

To: Members of Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

From: Diane McKeel, Former Multnomah County Commissioner

As a former Multnomah County Commissioner, I would like to tell you about a positive experience that my community has had working with Oregon Solutions and to express my support for Oregon Solutions and its partner program Oregon Consensus.

As a governor appointed co-convenor of the Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative, along with Oregon State Representative Mark Johnson, we helped local representatives, state, and federal partners engage with Oregon Solutions to develop and implement measures to improve safety and reduce congestion on the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Our timeline for the project was short, so we needed to keep the scope small and focused. We convened in early December 2015 and were to complete our efforts to focus on issues related to congestion on the Historic Columbia River Highway by summer 2016. These would be issues that impact safety and the visitor experience around the Multnomah Falls area, specifically between the Bridal Veil and the Ainsworth exits.

The project concluded with commitments being made by the participants to implement identified measures. Shuttle service was implemented by ODOT between the Gateway transit center, Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls. Enhanced safety measures for motorists and pedestrians were addressed particularly at Multnomah Falls. Every stakeholder at the table had an important role in these decisions.

These short term successes established the foundation for the on-going work group to proceed with additional improvements. ODOT recently announced that the shuttle was a huge success and will be up and running again this year with hopes to expand to Hood River in 2018.

Thank you to Michael Mills, our project manager, and his team from Oregon Solutions and to all the stakeholders on this project.

It is my firm belief that Oregon Solutions has been extremely effective in addressing the needs of our community and developing tools that can benefit all Oregonians throughout the state.

I appreciate that the legislature recognizes the significance of this program and hope that you will continue to be supportive.

Thank you.