



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting HB 3209:
*Proposed Legislation Advances Critical Transportation Project of State and
National Significance for I-205 Traffic-Congestion and Seismic Resilience***

Scheduled for public hearing on May 15, 2019, before the
Joint Committee on Transportation

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

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in strong support of HB 3209, which provides the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) with up to \$460 million in bonding authority to advance the I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvement Project. This key transportation project adds a critically needed third lane in each direction on the seven-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213, and seismically retrofits several bridges, including the vitally important I-205 Abernathy Bridge over the Willamette River.

This portion of I-205 is the last stretch of I-205 in Oregon that is only two lanes in each direction, causing significant traffic congestion resulting in lengthy bottlenecks that increase personal and business costs, emissions and freight delays. Over 100,000 vehicles use this section of I-205 each day, where drivers experience 5½ hours of congestion daily and traffic back-ups commonly extend for five to seven miles in the two-lane portion of I-205 during daily commute hours.

The I-205 Widening and Seismic Improvement Project is one of state and national significance. The I-205 corridor is a key interstate freight-movement route that bypasses Portland urban core. When the 9.0 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake strikes, seismic reinforcement of the I-205 Abernathy Bridge over the Willamette River and other I-205 overpass bridges will be crucial for recovery of the Portland metro region and the entire Westside of Oregon and Washington.

Traded-sector, industrial businesses in Wilsonville have expressed concern over increasing traffic congestion on I-5 and I-205 that impacts travel and delays freight deliveries. Major employers of Wilsonville with substantial commuting employees and/or freight shipments include Siemens/Mentor Graphics Corp., Sysco Food Services, Collins Aerospace (fka Rockwell), FLIR, Swire Coca-Cola USA, Tyco Electronics Medical Devices, Southern Glazer Wines & Spirits, Dealer Spike, DW Fritz Automation, Rite Aid Distribution Center, Campbell Soup's Pacific Natural Foods, Owens & Minor, OrePac Building Products and Hartung Glass Industries.

Many of your constituents who travel the South Metro I-205 Corridor would appreciate your support of HB 3209. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville