



May 9, 2013

To: Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Baertschiger and Members of the Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development

RE: HB 2345 & City Infrastructure Needs in Oregon

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and for your efforts to collaborate on innovative approaches to address Oregon's growing infrastructure needs. The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) recently surveyed its members in an effort to better understand the critical infrastructure needs that our cities are facing throughout the state. Based on information gathered from 80 cities, representing 67% of the incorporated population in Oregon, LOC has been able to identify over \$2 billion needed statewide to fund city infrastructure projects.

The results of our survey showed that of a majority of the projects identified, 79% of projects were categorized as water, wastewater or transportation. While transportation projects represented the highest need in terms of total cost (\$1.037 billion for 277 projects), water and wastewater projects represented the greatest infrastructure need in terms of total projects (314 projects totaling approximately \$940 million). Stormwater projects accounted for another \$88 million with utilities, facilities, recreation and miscellaneous accounting for the remaining \$262 million.

Nearly half of the water projects identified were for water line replacements and repairs with many of these projects needed in order to simply maintain a city's ability to meet immediate needs for water supply. Other projects involve updating of water meters, adding additional security measures for the protection of city water supply, and updating of dilapidated infrastructure which can save in long-term cost while increasing conservation of water in the state.

The city of Reedsport, with a population of 4,145, needs to make improvements to their pump station which serves their downtown business district. The inadequate capacity of this pump station, which was constructed in the early 1970's with a wooden pump structure, results in flooding during periods of heavy rainfall, requiring business owners to place sandbags around their doors to keep waters out. The cost of this project is \$811,000. The total estimated cost of infrastructure improvements for Reedsport is estimated at \$13.76 million.

Transportation needs range from street and road improvements (overlays, pavement restoration, widening, and intersection improvements) to active transportation projects including sidewalk installation, transit and bike paths. Cities also identified costly bridge projects, totaling nearly \$46 million.

Again, we thank the committee for the opportunity to testify today and for working toward a solution to address these critical needs for our communities.

For a complete list of projects please contact Tracy Rutten at the League of Oregon Cities at 503-588-6550 or trutten@orcities.org.