



A collaborative and caring city inspiring an exceptional quality of life.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, 230 NE Second Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128

www.mcminnvilleoregon.gov

April 14, 2021

Co-Chair Senator Betsy Johnson;
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward;
Co-Chair Representative Dan Rayland;
Honorable Co-Vice Chairs and Members:

RE: Joint Ways and Means Committee

This letter is to request consideration of funds for two critical projects in the City of McMinnville - \$3.5 million dollars for a Navigation Center to serve our houseless population, and \$500,000 for a Third Street Infrastructure Improvement project, to support our Main Street businesses that will significantly impacted by the recent pandemic closures.

Navigation Center (\$3,500,000): McMinnville finds itself in a unique position of being the county seat for Yamhill County and only being a community of 35,000, with constrained land supply and a housing crisis that is leading to increased homelessness in our county and especially our community. Yamhill County does not have a low barrier emergency shelter for our houseless population. The logical location for such a shelter would be in McMinnville as the wrap-around services for our county's houseless residents are located here. Since our city's population is less than 50,000 people, we do not qualify for annual Community Development Block Grant entitlement funds that many larger communities use to help offset the funding needs of programs serving populations of low and moderate income, and we are too large for USDA rural funding. For years now, our community has struggled with how to provide emergency shelter to our houseless residents and help them towards permanent housing solutions with the limited resources available to us. However, in 2020 we were able to access funds through the Cares Act to house our homeless population in motel rooms as emergency shelter. Then working with Yamhill County Community Action Partnership, service providers were able to work with the participants in this program to help them transition to permanent housing solutions. It is the most successful program that we have seen in our community for helping our houseless residents towards permanent solutions. With that recent success we have been especially excited about the prospects of the Navigation Centers in HB 2006 as that would serve as a permanent replication of the success of the motel shelter program – providing emergency shelter and services to help houseless individuals achieve permanent housing solutions. HB 2006 provides \$1,500,000 to the City of McMinnville to help procure a structure for a Navigation Center, however without the additional resources afforded to larger communities through federal grants we are concerned it is not enough. The City of McMinnville is requesting an additional \$3,500,000 to secure the development and operation of a Navigation Center that will successfully serve our county's houseless residents and help them work towards permanent housing solutions.

Third Street Infrastructure Improvement Project (\$500,000): McMinnville’s Third Street is the heart and soul of McMinnville – both as a community gathering spot and as the center of McMinnville’s small business community. It is the quintessential Main Street of a community whose economy is built upon entrepreneurship and locally owned businesses. However, the infrastructure supporting Third Street is in dire need of repair and reconstruction – streets, sidewalks, utilities, and above ground amenities. A Third Street Improvement Project has been identified as a priority project for the City of McMinnville for many years, highlighted in several different infrastructure and economic development plans. However, with the recent impact of the pandemic closures on Main Street businesses, especially restaurants and sit-down venues, a focus on improving Third Street has become even more imperative. That past year has shown how important it is to have an infrastructure system that is resilient, adaptable and can support small businesses. The City has been working on a scope of work for an improvement project with the hopes of preparing a shovel-ready project to be in a position for funds from an infrastructure stimulus program. The costs of the architecture and engineering services to develop 30% construction plans for a shovel-ready improvement project is approximately \$650,000 - \$800,000. The City currently has \$250,000 budgeted for this effort and has prioritized this as part of its work-plan, but would need an additional \$500,000 to complete the work in the next year in order to have a shovel ready project to be competitive for infrastructure stimulus funds.

We appreciate the ability to share our needs with you and for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Hill".

Scott Hill,
Mayor, City of McMinnville