



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

March 5, 2019

Senator Manning and Representative Gomberg
Co-Chairs, Joint ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Sunset Highway Corridor Study
Multi-Modal Solutions to Reduce GHG

Dear Co-Chairs Manning and Gomberg and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development:

Washington County and the City of Hillsboro support the Governor's Recommended Budget request of \$1,000,000 to fund the Sunset Highway Corridor Study (SHCS). Washington County and the City of Hillsboro have also committed \$100,000 each to support the funding of this critical study. The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identifies the need for improvements in the Sunset Highway Corridor and the need for a corridor study. For many reasons, the corridor is also an issue of statewide concern and we urge your support for funding now.

Sunset Highway (US 26) provides an important intra-regional connection between economic centers of downtown Portland and the high-tech traded sector employment center in the northern Tualatin Valley. Serving commuter traffic and daily commerce needs, it has become unreliable with congestion present for 13.5 hours per weekday and multiple hours on weekends despite being served by multiple light rail routes. Light rail trains operate at or near capacity during peak commute periods, and the Sunset Transit Center's parking has been full since opening day in 1998, forcing many potential transit commuters to commute by car. The resulting congestion on US 26 has resulted in thousands of commuters and freight traffic using substandard roads such as Cornell, Germantown, Cornelius Pass and Burnside over the West Hills, as well as using the St. Johns Bridge as a freight bypass of Portland's freeway system, cutting through northwest Portland neighborhoods for multiple hours each weekday.

The resulting adverse environmental impacts, neighborhood impacts, and constraints on economic growth have become an issue of statewide concern and a study of potential multi-modal solutions to improve mobility for the corridor are immediately necessary. In studying improvements to this regional connection, as with other major projects in the RTP, we would continue to collaborate with our regional partners. Washington County and the City of Hillsboro appreciate Governor Brown's willingness to invest in the SHCS as recognized in her

Further, due to the regional nature of this study, we request that it be conducted by a state or regional public entity.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Harrington
Chair, Board of Commissioners
Washington County



Steve Callaway
Mayor, City of Hillsboro

cc: Members of the Washington County Legislative Delegation
Lynn Peterson, Council President, Metro
Washington County Board of Commissioners
Andrew Singelakis, Director, Land Use & Transportation, Washington County
Robby Hammond, Interim City Manager, Hillsboro