



April 10, 2013

The Honorable Tobias Read, Chair  
House Committee on Transportation & Economic Development  
900 Court Street NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Letter in support of HB 2945**

Dear Chair Read & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Molalla, I would like to express our strong support of HB 2945, which would create an Area Commission on Transportation ACT) to cover the areas of Clackamas County that fall outside the jurisdiction of Metro. Area Commissions on Transportation (ACTs) play a key advisory role to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) in the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which identifies the funding and scheduling of transportation projects.

Today, all areas of Oregon are represented by either an ACT or MPO except the areas of ODOT Region 1 (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington & Hood River counties) that fall outside the Metro boundary. For the past 10+ years, an effort has been underway to gain approval for the creation of a new ACT for rural Clackamas County. Because rural Clackamas County is not covered by an ACT or MPO, approximately 100,000 Clackamas County rural residents, or more than 25% of the county's total population, remain unrepresented in the STIP process. This also means that 60% of the county's State highway miles (287 miles) are unrepresented in the process. This area includes highways I-5, US 26, OR 99E, 211, 212, 213, and 224, as well as several transit districts and one of the state's largest tourism destinations, Mt. Hood. The existing transportation infrastructure is vital for the delivery of critical agricultural and forest products to the Portland metro area; connectivity to essential transportation routes; and access to recreational opportunities for all Oregonians.

Recent efforts by the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners and rural community members to engage the OTC and ODOT in the formation of an ACT have been largely unsuccessful. The time has come to give these residents a voice in the process.

We urge your support of HB 2945 and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely

Deborah Rogge  
Mayor  
City of Molalla