



**Eugene Public Works
Administration**

April 13, 2015

The Honorable Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE.
Salem, OR, 97301

Subject: House Bill 2464 – Multimodal Transportation Fund

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene strongly supports HB 2464, which would continue funding for the Multimodal Transportation Fund, also known as Connect Oregon.

In 2005, the Governor and Legislature showed vision and leadership in creating the Connect Oregon program to improve Oregon's transportation infrastructure. Over the past 10 years, Connect Oregon has proven to be an extremely successful program, benefitting urban and rural regions across the State.

In Eugene, we have benefitted directly from this investment strategy. The Eugene Airport received a \$4.1 million Connect Oregon grant that funded capacity and safety improvements for the movement of goods and packages in and out of this region. Specifically, the grant helped leverage more than \$1 million in funding from the FAA and the Eugene Airport to fund a \$5.4 million air cargo facility project that included constructing a new taxiway, doubling the size of the ramp where cargo planes park, building a 15,000-square-foot distribution facility, and extending utilities to serve the air cargo area. These improvements resulted in transportation efficiencies, and supported needed economic development goals for freight movement.

More recently, on March 19, 2015, the City of Eugene received approval from the Oregon Transportation Commission for a \$909,066 grant to create a bike share system in Eugene. This project will be implemented in partnership with Lane Transit District and the University of Oregon. We expect bike share to enhance our community in numerous ways including by extending the reach of transit, making Eugene an attractive place for technology savvy young professionals, and creating better connections between different destinations in Eugene such as the Amtrak Station, University of Oregon and our downtown.

We believe that funding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is consistent with the vision of Connect Oregon as a program that funds transportation projects that are challenging to fund through other means and that benefit both local and the state economy.

Thank you for your consideration of Connect Oregon.


Kurt Corey, P.E.
Public Works Director