



# LEBANON MAYOR KENNETH JACKOLA TESTIMONY ON THE CITY OF LEBANON'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

July 16, 2024

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McClain, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The City of Lebanon would like to thank the Joint Committee on Transportation for visiting our region to learn about our communities' transportation challenges and opportunities.

**Lebanon is one of the State's fastest-growing communities:**

- 13<sup>th</sup> largest population percentage increase year over year in 2023
- In the top 10 of building permits issued per capita in 2022
- Produced over 1,000 housing units in the last five years, with 20% preserved as affordable housing.

As Lebanon continues to grow, demands on existing infrastructure mount, along with calls for expanded transit services, improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and safety improvements, particularly around schools. Unfortunately, streets remain the most expensive public utility, with the least amount of funding opportunity.

**Lebanon strongly urges and appreciates the Committee prioritizing investments in maintenance, rehabilitation, operations, and safety of existing transportation facilities across the shared transportation systems.**

- The city's truck routes and residential streets require significant, ongoing funding for maintenance and rehabilitation. The city does not have a funding mechanism for routine/preventative maintenance, increasing deterioration and failures. **When failure occurs, replacement costs are three to four times higher than maintenance costs.** The city's truck routes are a vital part of the freight mobility system that supports Lebanon's industrial and traded sector business ecosystem. Without sustained maintenance funding, road failures will increase, leading to truck route closures or detours and negatively impacting the city's economy.
- It is becoming increasingly necessary to secure additional funding mechanisms due to the growing complexity and expense associated with making pedestrian sidewalks more accessible. The City fully supports these improvements required for the safety and accessibility of all community members. **The costs for these projects have tripled in the past five years.** Since these improvements are now a requirement for every street enhancement project, the substantial increase in costs greatly affects the extent of the street improvement areas that can be addressed.
- Funding for safety improvements is also important to Lebanon and would no doubt provide significant benefit across Oregon. Lebanon has a five-way intersection with elevated crash and injury rates and a plan to address it. **Despite system development charges set aside and funding from Linn County as a partner agency, there is still insufficient funding available** to fully address the required improvements.

Thank you for hearing our concerns and suggestions. I urge you to provide additional stable, sustainable funding to help us meet our critical transportation needs.

Kenneth Jackola  
Mayor of Lebanon