



Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting Amended HB 4017:

Proposed Legislation Advances Critical Transportation Project of State and National Significance for I-205 Traffic-Congestion and Seismic Resilience

Scheduled for public hearing on February 25, 2020, before the House Committee on Rules

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Drazan and Smith-Warner, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in strong support of an amended HB 4017 that authorizes bonding authority for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to advance the I-205/Abernathy Bridge 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/Abernathy Bridge Widening and Seismic Improvement Project is one of regional, state and national significance. The I-205 corridor is a key interstate freight-movement route that bypasses the Portland urban core; before starting work on the I-5/I-84 interchange “Rose Quarter” improvements or the Oregon-Washington I-5 Interstate Bridge, ODOT needs to have I-205 operable to maintain traffic-handling capacity on at least one of the Portland/Vancouver metro-area interstate highways. 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 is crucial for recovery of the Portland metro region and western Oregon and Washington. ODOT has completed a majority of studies and planning that make the I-205/Abernathy Bridge Widening and Seismic Improvement Project ‘shovel ready’ to timely leverage potential federal highway funding support.

Traded-sector, industrial businesses in the South Metro area 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 freight shipments include Sysco Food Services, Swire Coca-Cola, Tyco Electronics Medical Devices, Southern Glazer Wines & Spirits, Rite Aid Distribution, Campbell Soup’s Pacific Natural Foods, Owens & Minor and Cardinal medical-supply distributors, Martin Trucking, OrePac Building Products and Hartung Glass Industries.

Many of your constituents who travel the South Metro I-205 Corridor would appreciate your support of an amended HB 4017. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Knapp".

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville