

May 7, 2021

The Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for the Bonding Authorization of \$32 million for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass in SB 5534

Co-Chairs Holvey, Girod and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass and urge you to dedicate funding to accelerate completion of this vital project.

Springboard was founded by the late Ken Austin to focus on local community-building efforts, located in Newberg, Oregon. Over the past few years, we have advocated for a range of issues and organizations important to our Yamhill County community and region. Our No. 1 priority at the moment is the completion of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass.

We have seen the Bypass go from an idea for a solution that percolated in the community decades ago, to a reality today. With four of the eleven miles built, we have gotten much closer to that solution, but we must keep the project moving forward to realize all the benefits it can bring.

Although the first phase of the Bypass has brought improvements, it has also resulted in new congestion points and unintended consequences that will only worsen as growth in the region puts more demands on this corridor. There is now a choke point in Dundee, the intersection of Springbrook Rd and 99 W in Newberg and fatal accidents from traffic diverted onto McKay Road.

These issues will only be resolved by completing the entire regional Bypass from Rex Hill to Dayton, which will only grow more expensive with time. Thanks to investments made by the Legislature and the Oregon Transportation Commission over the past two years, Phase 2 of the bypass is now shovel ready. This \$32 million in state lottery bond funding will enable ODOT to move to construction on Phase II of the bypass while providing a critical state match that can leverage federal dollars to complete construction. We do not want to miss this federal funding opportunity to leverage the sizeable investments made by the State and local communities and obtain the funds necessary to finish the project. The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is absolutely vital to communities stretching from the Metro area all the way to the Central Coast. We encourage you to make this project a priority and dedicate the funding needed to make this full Bypass solution a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Baker', with a stylized, cursive script.

Brett Baker, President