



April 11, 2013

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

**Re: Letter in support of HB2945**

Dear Chair Read & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Villages at Mt. Hood 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.

In 1996, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) created Area Commissions on Transportation (ACT) in order to expand opportunities for local citizen involvement in the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) decision making. ACTs serve a crucial role by prioritizing local transportation problems/solutions and recommending projects for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

ODOT'S stated goal is for each area of the State to be covered either with an ACT or MPO. Today, all areas of Oregon are represented by an ACT or MPO except the areas of ODOT Region 1 that fall outside the Metro boundary.

Because rural Clackamas County is not covered by an ACT or MPO, approximately 100,000 Clackamas County rural residents remain unrepresented in the STIP process. This also means 60% of the county's State highway miles (287 miles) are unrepresented in the process. This 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 tourist destinations, Mt. Hood. These and other rural county roads are vital regional infrastructure 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,

Bob Reeves  
Villages at Mt. Hood, Chair