn's current bus service is maintained or enhanced either as bus or by alternative transit;
- Assure that development in the Foothills District or other areas of Lake Oswego south of the proposed streetcar terminus does not preclude the future extension of streetcar or other high-capacity transit to Oregon City via West Linn along Highway 43.

Sincerely,

John Kovash
Mayor, City of West Linn
West Linn City Council

C: Neil McFarlane, General Manager TriMet
Alex McIntyre, City Manager, City of Lake Oswego
Michael Jordan, Chief Operating Officer, Metro
Susan Keil, Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Robin McArthur, Director, Metro Transportation Planning
Steve Wheeler, County Administrator, Clackamas County
Cam Gilmour, Director, Clackamas County Dept. of Transportation and Development
Karen Schilling, Planning Director, Multnomah County
Carlotta Colette, Councilor, Metro Council
Jason Tell, ODOT Region 1 Manager
Jody Carson, President, West Linn City Council
Teri Cummings, Councilor, West Linn City Council
Jenni Tan, Councilor, West Linn City Council
Mike Jones, Councilor, West Linn City Council
Chris Jordan, City Manager, City of West Linn
John Sonnen, Planning Director, City of West Linn