



# Sheridan Fire District

230 SW Mill Street, Sheridan, OR 97378

Main Station (503) 843-2467

Fax (503) 843 -4691

[www.sheridanfd.org](http://www.sheridanfd.org)

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May 9, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod  
Co-Chair Senator Rob Nosse  
Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Senator Girod, Co-Chair Senator Nosse and members of the subcommittee,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the City of Sheridan in its pursuit to secure funding for the Sheridan Road construction project in the form of a Capital Funding Request. The City of Sheridan Council, Planning Commission, staff, and community members have placed a high priority in funding Sheridan Road for a full reconstruction of the surface to provide safe travel for motorists and all multi-modal travel, and I want to echo the need and support. The city has completed the design phase of the project, and this investment would allow the city to break ground on the project.

Sheridan Road is a major roadway in our City that supports a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial businesses. This Road is a major roadway that serves as a non-formal exit from Highway 18. Sheridan Road serves a wide variety of residential housing, including assisted living for seniors and disabled, a major industrial employer Forest River, the City's wastewater treatment plant, an RV campground (with long-term rentals), and commercial storefronts.

The current road presents safety challenges for our community; it lacks multimodal transportation opportunities and creates obstacles for motorists. It is in a state of extreme neglect. Addressing this issue is paramount to prevent further accidents and injuries. The current fire flow on the road does not meet current code and is a safety issue.

Economic development is vital to Sheridan's local economy. The City has a rich history in logging but as this industry becomes more automatized our local community members are losing jobs. The City has industrial lands along Sheridan Road. Improvements to the road will help the city retain current industrial employers like Forest River Manufacturing and attract new industries that will provide working families with living wage jobs. Having this major roadway improved and developed to be an aesthetic experience for our community members and tourists will play a key role in getting money brought into our City.

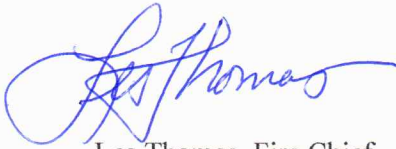
Sheridan is identified by PGE as a Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) region. In September 2022 our PSPS area was shut down due to extreme fire weather conditions. Sheridan is surrounded by forestland and has an evening coastal mountain breeze that can create extra danger during fire season. Resiliency is vital to our organization because we provide critical services to community members. Having safe access to services on Sheridan Road is vital during periods of emergency.

The reconstruction plan includes resurfacing, widening, adding a multi-modal path on both sides of the street, and improving drainage. The total cost is estimated at \$9.2 million. With your support, the City will be able to complete a large piece of the project.

Sheridan Road will allow for the development and building of affordable housing opportunities but without improvements to the road, the housing growth is stifled.

Your support would contribute a critical piece in the process of developing our rural, low-income community, by allowing for completion of street improvements needed to support safe-active multimodal transportation. Our organization is in full support of the City of Sheridan's request for Capital Funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Les Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Les Thomas, Fire Chief

Sheridan Fire District

Lthomas@sheridanfd.org