

September 27, 2024

Re: Testimony in Support of Tualatin Valley Highway Transit Project/Transportation Funding

Oregon Transportation Commissioners,

Transportation funding is vital to the economic vitality and livability of Oregon communities. As current Hillsboro Transportation Committee Chair and former TriMet Board Member, I serve on the Metro Tualatin Valley Highway Transit Project Steering Committee seeking state and federal funding for an especially important multi-faceted transportation project that serves four cities in Washington County.

The TV Highway Transit project will positively impact underserved, transit-dependent riders living along the Tualatin Valley Highway corridor, improving travel time, increasing transit service frequency, and addressing safety through safe crossings, lighting, and weather protective shelters on raised platforms. Four of the most congested and dangerous intersections will be redesigned as part of the project in this high crash corridor.

This 300-million-dollar project will seek to bring together funding from TriMet, ODOT, the State of Oregon, Washington County, the cities of Hillsboro, Beaverton, Cornelius, and Forest Grove to match the Federal Small Starts Grant of 150 million dollars. I urge your support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express support for increased statewide transportation funding, from traditional funding mechanisms such as the gas tax as well as from potential new sources (such a road usage charge based on Vehicle Miles Traveled), recognizing that we must provide sustainable funding to maintain and enhance the transportation system we rely on. It is also critical that the allocation of transportation revenue continue to be distributed among state, county and cities who maintain the transportation system.

I appreciate the work of the OTC as it addresses the challenges of funding the maintenance of our transportation infrastructure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rick Van Beveren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Rick Van Beveren, Hillsboro City Councilor