



August 25, 2025

Chairs Wagner & Fahey, Vice Chairs Bonham & Drazen, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Central Point, I write today to express strong support for advancing LC 2 during this special session. As drafted, this legislation provides a critical starting point to invest in Oregon's infrastructure needs and build a stronger future for every community across the state.

In cities like Central Point, the State Highway Fund is a lifeline for maintaining and improving our transportation system. State Highway Fund revenues are distributed with 50% going to the state, 30% to counties, and 20% to cities. These funds are dedicated to transportation purposes, including road maintenance, improvements, and safety projects, and form the financial backbone for local transportation networks. Currently, Central Point receives approximately \$1.6 million annually from the Highway Fund. **However, this amount has remained largely stagnant for several years, even as inflation, material costs, and workforce needs have continued to rise.** Without additional sustainable investment, communities like ours face growing challenges to keep roads safe, support economic growth, and meet future transportation demands.

LC 2 proposes additional funding that would make a significant difference in our ability to address critical maintenance backlogs, improve safety infrastructure, and support growth.

We have seen firsthand how strategic infrastructure investments can unlock opportunity. In recent years, Jackson County's \$7.5 million investment in Table Rock Road improvements, supported by transportation funding, brought transformative benefits to our region. This project helped attract major economic drivers such as Costco, Amazon and FedEx to Central Point, creating jobs, expanding our tax base, and strengthening the overall economy.

In addition, historically, State Highway Funds have allowed Central Point to move forward on critical local projects, including but not limited to:

- **Repaving all of Front Street (Highway 99) from Beall to Scenic** – a key five-lane corridor through Central Point that now provides smoother travel, improved safety, and stronger commercial appeal, supporting both freight and local traffic.
- **Multiple paving projects on Penninger Road, Hamrick Road, and East Pine Street** – which have improved access to residential neighborhoods and commercial



areas. Notably, East Pine Street, paved twice in the downtown area, enhanced both drivability and support for small businesses by contributing to revitalization efforts.

These projects demonstrate the real, tangible impacts transportation dollars have in building stronger, safer communities. They have improved quality of life for our residents, helped attract and retain businesses, and ensured our infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

Transportation investment is not just about roads and bridges—it supports Oregon’s workforce, grows our economy, and improves quality of life. From workers who build and maintain the infrastructure, to businesses that rely on efficient transportation for commerce, to families who depend on safe and reliable roads, these investments touch every part of our community. A strong, modern transportation system is essential for Oregon’s competitiveness and for ensuring that prosperity is shared across all regions of the state.

We urge you to pass this legislation as a starting point to a broader, bipartisan conversation on Oregon’s transportation system in 2027.

Thank you for your leadership and service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Chris Clayton

City Manager, City of Central Point