

SPRINGBOARD GROUP

July 16, 2024

Testimony to the Joint Transportation Committee

Thank you, Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek, and members of the committee.

I am Brett Baker, President of the Springboard Group, I am also a longstanding member of the Yamhill County Parkway Committee, a public-private partnership of businesses and governments that includes the cities of Newberg, Dundee, McMinnville, Yamhill County, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. We advocate for the advancement of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, a transportation project with great statewide and regional significance for the Mid-Willamette Valley and beyond.

My involvement with the Bypass stems from supporting the community-centered work of Ken and Joan Austin, founders of A-dec, the largest employer in Yamhill county. Ken and Joan were forward thinking philanthropist and stewards of their community and state. Decades ago, they recognized the value the bypass would bring to the community. I committed to Ken that I would advocate for this project until it is fully funded.

The Newberg Dundee Bypass project is truly the poster child for what is possible when you have strong and unified community support for a transportation solution. The municipalities in the region came together in 2009 to bring a local match of \$20 million to build Phase 1, and in 2022 the municipalities committed another \$18 million local match to build Phases 2 and 3. I do not know of a current highway project in Oregon where the local municipalities that put their own money into a project---these municipalities have skin in the game and are ready to partner with the state to get this project completed.

I want to thank the Legislature and the Committee for consistent state investments in the Bypass over the years.

When you talk about the need to finish projects that the state has committed to in 2017, the Newberg-Dundee Bypass is one of those projects.

As you craft a transportation package that will meet the needs of all Oregonians, I urge you to honor the commitment made to this critical rural project and forge a clear path to complete the Newberg-Dundee Bypass.

Sincerely,



Brett Baker
President
Springboard Group