

**From:** steve manners  
**To:** Clark Cathy  
**Subject:** Request to Speak  
**Date:** Monday, April 08, 2013 3:39:59 AM

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Hello:

This is Steve Manners, Mayor of St. Paul Or. I will be attending the hearing on House Bill 2696.

I feel the legislators who wrote House Bill 2696 were contacted by the same group that tried 4 years back to initiate the Coastal Bypass on there own and failed. Part of the discussion should include the question if whether or not ODOT has studied the traffic pattern on the I-5 corridor and how much the state has invested in road improvements on Hwy. 22. Do you think the folks from Salem would drive up the freeway to get onto a Coastal Bypass System? Doubtful! This idea is only to benefit a few.

Collector freeways that move mass traffic are situated closer to major cities. Look, for example at the Portland system that was designed by ODOT to move mass traffic around Portland with I-205, and I-217. Another Example is the Beltline Freeway around Eugene. Still yet, another Collector freeway is Hwy. 97 in Bend.

Think of the benefit for traffic coming from the south up the I-5 freeway that wanted to go to the coast in the Lincoln City area, one of the most heavily visited areas on the coast. Do you think these folks would drive up I-5 20 miles to get on a coastal bypass system? No, they would use the system in place and continue to clog downtown Salem to get across the West Salem Bridge.

How about the traffic from Bend? Do you think those folks would drive up I-5 20 miles to get on a coastal bypass system? No, they would use the system in place and continue to clog downtown Salem to get across the West Salem Bridge.

A collector freeway around Salem would benefit all, and is the logical solution.

I feel the legislators who wrote House Bill 2696 were contacted by the same group as 4 years ago who tried on their own and failed. Part of the discussion should include the I-5 corridor and how much the state has already invested in road improvements around major cities like Portland, Eugene, and Bend in central Oregon. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. Building the Coastal Bypass System should include consideration of traffic flow in the Salem area. Would the folks from Salem drive 20 miles to the north to get on a Coastal Bypass System? Doubtful! People traveling from Portland to Lincoln City and Spirit Mountain already use Salem and Highway 22. You see the big Casino Buses using Highway 22 all day long for gambling junkets from the Portland area. They avoid all the congestion on Highway 99w. I feel this idea of a Coastal Bypass thru agricultural land is not a logical solution.

Collector freeways that move mass traffic around major cities has been designed and implemented for a long time. It's not rocket science. ODOT and the Federal Highway System has built I-205 and I-217 around Portland, The Beltline freeway around Eugene, and Hwy 97 Expressway thru Bend.

Think of the benefit for traffic coming from the south up the I-5 freeway and using a collector freeway around Salem to get to the Coast, or traffic that is going to the coast from Bend. Do you think these folks would drive 20 miles north to use a

Coastal Bypass System? No, they will continue to use the system in place, the West Salem Bridge; and continue to clog downtown Salem.

A collector freeway around Salem would benefit all, and is the logical solution for building a Coastal Bypass System. Major highways going to the coast originate in Portland with highway 30 going to Astoria, highway 26 going to Seaside. In Eugene, highway 126 goes to Florence, and so forth on down the I-5 corridor to the California border. ODOT and the Federal Highway system has already started a Coastal Bypass System to Lincoln City, Highway 22. Highway 22 is a 4 lane expressway from Salem to Dallas, and there are 2 sections of 4 lanes going over the Coastal Mountain Range near Sheridan. Additionally, the Salem Parkway is complete from I-5 to Keizer.

I urge this committee to consider the options I have presented today. In the spirit of cooperation, I'm hopeful this meeting will result in a solution all of us can live with. Granted we need a Coastal Bypass System to the North Central Coast, and the more input this committee gets should make for a better solution than we have seen so far.