



CITY OF
West Linn

June 5, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express the City of West Linn's **strong support for HB 2017**, the comprehensive transportation funding and policy package. We appreciate the difficult work done by members of your committee, other legislators and many citizens and stakeholder groups that resulted in the landmark proposal currently before you. Now is the time to take decisive action to stem the tide of further degradation to our state's transportation infrastructure, and take significant steps forward in enhancing the system's ability to support economic growth and improve the quality of life throughout Oregon. HB 2017 will do exactly that.

HB 2017 authorizes significant transportation investments urgently needed on the state and local system. West Linn is located in the heart of the Portland metropolitan region and our residents and businesses experience significant delays and safety concerns on the State's system. Funding for projects to relieve congestion at bottlenecks like I-205 in Clackamas County between the OR 99E interchange in Oregon City and the Stafford Road interchange, including the Abernethy Bridge, is essential. Widening I-205 to three lanes at this location has been identified locally and statewide as one of the most important congestion relief projects in Oregon. This project, along with the I-5 Rose Quarter project in Portland and the OR 217 project in Washington County, will be funded by HB 2017. These must be treated as critical investments for a sustainable Oregon economy.



Typical I-205 Congestion in West Linn

West Linn, like many other cities, is struggling to keep up with basic maintenance and urgently needed system improvements. We have adopted a local Street Maintenance Fee to support our part of this work, but can't keep up without State leadership. HB 2017 provides that leadership and will benefit West Linn directly in many ways, including:

- Increasing the State Highway Fund to support city road preservation and maintenance;
- Continuing the *ConnectOregon* program with increased funding for critical air marine, rail, transit and bicycle/pedestrian projects; and
- Funding important transit and safety projects.



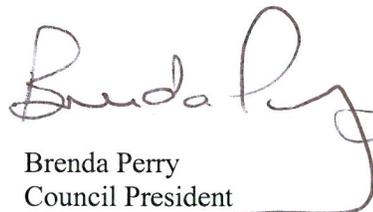
CITY OF
West Linn

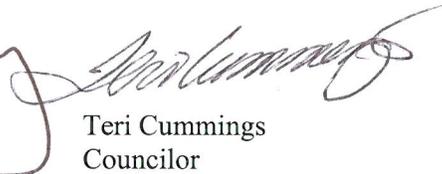
We know that any legislation of this magnitude, especially involving the commitment of significant new revenues as envisioned in HB 2017, requires difficult tradeoffs. Please know as you cast your vote in favor of HB 2017 in the remaining days of this session that the City of West Linn supports you and applauds your commitment to the future of our community and the entire State of Oregon.

Thanks again for your work and for the opportunity to comment on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,


Russell B. Axelrod
Mayor


Brenda Perry
Council President


Teri Cummings
Councilor


Bob Martin
Councilor


Richard Sakelik
Councilor