

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
David Yamamoto. Bill Baertlein. Mary Faith Bell
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TTY Oregon Relay Service

February 27, 2019

Re: Newberg-Dundee Bypass

Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

Tillamook County appreciates the wonderful work you accomplished in 2017 regarding Oregon's transportation infrastructure and your ongoing work to meet that promise of delivering a successful, modernized transportation system. While each county 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, Yamhill and Marion County to the central coast is also impacted by the severe congestion on Highway 99W and beyond.

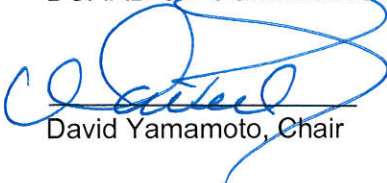
Highway 99W, a main travel shed used to connect the Portland area to wine country and the central Oregon Coast, has become an infamous bottleneck among tourists, businesses moving freight and commuters alike. This has had negative implications for economic development, tourism, the environment, and the livability of our citizens and the whole region. The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is designed to relieve these intense congestion issues, and Phase I, the first four miles of the 11-mile bypass, has been completed and is operational.

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. 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 this bypass.

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners urge you to consider necessary funding and taking advantage of federal opportunities to ensure the completion of this vital project. We know there is great need across the state for projects but in order to ensure public support and confidence, we need to support projects that are effective. We join the Yamhill County Parkway Committee in urging the completion of the entire bypass and point out the positioning of the project for completion as set forth in the Parkway Committee's Resolution. Tillamook County looks forward to being a resource to you and your colleagues in moving a transportation package forward.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON


David Yamamoto, Chair


Bill Baertlein, Vice-Chair


Mary Faith Bell, Commissioner