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May 19, 2017

Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation & Modernization
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative McKeown and Members of the Joint
Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization:

As the Legislature deliberates a major transportation package this session, we urge you to pass a robust package that ensures completion of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, a project vital to the livability and economic stability of the region.

The City of Newport appreciates the tremendous work you have undertaken to design a transportation funding package that will give our state the tools to preserve and enhance our infrastructure. While each city has its local priorities for preservation and maintenance, we are writing to highlight a regional project that has significance to our community. Just as the entire state of Oregon is impacted by the congestion in the Portland metro area, the entire region stretching from Washington County to Marion County to the Central Coast is impacted by the severe congestion on 99W.

Highway 99W, a major travel shed used to connect the Portland area to wine country and the central coast (via Highway 18), has become an infamous bottleneck among tourists, businesses moving freight and commuters alike. This has had negative implications for economic development, tourism, the environment and the livability of our citizens and the whole region. The traffic during the summer months on Hwy 18 is bumper to bumper with cars traveling to the Central Oregon Coast.

The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is designed to relieve these intense congestion issues, and Phase 1 - the first 4 miles of an 11-mile bypass - is nearing completion toward the end of 2017 on time and under budget.

The entire bypass must be completed or we will not realize the benefit of this massive investment. The project goals for congestion relief, safety improvements, community

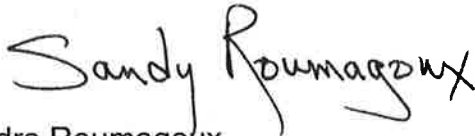
livability, greenhouse gas emission reduction, improvement of freight traffic and seismic resiliency will only be achieved by finishing the project. Our ability to grow as a community will be stifled without a transportation infrastructure that can meet the demands brought on by further economic development. With the Newberg-Dundee Bypass finished, it will add to tourism development and opportunities for the Central Oregon Coast. The Bypass will relieve congestion issues resulting in safe travel for tourists and freight traffic for continued economic stability and growth. Furthermore, the entire region from the state's biggest metropolitan area to the central coast will benefit from the freer flow of traffic on 99W created by the Bypass. This is truly a regional project.

It is also worth noting that the Bypass is on a tsunami evacuation route and would be critical in moving people and emergency services in the event of a Cascadia Earthquake, and Phase 1 is the only piece of state infrastructure built to withstand a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, other than the Tillikum crossing bridge in Portland.

We know there is great need across the state for projects large and small, urban and rural, multimodal and seismic, but the overarching goal, in order to ensure public support and confidence, should be to support projects that in the end are effective. We know that the Newberg-Dundee Bypass will only be effective if the entire bypass is completed, and we ask that you build this into your comprehensive transportation package.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership in the days ahead. The City of Newport looks forward to being a resource to you and your colleagues in moving a transportation package forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Roumagoux". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Roumagoux
Mayor of Newport
on behalf of the City Council of the City of Newport