February 16, 2024

Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction
Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court Street, NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of McMinnville's Third Street Improvement Project Request for $4M

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, and Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to support the McMinnville Third Street Improvement Project. This is a priority project of the McMinnville Urban Renewal Agency, investing in deteriorating infrastructure that supports our city center and business community.

In 2013, the City of McMinnville formed the McMinnville Downtown Urban Renewal District to help fund this project. At that time, it was identified as a sidewalk replacement project for four blocks and $2,900,000 was allocated to the project. We have since learned that we need to replace aging wastewater, water, and stormwater infrastructure as well as reconstruct the street. And the impacted area has extended from four blocks to nine blocks.

The recent pandemic and aftereffects have highlighted the significance of this project. Most of Third Street's businesses have been impacted by COVID-19, and throughout the pandemic, and into the endemic, businesses have had to adjust to be financially successful (outside restaurant seating and extended outdoor retail space, for example). This project will not only impact business recovery, but it will also provide long-term solutions for McMinnville's resiliency and sustainability.

We believe that McMinnville will grow significantly over the next 20 years and a strategic upgrade to Third Street will ensure the future of our downtown, and our business community.

We are committed to the successful implementation of the project and have been soliciting gap funding from our federal delegation and city. We urge you to support this project as well.

Yours Sincerely,

Kelly McDonald,
Chair, McMinnville Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

Our Mission: Providing excellent customer service, public engagement, and proactive planning programs to promote McMinnville as the most livable and prosperous city in the state of Oregon now and into the future.