



May 14, 2015

Dear Senator Wyden,

The Clackamas County Business Alliance is writing to express its support for expanded federal support for badly needed investments in our transportation system. Investment in a multi-modal transportation system is important for the economic vitality of Clackamas County and the entire Portland metro region.

The growth of Clackamas County (compared to other Metro Counties) is severely constrained by existing Transportation & Infrastructure challenges and the availability of accessible employment lands. In order to change this, we need to complete the final portion of the third lane of I-205 as originally designed. This third lane is needed to curb traffic between Stafford and Oregon City, which is currently creating major impacts to traffic on I-205 including backups all the way to I-5. In addition, we need a funding commitment to complete Phase II of the Sunrise System from 122nd Ave. to 172nd Ave. The Federal Highway Administration lists both the I-205 and Sunrise projects as Projects of National and Regional Significance.

As we approach the May 31 deadline for reauthorization of the current program, we need to join with business organizations around the country in advocating for an increase in resources to fund our transportation system. Additional resources are necessary for the state and the nation to reach its goals for economic growth and prosperity, community livability and environmental sustainability and to ensure there is an equitable ability of all members of the community to benefit.

An analysis done by the Portland Business Alliance and others, titled "2014 Economic Impacts of Congestion," documents the dependence of the economy of Oregon and the Portland region on a transportation system that moves goods, provides access to labor and increases productivity. Further, investing in improvements to reduce congestion will provide \$1.1 billion in economic benefits and provide \$2.40 in return on investment for every \$1 expenditure on improvements.

This needed investment requires commitment at the federal, state and local levels. The state and local governments have stepped up substantially to increase their level of investment and are aggressively pursuing further increases. However, the federal government has not addressed the need for long-term, stable and adequate funding. In fact, the overall share of investment by the federal government is shrinking as a percent of the total.

With this in mind, we ask you to consider joining with other congressional leaders to substantially increase the level of federal investment in all parts of the multi-modal surface transportation system. Preferably this would take the form of highway user fees and with a renewed expression of commitment through addition to the Highway Trust Fund. This is the foundation of the federal highway program, providing the certainty and stability of formula funds for highways, roads and streets to each state and metropolitan area. With an increased commitment of funding resources, adopt a 5-6 year authorization bill to provide certainty and stability to the planning, engineering and programming process.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Nellie deVries
Executive Director
Clackamas County Business Alliance