



CITY OF BEND

Representative Caddy McKeown
Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Transportation Policy
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

710 NW WALL STREET

PO Box 431

BEND, OR 97709

541-388-5505 TEL

Relay Users Dial 7-1-1

541-385-6676 fax

bendoregon.gov

MAYOR

Casey Roats

MAYOR PRO TEM

Sally Russell

CITY COUNCILORS

Justin Livingston

Bill Moseley

Bruce Abernethy

Nathan Boddie

Barb Campbell

CITY MANAGER

Eric King

RE: HB 2288 – Authorizes Issuance of Lottery Bonds for Connect Oregon

Dear Representative McKeown,

The City of Bend supports the continuation and increase of Lottery Bonds for the Connect Oregon program. This program is vital to ongoing projects and has a very successful history in assisting the City of Bend fund transportation projects.

Examples of Connect Oregon projects at the Bend Municipal Airport include runway re-build/realignment, construction of an East side parallel taxiway B, reconstruction and widening of the West side parallel Taxiway A and the current Helicopter Operations Area Project that will provide increased safety and efficiency of airport operations.

In addition to funding projects at the local level, Connect Oregon is also used statewide to provide the necessary matching funds for FAA projects. This leverages millions of dollars in Federal funds that might otherwise be lost to communities unable to provide the 10% match. At the Bend Municipal Airport alone, since 2008, approximately \$2M in Connect Oregon grants has leveraged over \$25M in FAA funded projects. Current projections show a need for additional expansion of the airport with estimated costs of \$20M, much of it FAA eligible, over the next five to ten years. These projects include a runway extension, Air Traffic Control Tower and development to meet the expanding needs of aviation related businesses, pilots and the corporate aviation community. In those cases where full project funding is not available, Connect Oregon provides the necessary match to bring both public and private interests together in partnerships that provide the matching funds required by FAA grants.

Additionally, Bend was able to leverage \$4M in Connect Oregon funds to build the Public Transit Operations and Maintenance Center which now operates as

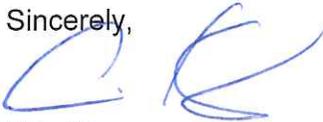
the Cascades East Transit operation center in Bend. The Center supports operations in Bend and southern Deschutes County.

Recent Connect Oregon programs have funded off-system bicycle and pedestrian projects throughout Oregon. There are significant off-system bicycle and pedestrian projects in Bend that would benefit from Connect Oregon funding. An example is replacement of the bicycle and pedestrian bridge in Drake Park. In May 2013, that bridge saw nearly 1,000 daily users. A new, wider bridge will help the City meet its mobility goals.

Going forward, the City proposes that Connect Oregon funding criteria include the ability to apply for bike and pedestrian projects located within the road right of way. This would give cities the opportunity to fund bike and pedestrian projects that give people more travel options and reduces drive alone trips and emissions.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric King
City Manger