



May 4, 2023

Honorable Co-Chairs Lew Frederick and Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2756, a bill to facilitate a jurisdictional transfer of SW Hall Boulevard from SW Durham to SW Locust from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to the City of Tigard. This jurisdictional transfer will ensure Hall Boulevard is upgraded and managed to a standard that will equitably serve our community.

Hall Boulevard is a key north-south corridor in the City of Tigard, utilized by people traveling on foot, by bike, using transit, and seeing over 15,000 motor vehicles daily. The roadway provides access to or directly serves numerous employers, schools (Metzger Elementary, Fowler Middle, Durham Elementary, Templeton Elementary, Twality Middle, Creekside Community, and Tigard High School) and daycare facilities, public services including Tigard City Hall, the Public Library, natural spaces and trails, social service providers, and affordable housing sites. After decades of underinvestment, Hall Boulevard is dangerous for the surrounding communities that rely on it.

A safe, accessible, and reliable transportation corridor is invaluable to the people living, learning, playing, praying, and conducting business along Hall Boulevard, as well as those who travel the corridor for any distance. The City of Tigard embarked on an engagement process this winter that included a variety of stakeholders, from community leaders to business owners to community-based organizations. The vision emerging from this process is a Hall Boulevard that promotes safe mobility for all users, aligns with Tigard's Strategic Vision (walkability, accessibility, safety, and equity), is supportive of carbon reduction goals by providing multimodal functionality, and will turn what is currently a liability for the city into an asset serving generations to come.

In 2020, the City and partners at ODOT initiated serious talks of funding a jurisdictional transfer by establishing a shared work plan documented in a signed Memorandum of Understanding. While the two agencies have made substantial progress, the key to unlocking an effective transfer of Hall Boulevard is funding from the Oregon Legislature. The work to date, together with the shared commitment between ODOT and the City of Tigard, has positioned this jurisdictional

transfer to be ready for investment so each jurisdiction can begin action to serve our community members.

Tigard's and ODOT's collaborative partnership on Hall Boulevard is unique in the Portland-Metro region. Each agency has demonstrated significant commitment of staff time and resources to advance the transfer of, and investment in Hall Boulevard. With state legislative support, Hall Boulevard can serve as a regional model for successful delivery of community-driven improvements to a state-owned urban arterial.

Thank you for considering this measure to support Tigard's vision of creating an equitable community that is walkable, healthy, and accessible for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "HLueb", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Heidi Lueb